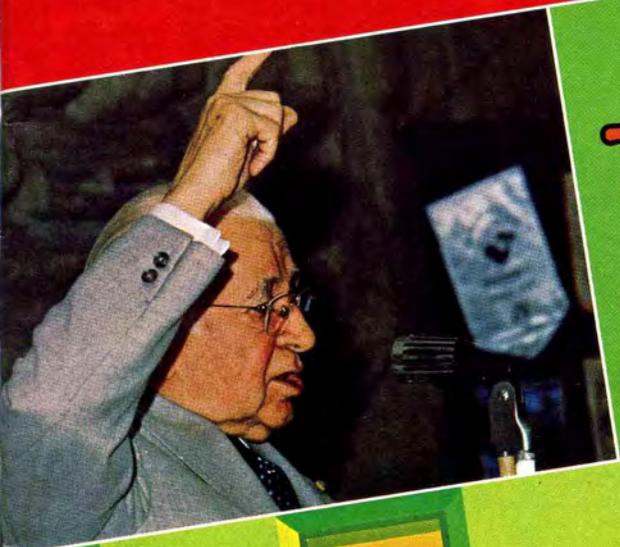


the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

JUNE 1977



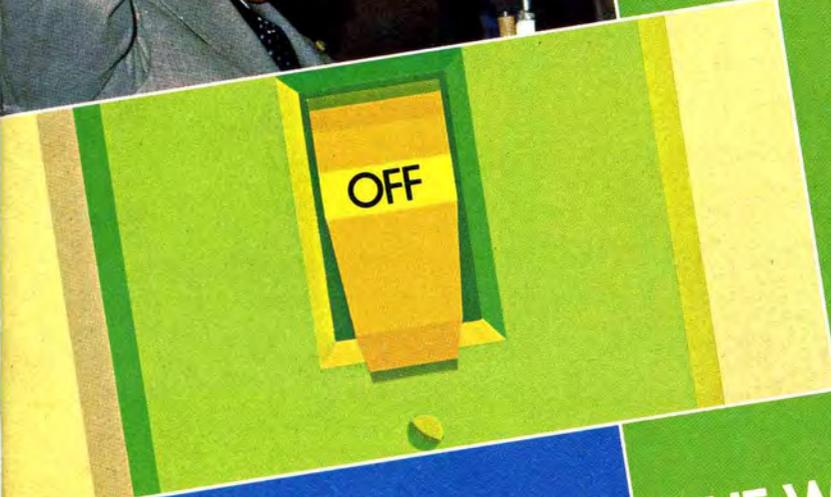
ENTERING THE AGE OF
TERROR



UPDATE...

MR. ARMSTRONG
SPEAKS TO AFRICAN LEADERS

GTA Speaks Out!



OUR
ENERGY BINGE
IS OVER!



THE WORLD'S
First Skin Diver
HAD EIGHT LEGS

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June 1977

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We've heard so much bad news that some wonderfully GOOD NEWS soon to come ought to be welcome! And IT IS SURE!

Many do not realize it, but many prophecies in the Bible apply literally to the nations of the U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa today—and even to the nations of WESTERN EUROPE! To understand, you need to read our free booklet *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. It shows you exactly WHERE we are mentioned in the biblical prophecies!

These prophecies turn the searchlight on our countries TODAY. They pull no punches! They describe our EVILS and their causes. And then, in this same Bible, the Book of God, it tells us how we are to be FORGIVEN by an all-loving and merciful GOD—our ways changed—and tells of the wonders, the glories, the peace, happiness, joy, and abundant and universal well-being that are coming—and not *only* to our nations, but to *all nations*!

Men are not like God. Men do not often return good for evil. But you and I now live in the very generation when this good news is coming!

I was riding in a car in New Delhi, India, one day. It seemed a strange sight. Cows were walking leisurely all over the streets, and in the sidewalks beside the streets.

"Don't these cows all belong to somebody?" I asked my driver.

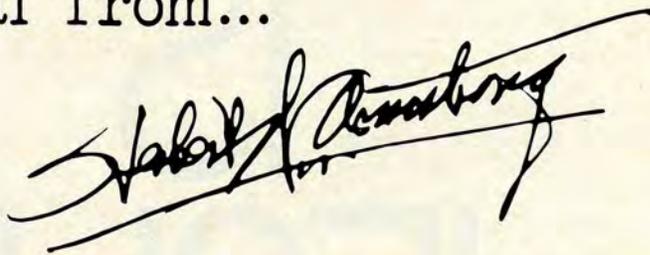
"Oh yes, they belong to many different owners," he answered.

"But how do the owners find their own cows and herd them into their own sheds at night?"

"Oh," he answered, "they don't. Many would not even know which cows are theirs. But each cow knows its owner and where it belongs at night."

Immediately I thought of a prophecy God gave about OUR PEOPLE: "HEAR, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the ETERNAL hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but... my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a

Personal from...



The Good News Coming Soon!

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 unto 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 faint" (Isa. 1:2-5).

Back in the days of Moses, God put a proposition—a proposal of marriage—to Israel. He offered them a COVENANT (known as the "Old Covenant") which was actually a MARRIAGE covenant, and at the same time set up those Israelites delivered out of Egyptian slavery as one of the world's nations. They became GOD'S nation. Upon obedience to His government's laws, they were promised they would become the wealthiest, most powerful, most peaceful and happy nation on earth. He gave them NO spiritual promises of salvation or eternal life, but supreme NATIONAL promises—above all nations.

But what does God through Jeremiah say of His "wife's" conduct? "...Thou hast played the harlot with many lovers [military allies]; yet return again to me, saith the ETERNAL [implying forgiveness and receiving His "wife" back upon repentance]. Lift up thine eyes unto

the high places [places of idolatrous worship], and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the way hast thou sat for them... and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness... thou refusedst to be ashamed. Will he [God] reserve his anger for ever? Will he keep it to the end?" (Jer. 3:1-3, 5.)

Let's stop right here and UNDERSTAND this.

We have a CREATION—this earth, our moon, the other planets of our solar system with our sun. Our solar system is a small part of a GALAXY. There are thousands of other galaxies far, far off in space—each with its suns, which appear as small stars to us because of their tremendous distance. The physical universe is ENDLESS—greater than our minds can grasp. A CREATION demands the preexistence of a CREATOR. There was PLANNING, design—PURPOSE. There is a REASON for what the Creator did.

This earth, as only a FEW know, originally was populated by angels. But there was PURPOSE! Great accomplishment was planned for them. This of course demanded law and order—harmony—all pulling together for their grand accomplishment. So the CREATOR set over them

(Continued on page 40)

IS JESUS GOD ?

What is the real answer? Is Jesus God? Is He the same as Jehovah? Is there more than one God? Here is the truth as revealed in your Bible.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

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

Is Jesus God?

Jesus Christ came to pay the penalty for sin in our stead. He gave of

Himself, that we might be reconciled to God. *How was this made possible?*

First, if Jesus had been *only* human, His death could have paid the penalty for but *one* other human who had incurred that penalty by transgression of God's spiritual law (Romans 6:23). Since God the Father created all things *by* Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9), and since *all* things, including man, were made *by* Jesus Christ, He is our Maker and therefore God, and His life which He gave was of *greater value*

than the sum total of all human beings. For we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the *Word was God*. The same was in the beginning with God. *All things were made by him*; and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:1-3). "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father" (verse 14, RSV). Also, "He was in the world, and the world was *made through him*, yet the world knew him not" (verse 10, RSV). Compare these scriptures with I Corinthians 8:6 and Colossians 1:12-19.

Life alone can *beget* life. This is the absolute law of biogenesis. Since eternal life is the GIFT of God (John 3:16), only a GOD *possessing* immortality could give it. If Jesus were only human, *we could not receive eternal life through Him* and He could not be our Savior. Man *does not* have eternal life inherent in himself. But, as God "the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself." And, "God *hath given* to us eternal life, and this life is *in his Son*. He that hath the Son hath life; and *he that hath not the Son of God hath not life*" (John 5:26; I John 5:11-12).

He Was Also Human

On the other hand, Jesus was also human. Since it is *human* life which has transgressed God's law, the law claims *human* life as its penalty. Contrary to popular present-day teaching, the Word of God states that the wages—the penalty—of sin is DEATH—not eternal life in a so-called "hellfire" (Romans 6:23). When we sin, we break God's perfect spiritual law, "for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). The penalty for this sin is *death*. The penalty *must be paid*. God the Father will not compromise. It must be paid *by man*. Therefore, Jesus, who is and was God, who has always existed (John 1:1, 2), was actually *made flesh* (verse 14). He, who was God, actually *became* human flesh. I John 4:2, 3 (RSV) states: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ

has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God." He was conceived in and born of the human virgin, Mary. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 1:18, RSV). He was made not only flesh, but *human* flesh and blood. Notice Hebrews 2:14: "Since then the children are sharers in *blood and flesh*, himself also in like manner partook of the same" (Ivan Panin translation).

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

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

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

Yes, Jesus is also "Jehovah," although this word is a *mistranslation* used in the American Standard Version. The original name, in the Hebrew, contained the consonants "YHVH." The precise pronunciation of the name is not definitely known since it ceased being pronounced long before the time of Christ. The *meaning*, in English, is "THE ETERNAL," or "THE EVER-LIVING," or the "SELF-EXISTENT." It is commonly supposed that YHVH, or, as commonly called, "Jehovah," or, as in the Authorized Version,

"the LORD," of the Old Testament was God the FATHER of Jesus Christ. *This is a flagrant error!*

YHVH was the God of Israel, the only One of the Godhead known to ancient Israel. When He came in human flesh they did not recognize Him. "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not" (John 1:10). Neither did they know God the

Since God the Father created all things by Jesus Christ, and since all things, including man, were made by Jesus Christ, He is our Maker and therefore God, and His life which He gave was of greater value than the sum total of all human beings.

Father (Matt. 11:27 and Luke 10:22).

In Genesis 1, the Hebrew name translated "God" is *Elohim*. This is a uniplural word (a collective noun) such as "church," or "family." A church or a family consists of more than one person, yet is *one* church, or *one* family. In this same sense *Elohim*—the God Kingdom—includes both God the Father and YHVH (who was the *Logos* or the WORD of God), and also their Spirit emanating from them, the Holy Spirit, the LIFE, CHARACTER, and POWER of God. Jesus, in praying for the welfare of the Church, prayed that its many members might "be ONE, as we are one" (John 17:11, 21, Moffatt). The Church is ONE body, yet composed of many members (I Cor. 12:12). A husband and wife are ONE FLESH, yet two persons.

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

YHVH was the "WORD" or Spokesman of the Godhead—its second member. As soon as God began to SPEAK to man, it was always YHVH who spoke (translated "LORD" in the Authorized, and "Jehovah" in the American Standard

Version—see Genesis 2:16, 18 and Exodus 20:2). Almost always it is YHVH in the original Hebrew—the "WORD" who was made flesh. The proof of this is a long study involving hundreds of passages.

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

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

In Revelation 1:17 we read: "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand upon me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last.'" And in verse 8: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Again Revelation 22:13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Study also Revelation 22:16 for proof it was *Jesus* speaking. Jesus Christ calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Now compare these texts with Isaiah 44:6: "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no God.'"

Who Is Our Redeemer?

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

(Continued on page 38)

WORLDWATCH

An Overview of Major News Events and Trends

TRADE WAR JITTERS

A surge of trade protectionism has surfaced in recent months. High officials in the U.S. and Japan are already warning about the possibility of trade war.

In the most publicized case, the U.S. International Trade Commission, a group empowered to recommend relief for domestic industries threatened by imports, formally proposed in early spring that President Carter raise tariffs on imported shoes by as much as 40 percent.

In response to the Commission, President Carter attempted to find a compromise solution by directing his special trade negotiator to seek "voluntary limits" on low-cost shoe imports from Taiwan and South Korea. However, American labor union officials have indicated that voluntary agreements "do not work" and will not satisfy their demand for protection.

In another major protectionist development, an estimated 500,000 American textile and clothing workers staged a brief walkout in mid-April in a coast-to-coast demonstration. They demanded tighter limits on apparel imports which have surged in recent years.

Protectionist sentiment, however, isn't limited to the United States. There has been rising concern in the European Community over large-scale penetration of Japanese products into the domestic markets for ships, cars, steel and ball bearings. The EC has already slapped a stiff 20 percent tariff increase on Japanese ball bearings, and threatens to enact quotas and minimum prices on Japanese steel.

While official government policy in both Europe and America is to oppose protectionism, the pressure for trade restrictions seems likely to



TEXTILE AND CLOTHING workers jam New York's Herald Square to protest foreign clothing imports, which they charge deprive American workers of jobs.

remain. In the U.S., union sources claim that imports have cost over 200,000 domestic jobs in the textile and apparel industries, and 70,000 jobs in the shoe industry. An estimated 300 U.S. shoe factories have closed in recent years.

In Europe, unemployment has been running very high in the steel industry. Only 60 percent of capacity is being used, and many Europeans blame it on rising imports of Japanese steel.

Overall, the economies of the free-world nations continue to be fragile, and the temptation remains for governments to expand domestic employment, even at the risk of increasing trade restrictions. During a recent visit to Washington, Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda warned that a surge of protectionism could precipitate an economic replay of the Great Depression of the 1930s: "The world economic situation following the 1973 oil crisis was quite similar to the developments of that particular time,"

said Mr. Fukuda, pointing out that during the Great Depression world trade volume dropped by 40 percent. He went on to state that "there is great danger therefore of a revival of protectionism."

Elaborating on the events of the 1930s, Fukuda reminded his American hosts that "the major countries, one after another, abandoned the open economic system of free trade, switching to the closed system of protectionism. . . . I am not suggesting that we are once again on the road to world war. Yet I feel deep anxiety about the social and political consequences for the world if we slide once again into protectionism, or a breakup of the world economy into trade blocs."

U.S.-CUBAN DETENTE?

There are growing signs that the 16-year-old cold war between the United States and Cuba may be en-

tering the first stages of thaw. During the past few months, scores of U.S. politicians, journalists and businessmen have returned home from visits to Havana, singing the praises of the "New Cuba" and advocating reconciliation. Even more significantly, both President Carter and Cuban dictator Fidel Castro have begun talking publicly about the possibility of warmer relations.

At issue is the question of lifting the trade embargo imposed by President Kennedy in 1962, and restoring diplomatic relations severed by President Eisenhower in January 1961.

Economically, the United States would have little to gain by such a move. Cuba—an island nation of only nine million people—could never become a major market for U.S. companies. On the other side of the ledger, Cuba has virtually nothing the U.S. really needs. But there are still profits to be made in the Cuba trade, and American businessmen are interested. Though business transactions with Cuba are still forbidden, planeloads of early-bird entrepreneurs have already descended upon Havana to get the jump on competitors by establishing preliminary business contacts.

Cuba has potentially much more to gain through reconciliation than does the United States. The island sorely needs the variety of goods obtainable from the U.S.—including trucks, cars, industrial equipment and spare parts. Foodstuffs, such as wheat and rice, are also needed.

On the selling end, access for Cuban sugar to the U.S. market is of primary concern to Havana. The economy of the Soviet-subsidized island has been wrecked by the incompetence of the Castro government, and is currently laboring under a huge burden of foreign debt. The sale of sugar (and, of course, Havana cigars) to the U.S. would permit Cuba to build up reserves of badly needed hard currency. The prospect of increased tourist dollars is alluring for the same reason.

No quick diplomatic breakthrough should be expected, however. Critics ask what Castro has done to merit warmer relations. Though often minimized or over-

looked by the eager-beaver advocates of rapprochement, the obstacles to warmer relations are numerous. Among them: the thousands of Cuban troops and "advisers" operating against Western interests throughout Africa and elsewhere; Havana's systematic and brutal repression of human rights (there are more political prisoners in Cuba than in all the other nations of Latin America combined); and the unresolved matter of some \$1.8 billion in property belonging to U.S. corporations which Castro seized without compensation in the early 1960s.

As long as Castro continues to cast himself in the role of "leader" of the Third World—with all the foreign adventurism and anti-Americanism that entails—opponents of warmer relations will have a strong argument in their favor. Cuban officials themselves admit rapprochement may be long in coming—possibly *years* away. Except for their economic morass, the Cuban leadership, basking in foreign political and military successes, feels that the "winds of change" throughout the Caribbean and Latin America are blowing in their favor. Any ties with the U.S. will be of a limited nature and geared solely to Cuba's interests. Washington will gain very little.

PLUTONIUM BAN— A GOOD IDEA TURNING SOUR

The American government is stepping up efforts to halt the proliferation of nuclear material throughout the world. In the past several months, the Carter Administration has banned the use of plutonium in the U.S. nuclear power industry and brought diplomatic pressure on its allies in Europe to take tough action to safeguard nuclear power plants from terrorist attacks. It has also voiced its disapproval of several nuclear technology deals made between European nations and Third World countries.

Thus far, the efforts have met with mixed success. In some quarters, Mr. Carter's efforts have met

with a cool, if not downright hostile reception. German and French delegates to an International Atomic Energy conference in Iran have criticized the plutonium ban, and the head of the agency, Sweden's Sigvard Eklund, even argued that it threatened the nuclear non-proliferation treaty by doing something the treaty explicitly forbids: limiting the free flow of nuclear knowledge between countries.

On the other hand, American news sources indicate that France, Britain, West Germany, Japan, Canada, and the Soviet Union have secretly gone along with the U.S. proposal not to export any more nuclear reprocessing equipment.

In any case, the American anti-nuclear initiatives have already strained relations with its European allies, West Germany in particular. The Bonn government has been visibly irked by American criticism over its agreement to supply Brazil with eight nuclear power stations, a uranium-enrichment plant and an installation for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel. Even though there are legal safeguards to the agreement, American officials have argued that both the enrichment plant and the reprocessing facility could eventually be used to make nuclear weapons. France, too, is going ahead with a similar deal with Pakistan, again disregarding American criticism.

Much of the European hostility to the American antiproliferation efforts centers around fear of dependence on America's only-too-finite supply of uranium. Unlike uranium, plutonium can be used indefinitely to fuel nuclear power plants. The prospect of "breeding plutonium" holds much attraction to economically strapped European countries who are now dependent on imported oil or uranium.

The worldwide energy crisis has underscored the importance of a modern industrial country being as nearly self-sufficient as possible. Some Europeans have therefore looked upon the American efforts as a cynical attempt to produce an OPEC-like dominance over the world's nuclear power industry. As the head of Britain's atomic energy authority, Sir John Hill, has pointed

out, the U.S. possesses vast reserves of coal and half the world's uranium: foregoing plutonium might not mean much to the U.S., but to energy-poor Japan and Western Europe, it could spell the difference between depression and prosperity.

With oil and gas shortages already a part of the international economic scene, and the likely prospect of a uranium shortage occurring within the next several decades, sheer economics may force nations to disregard American antiproliferation initiatives and risk the continued production of plutonium, one of the most deadly substances known to man.

DEFAULT—RUSSIA'S "SECRET WEAPON"?

A study recently released by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) reveals that by the end of 1976 the Soviet Union owed nearly \$10 billion in debts to the United States and other Western nations, and was paying a walloping \$500 million in annual interest on the loans. The indebtedness of Moscow's East European allies is estimated to range in the neighborhood of \$15 to \$25 billion or more. And Communist bloc borrowing continues to rise steadily.

"Large-scale loans to the Soviet Union and East European countries were thought of by some as a way to gain 'leverage' over those governments," explains Senator Henry Jackson (D-Wash.). "But what may be happening, in fact, is that the debtors are on the verge of obtaining leverage over Western governments. . . ."

Economic analysts maintain that the Communist bloc could seriously shake up the economy of the West should it ever choose to default on its loans. The blow to the West's financial structure would be enormous.

"Make a small loan," explains a Swiss banker, "and you have created a debtor. Make a large loan and you have created a partner." And that "partner" could literally ruin its creditor banks by refusing to repay.

The Soviet record for repaying Western loans has been excellent—

so far. What worries Western bankers and military planners is what would happen should an opportunity present itself for huge Communist gains by blackmailing the West through the threat of default. "I don't like to use the word blackmail," says one West European banker, "but that's what it would amount to if the Soviets were ever to seek commercial or other favors as a condition of keeping up their repayments."

A Zurich banker sums up the situation: "The Western community may get into a very exposed condition." But the West remains oblivious to such warnings, and free-world loans to the Communist bloc continue to mount up. And as the Communists have a penchant for dealing secretly with banks, no one knows for sure just how great those sums really are.

CANADA WITHOUT QUEBEC?—NOT ONLY CANADIANS ARE WORRIED

In an election upset last November, the separatist *Parti Quebecois* captured the government of the predominately French-speaking Canadian province of Quebec. Since that time, the increase in secessionist sentiment in Quebec has grown steadily. A survey conducted in April for the Canadian Broadcasting Company showed that over 32 percent of the Quebecers questioned supported independence from English-speaking Canada, assuming economic ties were maintained. Polls taken prior to the separatist party's victory last fall placed the figure at less than 20 percent.

A referendum on the independence issue is planned in Quebec, though no date has yet been set. Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau confidently predicts defeat of the secessionist proposal, maintaining that his country's unity "will not be fractured." Quebec Premier Rene Levesque, leader of the *Parti Quebecois*, contends that Quebec's eventual independence is inevitable,

and that as a totally independent nation, Quebec would have "a future immeasurably richer and more stimulating than the 109-year-old bind [with Canada] . . ." Holding an opposing view, Canadian Trade Minister Jean Chretien asserts: "If it came about, it would impoverish both Quebec and the rest of Canada."

In addition to the economic considerations of Quebec secession, the Ottawa government is worried over speculation that it might encourage secession-minded political parties in the western provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

From the United States' point of view, the economic impact of a Quebec secession could be enormous. The close U.S. ties with Canada—in trade, investments, jointly owned companies, energy cooperation, and so on—would inevitably come into question.

Possibly even more important than the economic ramifications are the military considerations. Trudeau has suggested that Quebec's secession might necessitate the withdrawal of Canada from the NATO alliance and from NORAD (North American Air Defense Command)—the United States' forward line of defense against a Soviet attack over the Arctic. At the very least, a free Quebec, should it decide to withdraw from the NORAD network (some of Quebec's leaders have made such speculations) would leave a giant hole in the joint air defense system, much like a funnel directed straight at America's heartland.

Thus, if Quebec were to secede from Canada, America could be faced, in Trudeau's words, with a situation "much more grave than the Cuban missile crisis" of 1962.

Talk of secession may go on for years, as those for and against it debate the relative merits and drawbacks. Whether Quebec ultimately remains a part of Canada is a vital question of concern not only to Canadians, but to the United States and the entire Western world. At stake is not only the future of the second largest country in the world, but possibly the economic and military well-being of many outside its borders. □

THE TRUE FACTS OF MY OWN CONVERSION

Part 2 covered the main events leading up to my own conversion, including the part my wife played in it, up to my complete unconditional surrender to God. It covered my change from the attitude of "get" to that of "give." But I was not yet actually converted—not even to that initial experience most professing Christians believe to be the total of conversion. We are still far from answering in this series that overall question: "Conversion—sudden experience, or lifelong process?"

by Herbert W. Armstrong

It had been the bitterest pill I had ever had to swallow: to admit my wife was right in turning to what I had called "religious fanaticism." It was hard to admit that having had AMBITION aroused early in me—generating SELF-CONFIDENCE—was all SELF-CENTEREDNESS and therefore wrong. It was not easy to *give up everything* my heart and whole life had been set on.

Prepared in Advance

God prepared in advance the apostle Paul by an education under perhaps the greatest teacher and educator of his time—the learned Gamaliel. Paul (his name had been changed from Saul) started out with an almost superhuman fanaticism to destroy the new religion, Christianity. He was as eager to stamp out Christianity as the most fanatical members of the PLO are to wipe out the nation of Israel today.

Like Saul, I was applying my energies in the wrong direction. I was striving for SELF-gain—SELF-glory. I wanted to be recognized as one of the "SUCCESSFUL" in the field of business. I was living primarily in the GET philosophy, which I have shown originated with Satan the devil.

I had argued that "all these

PART 3

churches can't be wrong—and they get their religion FROM THE BIBLE." I was shocked—dumbfounded—to learn that in Protestant Sunday school I had been taught in most basic doctrines the very OPPOSITE of what the Bible actually SAYS. I had to learn in this initial most intensive and in-depth study where the real fault lay. The Holy Bible is the world's number-one seller. Millions own Bibles who never read them. Other millions read them—but DO NOT BELIEVE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS!

Adam and Eve were taught directly in person by God Himself.

But they DID NOT BELIEVE WHAT HE SAID. They *did* believe Satan when he came along.

Jesus came with His gospel message—the ANNOUNCEMENT of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD which will restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and bring PEACE to the earth. But after 3½ years of CHRIST Himself preaching that message to thousands, only 120 actually became BELIEVERS (Acts 1:15).

People do believe what *other* books say. But the Bible is the very written Word of God—actually GOD speaking in print—and few indeed believe *what God says*. They make of it a mystic book which almost NOBODY UNDERSTANDS—yet it is plain and simple; it says what it means and means what it says.

I had studied hard, deeply, thoroughly. I DID NOT WANT to believe my wife was right. I was studying with an unconverted, carnal mind—a mind enabled to understand PHYSICAL things by the addition of the HUMAN spirit to the human brain (as in all humans)—but I NEEDED a second Spirit to enter *with it* to UNDERSTAND the things of God—His HOLY SPIRIT. That's why it took SIX MONTHS of intensive, in-depth study to come to see what my wife had been able to see and understand in

15 to 30 minutes—she already HAD the Spirit of God.

What the Holy Spirit Is

Just what is this Holy Spirit? First of all, it is the Spirit which comes directly from God; which, entering into a human, impregnates that human with GOD-life—*eternal life*—just as the male sperm entering into a female egg cell (ovum) impregnates the woman with a new human life then begotten in her womb. “The [Holy] Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Rom. 8:16).

The Holy Spirit, secondly, is the Spirit of UNDERSTANDING. It opens the human MIND, in conjunction with the human spirit, to COMPREHEND—to UNDERSTAND—spiritual knowledge, spiritual principles, spiritual facts. It opens the mind to UNDERSTAND the LAW of God, “because the carnal mind [natural human mind *without* God’s Holy Spirit] is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7).

So the Holy Spirit opens the mind to UNDERSTAND God’s *way of life*, and to be willingly subject to it as the WAY OF LOVE. And LOVE is *outgoing*. It is love toward God and concern for the good and welfare of others equal in amount to our self-love and self-concern.

Thirdly, the Holy Spirit of God entering into one imparts to the mind a new and opposite attitude—God’s attitude; instills in that mind GOD’S LOVE, far transcending natural human love—the love that fulfills His law.

Fourth, the Spirit instills in one the gift of CHRIST’S OWN FAITH—the very same FAITH with which He healed and performed miracles. Faith in GOD that BELIEVES what God SAYS! It is the Spirit of POWER—not physical, but spiritual power: power to resist temptation, power of WILL to DO God’s way.

Now I had struggled (with at least an HONEST mind, I must admit) for six long months to learn God’s WAY of GIVE as opposed to Satan’s way of GET, which I had previously practiced. My study had led me to UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER of my life to God. I learned that Christ had bought and paid for me by the sacri-

fice of His life, and I now GAVE OVER MY LIFE TO HIM. Of course, as I said in the previous installment, by this time my own estimation of myself had shrunk so low, I didn’t see how God could ever USE my life—but it was now HIS, *if* He could use it.

Conditions To Receiving Holy Spirit

The biblical CONDITIONS to receiving God’s Holy Spirit are two: REPENTANCE and BELIEF. Remorse is far from real repentance. Real repentance is developed by godly sorrow. It means a complete ABOUT-FACE—a total CHANGE from the GET

I had argued that “all these churches can’t be wrong—and they get their religion from the Bible.” I was shocked—dumbfounded—to learn that I had been taught in most basic doctrines the very opposite of what the Bible actually says.

way of Satan to the GIVE way of God.

But I could find no PROMISE in the Bible that anyone would receive the Holy Spirit until after water baptism.

As I have said, I had made a most THOROUGH and in-depth STUDY of this whole question in many outside sources. But I had been brought up in a Protestant church which did not believe in water baptism, and I had not yet studied what the Bible said about water baptism. Now I did study it—thoroughly.

I did find one exception where the Holy Spirit was given without—and prior to—water baptism: at the house of Cornelius, a Gentile captain over 100 Roman soldiers. But even so, Peter *commanded* water baptism. Nevertheless, there is NO PROMISE of the gift of the Holy Spirit prior to water baptism. And I’m sure God did not want me to come into His ministry the EASY way.

Therefore, I was baptized. Now along with my Bible study of the question, I had counseled with three ministers—a Baptist, a Seventh-Day Adventist and a Quaker. I chose to ask the Baptist minister to baptize me.

Baptized into Christ—Not Denomination

But I had learned that we are baptized “into Jesus Christ” (Rom. 6:3), NOT into a religious denomination. I learned, when I asked this minister to baptize me, that he had no authority to baptize me, *except* INTO HIS CHURCH.

I was required to go before a board of trustees to see if they would give their pastor authority to baptize me into Jesus Christ. Somehow I had a peculiar feeling, as I sat before that dignified, stern-faced board. I was still comparatively new in biblical knowledge and understanding, but as they questioned me, I soon saw that their understanding of the Bible was very elementary compared to mine. Somehow I felt almost like Jesus at age 12, sitting before the august and dignified body of doctors of religion, who “were astonished at his understanding and answers” (Luke 2:42-47).

Anyway, the board members were sufficiently impressed when I quoted the scriptures that we are to be baptized into Jesus Christ—not a religious denomination—that one suggested, “Well, after this man has shown us what the Bible says, I don’t see how we can refuse his request that we authorize our pastor to baptize him into Christ without requiring him to join our church.” The others then agreed.

Of course that baptism was an EXPERIENCE—one I shall never forget. It was on a Sunday night. I was buried under, and came up out of the water. It was a type of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

What the Experience Was Like

But just what *was* the EXPERIENCE of receiving the Holy Spirit? Did I feel certain physical sensations—were there tingling sensations going up and down my spine, as some Pentecostal people claim to feel? No! Nothing of the sort.

But there was a *very definite spiri-*

tual experience! I came up out of that water feeling as if all my sins had been left buried there. I had a sense of knowing that I was CLEAN spiritually. There was the conscious knowledge that now I was really God's son—I had fulfilled His requirements. I had given my life to Him, and there was a very definite KNOWING that His HOLY SPIRIT had now entered my mind and life! And His Spirit did definitely witness with my spirit that I was His child (Rom. 8:16). It was a definite KNOWING—a changed attitude of mine—not a physical feeling.

Up to this time, as I have said, I was wrestling with these biblical questions, studying almost night and day, with a carnal mind. I was really amazed to find that from that moment, real UNDERSTANDING of things I studied in the Bible came easily and quickly, compared to my experience with a carnal mind. I was now WILLING to accept God's truth whether it was what I wanted or not. I no longer sought MY will, trying to prove it by the Bible, but I merely sought GOD's will.

Yes, that was definitely a "SUDDEN EXPERIENCE." But was I now "saved"? Was my salvation now completed?

Like the Corinthians

Not by any means. I was like the Corinthians. They, too, had gone through this initial "EXPERIENCE." They had received the Holy Spirit. They were under God's grace, for Paul wrote: "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 1:4). But the apostle continued: "... there are contentions among you" (verse 11).

Later Paul lamented: "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual [that is, spiritually minded with spiritual understanding], but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ" (I Cor. 3:1). Yet, they had repented, believed and received the Holy Spirit.

But let me intervene to say right here that the Holy Spirit is given to us BY DEGREES. Most start out with a VERY SMALL portion of God's Holy Spirit. They are still perhaps 90 percent carnal, as were these Corinthians.

At the opposite extreme was Jesus Christ Himself. He was the very begotten Son of God—the ONLY *begotten*—that is, the ONLY one ever begotten prior to HUMAN birth *by God*. Jesus had the Holy Spirit in FULL measure. We, only partially at first—yet some to a greater degree than others.

I firmly believe that God by His grace granted me a much fuller portion of His Spirit at the very beginning than is the average experience. Why? I had been brought low in morale, SELF-confidence. I had made a thorough study and accepted what I DID NOT want, but

People do believe what other books say. But the Bible is the very written Word of God—actually God speaking in print—and few indeed believe what God says. They make of it a mystic book which almost nobody understands.

what I saw was God's TRUTH. My mind was finally more fully open to God's TRUTH than most. I was more emptied of SELF. I made an *unconditional* surrender—gave my life to God. Further, what I did not realize then was that God was preparing me to be His apostle. He had been working me over spiritually, and as we might say today, He worked me over "REAL GOOD."

So much of this world's—Satan's—ways of GET have worked their way into our minds and attitudes that we simply do not get rid of all of them at once. As Peter says, we "GROW in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18).

Let me here interrupt and ask again, WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE in placing HUMAN life here on earth? As I have said, the one thing even God cannot create all at once—instantaneously by fiat—is holy, spiritual, righteous CHARACTER. That must be BUILT within us with our

own consent, with a CHANGE of mind and heart, and with willingness to beseech God to place His character within us.

And that is definitely a PROCESS! It requires our own choice, decision, will, and diligence seeking it and working at it.

Experience and Process

So conversion is *both* an experience and a process. But often I am forced to wonder *how many* who *profess* Christianity have ever even so much as gone through the initial process by which we receive God's Holy Spirit! Better search your own heart!

I realize fully that all do not have exactly the SAME experience. This initial EXPERIENCE of receiving the Holy Spirit may take place in different ways under different circumstances. All may not have had to swallow such a bitter pill of admitting defeat as I did. I only give you my experience as one example. That's the way I had to go through that initial experience.

But conversion definitely DOES require a TOTAL UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER to God and His WAY OF LIFE—GOD'S LAW! It DOES require a REAL REPENTANCE. As I said, that is much more than just remorse. I know a man who was SO SORRY for what he had done—for his sins—that he broke down and cried like a baby when he was with his wife and me. But the next morning he was back in the same previous carnal *attitude*; the remorse was all over, and he had not changed!

This initial EXPERIENCE *changes one!* As the Bible says: "... godly sorrow *worketh* repentance to salvation" (II Cor. 7:10). It means a total ABOUT-FACE. It means turning from the self-centered way of vanity, lust and greed, envy and jealousy, resentment against wrongs or fancied wrongs, rebellion against God's government over one's life, the spirit of competition that leads to strife, violence, war. It means a change to the way of GIVE—the way of LOVE—love of and *obedience to God*, and outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others equal to your own self-concern.

You won't completely forsake, at all times, the former SELF; you won't

live perfectly all at once the NEW way of LOVE and concern toward others, but your whole INTENTION—your ATTITUDE—will have made that change.

And you may not receive a FULL measure of God's Holy Spirit all at once. You probably will start out as a "babe in Christ" like the Corinthians.

The Old Testament Example

Yet, because conversion definitely also is a process—a development—a GROWTH that takes TIME, I also wonder how many we may feel "are just not converted at all," when they *are, in truth, "babes in Christ"* who have not grown very large SPIRITUALLY as yet, but who HAVE received the Holy Spirit, even in small measure, and are actually GROWING and headed in the right direction.

Remember, God looks on the heart—the attitude—the obvious intention!

Many experiences recorded in the Old Testament were intended as examples for us today. In I Corinthians 10 we read: "Now all these things happened unto them [of Old Testament times] for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (verse 11).

It is true that the Bible deals in types, which any biblical student having the Holy Spirit ought easily to understand. It also deals in symbols—but the Bible explains its own symbols, not always in the same context with the symbol. It also contains allegories—but the Bible itself explains the allegories so we can UNDERSTAND. In other words, we should never try to interpret the Bible. The Bible interprets itself!

In a number of instances—as in the Passover—Egypt is used as a type of SIN. The taking of the Israelites out of Egypt is a TYPE of our going out from sin. Their entrance into the Promised Land is a type of our entrance into the Kingdom of God. In these instances—as well as many others—the physical is a type of the spiritual.

The presence of squatters occupying the Promised Land also is a type of sin in our lives. God OWNS the earth. He had assigned by PROMISE to Abraham, for his descendants,

this Promised Land. Therefore it rightfully belonged to them, and not to the Gentile nations who had simply moved in and taken it over.

God promised to drive out these squatters. But He said: "I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land" (Ex. 23:29-30). Notice also Deuteronomy 7, especially verse 22.

God forbade the Israelites to worship the idols and gods of these

The one thing even God cannot create all at once is holy, spiritual, righteous character. That must be built within us with our own consent, with a change of mind and heart, and with willingness to beseech God to place His character within us.

Gentile nations. But the wild animals coming in would have been a greater danger. If we were able to drive out EVERY SIN from our lives all at once, we would become spiritually PROUD, and spiritual pride is the greatest of sins. Job had it. And he was the most difficult for God to convert of any man in history.

I knew a Pentecostal family years ago. The children were mature—grown and married—but their mother, so they claimed, was spiritually PERFECT. Truly, she was a good woman, to all appearances. Yet she actually was guilty of the greatest sin of all. She herself claimed to be perfect, without sin. She and her family exalted her above all others. Yet others could see several real sins in her self-righteous, holier-than-thou life.

What Is God's Purpose?

God's PURPOSE is to build HOLY, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER—God's OWN character—into us humans.

It starts with a REAL and lasting REPENTANCE—a total and permanent CHANGE in attitude from GET to GIVE. It requires BELIEF—not only believing on Christ—but BELIEVING CHRIST: believing and obeying WHAT HE SAYS! Christ is the personal WORD of God. The Bible is that same WORD in print. It is the LAMP to our feet (Psalm 119:105) to GUIDE US in GOD'S WAY, like a lamp on a dark night in the woods, leading us in the way of safety.

So, through HIS WRITTEN WORDS, we GROW in the KNOWLEDGE of Christ. It requires constant Bible reading and STUDY. It requires constant earnest, heart-rending PRAYER. It requires FELLOWSHIP with the brethren. In church services, we not only have fellowship with our brethren, but also with Christ and the Father. "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another—and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin" (I John 1:3, 7).

So remember, I have often said God is reproducing Himself. We who are converted and are *being* spiritually matured are merely the type of what we once were *before human birth*. First, we were begotten in a conception that required both a father and a mother. In order to make human reproduction possible, God formed humans in two sexes—MAN and WOMAN. Because He designed us with the potentiality of becoming HIS very own born children, God in His LOVE formed sex as a holy and beautiful thing.

But because Satan has no sex, he is jealous; he hates the fact that God gave us humans this blessing. So he has cunningly contrived to DECEIVE humans into the misuse of sex and even its nonuse—and total misunderstanding concerning it. Through some professing Christian organizations, Satan has deceived MAN into looking on sex as something shameful, evil and dirty. (See my book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.)

But this I DO KNOW: There is the initial EXPERIENCE of conversion, when the SELF-CENTEREDNESS in the mind DIES and the Holy Spirit of God ENTERS and produces a total about-face in ATTITUDE of mind.

(Continued on page 29)

Part 2

WAS THE RESURRECTION A HOAX?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Suppose, in the year 1977, some writer wrote that a well-known prophet had traveled throughout the United States working many incredible miracles and healing scores of sick persons. Suppose further that less than forty years had passed since his public execution at the hands of an enraged mob in Times Square on December 31, 1938.

If such an occurrence had happened back in 1938, millions would still be alive today who would have either heard or read of the event in the mass media. Hundreds of actual eyewitnesses would still be alive to either corroborate the event or testify to its falsity.

If the event had never in fact happened, no writer could get away with such an outrageously fallacious story. He would be the laughing stock of his profession.

The Historical Parallel

Backtrack 2,000 years in the pages of history. The time: the early thirties A.D.; the place: Jerusalem, Palestine; the event: the public execution of Jesus Christ; the question: did it really happen?

Can the crucifixion/resurrection account in the New Testament documents stand up to the same standard tests that one would use in determining the accuracy of any historical event?

One standard we might consider is that the reporter must have been contemporaneous with the event in question. He must have coexisted with the main principals. He would have to have been a part of the overall scene at the precise time the event occurred.

Reliability is said to diminish proportionately the further away the reporting of the event is from the actual occurrence. But if a person reports on his own contemporaries,

The resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth is either the supreme fact of history or a flagrant, deliberate fabrication foisted off on the followers of Christianity. Did the central figure of the Christian faith really rise from the dead?

then you would at least give more credence to his account than you would to the pronouncements of a barbershop philosopher holding forth on ancient history.

The Gospel according to Mark is the shortest of the four biblical accounts of Jesus' life and death. Many scholars also consider it to be the oldest. Most place its writing somewhere between A.D. 60 and 70—less than 40 years after the crucifixion.

While Mark may not have been present at the actual crucifixion, there can be little doubt that he was on the general scene (see Mark 14:51-52). Donald Guthrie, in his *New Testament Introduction*, comments as follows: "So strong is the early Christian testimony that Mark was the author of the gospel that we need do little more than mention this attestation. Papias, Irenaeus, probably the Muratorian Canon, Clement of Alexandria, Origen and Jerome all refer to Mark's authorship of the gospel. *Moreover all of them connect Mark with Peter in the production of the gospel*" (p. 69).

Peter was a principal eyewitness to the general crucifixion scene and to the postresurrection appearances of Jesus Christ—parts of which Mark recorded in his Gospel.

The point is that Mark would have left himself open to the severe criticism of his contemporaries if he had misrepresented the events surrounding the crucifixion and the resurrection. Many who had heard

what actually happened were still alive at the time of Mark's writing.

Eyewitness Testimony

More than one witness produced a written account of the general events surrounding the crucifixion/postresurrection appearances of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Additionally, there were many more who actually saw Jesus crucified on the cross and hundreds who personally witnessed His postresurrection appearances. The more witnesses you can produce to tell or write about the same event, the more independent evidence you have as to what really took place.

There is considerable virtue in the fact that the four Gospels, together with Peter's and Paul's epistles, produce somewhat diverse, though complementary accounts of the same overall events. For one thing, there is no apparent collusion. This is exactly what you would expect to discover if you put a number of witnesses on the stand who testified *truthfully* about a particular event they all saw. The major facts would be the same. Yet each witness would remember different details.

It is unlikely that someone trying to contrive the resurrection story would have chosen Mary Magdalene as the first witness. She was the woman out of whom Jesus had cast seven demons and does not appear to have had the most stable personality. The manner in which the Gospels display these events has all the earmarks of *uncontrived* authenticity.

The totality and diversity of the eyewitness testimony is remarkable to say the least. Notice Mark's account of those who were there on the scene when Jesus drew His last breath as a human being: "And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. . . . And when the

centurion, *who stood facing him*, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was the Son of God!' (Mark 15:37, 39.) Here is a formerly hostile witness who in person saw Jesus Christ die—having to acknowledge that Jesus was the Son of God no doubt because of His conduct and demeanor on the cross. As Peter later wrote: "When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten . . ." (I Peter 2:23).

Mark's version goes on to show that the Roman centurion was far from being the only witness. "There were *also women looking on from afar*, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James . . . who, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered to him . . ." (Mark 15:40, 41). These women were Jesus' very closest friends who knew Him well during His ministry—not just curious on-lookers and passersby who happened to be in the vicinity at the time. The account continues: ". . . and *also many other women [looking on from afar] who came up with him to Jerusalem*" (verse 41). Here were still more women acquaintances who accompanied the party on Jesus' last trip to Jerusalem.

Luke makes it clear that there were far more eyewitnesses than just these distraught women followers. "And *all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight*, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. *And all his acquaintances* and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and *saw these things*" (Luke 23:48-49). Luke mentions first the Roman centurion (verse 47), then a general gathering probably of curiosity seekers, next other acquaintances, and finally, the women friends that Mark's and Luke's accounts emphasize.

John, writing in his old age, later adds important details. Roman soldiers were gambling over Christ's very expensive garments. Later some of those same soldiers returned to the crucifixion scene *after* Jesus was already dead (see John 19).

At some point between the hour that Jesus was nailed to the cross

and the hour of His death, His own mother and closest friend among the twelve disciples were standing only a few feet from the cross. "*But standing by the cross of Jesus* were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved [John] standing near, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple [John], 'Behold, your mother!'" (John 19:25-27.)

Later, as Mark and Luke both write, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary apparently retreated to a position "afar off," but near enough that they could still see Jesus. His mother either stuck by His side to the very end, or possibly John took her to his home because she may have been unable to stand the awful ordeal of seeing her own son beaten almost beyond recognition and suffering horribly.

After Jesus was nailed up, and before the soldiers gambled over His garments, Pontius Pilate placed a title on the cross (see verses 18 and 19). So Pilate, too, was an actual eyewitness of Jesus on the cross.

Earlier, Jesus had been judged by Pilate, the Roman governor of the time. That would be somewhat like being judged by the prime minister of a country such as Great Britain. Sometime in the trial proceedings Jesus was also brought before Caiaphas, the high priest of the nation whose equivalent today might be the archbishop of Canterbury. He was also examined by another ruler whose stature might be compared to the king or queen of Great Britain—Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great. Finally, Jesus underwent His court trial by the Sanhedrin, a body of judges perhaps comparable to the Supreme Court today. (All of these theoretical comparisons are not intended as reflections on the character of those who presently hold those modern-day offices, but are intended only to show that members of the highest echelons of government in Judaea were involved in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.)

So not only were the common people of Jerusalem and the surrounding area of Palestine witnesses

to the events of the crucifixion, but so were the highest classes of society—people representing three levels of government: Jewish religious leaders, Jewish civil rulers, and the Roman occupational authorities—including the top man, with connections at the very seat of government in Rome.

That whole nation knew that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified on the cross. As Paul later told King Agrippa: "This was not done in a corner" (Acts 26:26).

The execution of Jesus Christ of Nazareth was witnessed by persons at every point on the political and social spectrum—all the way from bloodthirsty religious leaders, who wanted more than anything to see Him killed, to disinterested Roman occupational personnel who just didn't care, but must have enjoyed the spectacle. His friends also watched with some of His own disciples, all of whom had fled the night before but who had gathered up enough courage to return the next day. His own mother was only a few feet from the cross on one occasion.

Many were shaken to the very core by Christ's brutal murder—even "beating their breasts" in utter frustration at seeing their hero and champion die.

No, His execution was not done "in a corner." It took place at Passover time when many thousands converged on Jerusalem for the Passover celebration and the Days of Unleavened Bread. The first-century Jewish historian Josephus tells us that as many as two million people gathered in the vicinity of Jerusalem at Passover time. Scholars have disputed this figure as grossly exaggerated, but be that as it may, multiple thousands were definitely in Jerusalem at the time.

Undoubtedly hundreds or even thousands of people lined the road as Jesus dragged His own stake part way to the site of the crucifixion. Later thousands saw His body hanging on the stake upon the hill.

Afterwards, all those Jewish people in temporary residence at Jerusalem during the spring festival were bound to have taken that information back with them to all of Judaea, Galilee and throughout that whole Middle Eastern area.

But this is only a part of the proof of the resurrection. The burial preparations and, believe it or not, even the grave clothes must be placed in evidence.

The Burial Preparations and the Grave Clothes

When Joseph of Arimathaea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus, Pilate marveled at the fact that He was already dead and simply would not be fully convinced without first confirming it with the Roman centurion who had been assigned to the crucifixion site (see Mark 15:42-45).

John's account adds some important details to the story of the burial preparations. "And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night [see John 3], and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, *about an hundred pound weight*. Then took they the body of Jesus, and *wound it in linen clothes with the spices*, as the manner of the Jews is to bury" (John 19:39-40). As we will see a little later, the entire preparation and manner of burial plays an important part in some of the later evidence at the empty tomb.

Just the empty tomb by itself did not even convince Mary Magdalene (to whom the risen Christ first appeared) of the fact that He was now resurrected. Actually, the sight of the tomb itself had filled her with fear and apprehension (Mark 16:8). She came running to Peter and John and quickly told them: "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him" (John 20:2). Obviously she believed that someone simply had stolen Jesus' body.

Peter and John immediately ran to the sepulchre to investigate her story for themselves. John outran Peter, arriving on the scene first. "And he [John] stooping down, and looking in, *saw the linen clothes lying*; yet went he not in" (verse 5). Peter, presumptuous by nature, charged right in to see the whole scene for himself. He, too, saw "*the linen clothes lie*" (verse 6).

But Peter also saw something more, as the next verse explains: "And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a

place by itself" (verse 7). Then John finally entered the sepulchre and, seeing the exact same scene as Peter, "believed" (verse 8).

What made John believe? The empty tomb? The absence of the body? Probably not. That in itself would not necessarily prove Jesus had been resurrected.

This scripture strongly indicates that it was the condition of the grave clothes that convinced John. They were relatively undisturbed except for the separation of the "head napkin" just a little space away, probably on that same stone slab.

It wasn't all that easy for a live specimen, much less a corpse, to disengage itself from a first-century Jewish burial wrapping!

The indications are that Lazarus was buried in exactly the same manner as Jesus Christ was, *minus a hundred pounds of spices*. Undoubtedly, both Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus, two of a kind in being "secret" disciples, felt very guilty about their unvoiced convictions and really went all out in their burial preparations for Jesus Christ.

Notice John's account of Lazarus' resurrection. "And when he [Jesus] thus had spoken [that famous eleven-second prayer], he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, *bound hand and foot with grave-clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin*" (John 11:43-44). In all essentials, this was the standard Jewish burial of 2,000 years ago.

But did Lazarus then calmly let himself out of the meticulously wrapped grave clothes? No, Jesus had to say to those around him: "*Loose him, and let him go*" (verse 44). So they probably unwound him strip by strip and fold by fold.

That is not, however, how Jesus discarded His own grave clothes. First of all, Christ was weighed down by a hundred pounds of spices sprinkled in the folds of the grave clothes. As a normal human being, unwinding Himself under all that weight would have been almost impossible.

But Jesus didn't get out by any normal method.

Picture the sight which shocked

Peter and John. The grave clothes were undoubtedly collapsed from the weight of the spices, *but not unwrapped*. One good look at the grave clothes and John believed Jesus had been resurrected. What he saw was not unlike a discarded chrysalis from which a butterfly had just emerged.

If several strands of unwrapped linen clothes had been lying here and there, carelessly tossed about the sepulchre, there would have been no reason to state that the head napkin was clearly separated from the main part of the grave clothes.

Remember, as in the case of Lazarus, the grave clothes and the head napkin were two separate types of linen cloth wound about a corpse.

It is also possible that the head napkin was left undisturbed. The Greek expression "wrapped together" (KJV), or "rolled up" (RSV), could also be translated "twirled," which would leave the impression that the head napkin might have been *untouched by human hands*.

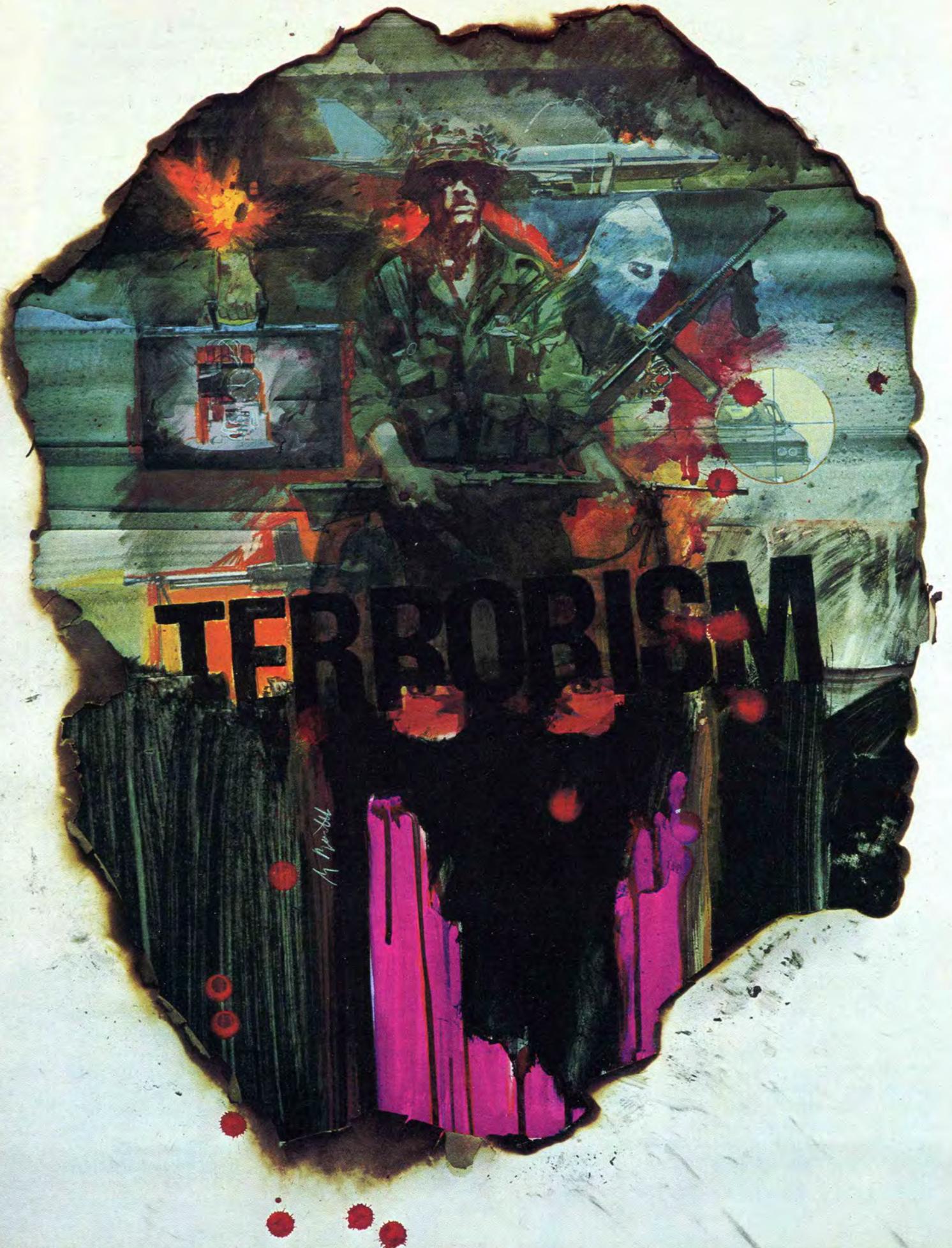
The Nature of the Resurrection

The condition of the grave clothes evinces the very nature of the resurrection. It was a resurrection into a totally different dimension. Jesus stepped back into space itself. He went right through a solid rock wall, having been transformed instantaneously back into spirit life. The giant stone was not rolled away to let Jesus out; it was rolled away to let the disciples in.

Blasphemous accusations to the contrary, your Savior is *alive* today! He did not plot with His disciples to hoodwink unsuspecting "Jesus freaks" of His day into believing on Him. Rather, the evidence of the eyewitness accounts of His closest confidants reveals Jesus underwent repeated challenges and tests as He tried, unsuccessfully at first, to *prove* to doubting friends that He had in fact been resurrected!

Though authors, screenwriters, "critics" and theologians have chosen to carelessly tamper with the inviolate scriptures and claim Jesus was everything from a head of a

(Continued on page 42)



TERRORISM

by [signature]

ENTERING THE AGE OF TERROR

by Keith W. Stump

Top law enforcement officials around the globe predict an increase in terrorist bombings, hijackings and assassinations in the months and years ahead. What can be done to stem the epidemic of terrorism?

Washington, D.C., was a city under siege. A small band of Hanafi Moslem terrorists, bent on revenge against members of the rival Black Muslims convicted of murdering seven Hanafis in 1973, held some 130 hostages at gunpoint at three separate locations in the city in early March of this year. The gunmen threatened to behead their hostages unless the convicted murderers were taken from prison and brought to them for "justice." Heavily armed policemen ringed the three buildings in a tense standoff.

Finally, after lengthy negotiations with Washington police and Moslem diplomats, the gunmen released the hostages and surrendered to police. The two-day siege came to a sudden and unexpected end. Tragically, in this case at least, was averted.

"Age of Terror"

Terrorist activity has become a common feature on the international scene in recent years, and law enforcement officials do not expect it to diminish in the foreseeable future. On the contrary, many feel it threatens to spread totally out of control.

Dr. Yonah Alexander, professor of international studies at the State University of New York and a frequent lecturer on terrorism, warns: "Terrorism is going to grow rather than lessen. Today, we are entering an Age of Terror."

Since 1965, there have been some

1,000 incidents of *international* terrorism (operations across national borders or by foreign agents within a country), resulting in the deaths of nearly 1,000 people and double that number wounded. When the figures for strictly *domestic* terrorism (such as the Hanafi incident) are added in, the picture becomes even grimmer. Though the death toll from terrorist acts is still relatively small compared to other forms of crime, terrorism nevertheless has an enormous emotional and political impact which is much greater than mere numbers suggest.

Brian Jenkins, terrorism expert for The Rand Corporation, observes that terrorism "is dramatic violence; it's almost choreographed violence, theatrical violence carried out for its psychological effect on the people watching. It is designed to create *fear*, which makes people exaggerate the terrorists and the strength of their cause."

Terrorist organizations for the most part are relatively powerless politically and militarily. The generation of chaos and fear by means of disruptive acts is the only way they see to publicize their causes and achieve their ends, which otherwise would probably be unattainable in the face of overwhelming opposition or indifference.

Terrorists, moreover, are becoming increasingly convinced that terrorism pays. Figures compiled by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other organizations reveal that terrorists have close to a 50

percent chance of having some or all of their demands met, whether they be ransom money, the release of "political prisoners," or other objectives.

In addition, there is an attractive 80 percent chance of their escaping capture or death.

Worldwide Dilemma

A growing number of terrorist incidents around the world in the past few years has dramatically thrust the problem to the forefront of official and public concern. Among the incidents:

- The massacre of 11 Israeli Olympic athletes in Munich, West Germany, by eight "Black September" terrorists in September 1972.

- The assault on a passenger terminal at Israel's Lod International Airport by three machine-gun-toting "Japanese Red Army" terrorists in May 1972. Twenty-eight tourists died, 78 were wounded.

- The massacre at Rome airport in December 1973 by Palestinian commandos who blew up a Pan Am jetliner and hijacked a Lufthansa plane to Athens and Kuwait; 33 tourists were killed.

- The abduction of the oil ministers of 11 nations by six pro-Palestinian guerrillas who invaded a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna in December 1975.

- The hijacking of a Dutch intercity train by 13 youthful Moluccan terrorists in December 1975—a 16-

day ordeal which left four hostages dead.

- The hijacking of an Air France jetliner bound from Tel Aviv to Paris by pro-Palestinian guerrillas in late June 1976. The plane was flown to Uganda, where the 150 non-Jewish passengers were released and the remaining 100 Jewish passengers were rescued a few days later in a daring raid on Entebbe airport by Israeli commandos.

- The three-day intercontinental hijacking of a TWA New York-to-Chicago jetliner by five exiled Croatian nationalists in September 1976. The hijackers demanded that an eight-page communiqué on Croatian demands for independence from Yugoslavia be printed in five major newspapers.

America, Get Ready

Though certain countries—notably the United States and Great Britain—have, for the most part, escaped the brunt of international terrorism, experts feel those days are rapidly nearing an end.

Take the United States, for example. "Terrorism is about to become the biggest single problem facing America," warns a top U.S. law enforcement official.

The FBI has estimated that there may be as many as 15,000 people—both homegrown terrorists and resident aliens—involved in over 20 groups in the United States that preach violence as a means of achieving their political goals. Best known among these groups are the Weather Underground, Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), and the New World Liberation Front.

J. Bowyer Bell of Columbia University's Institute of War and Peace Studies expects their ranks to grow: "Revolutionaries from abroad, attracted by soft targets [in the U.S.] may strike at what they see as the center of the imperialist-capitalist-racist conspiracy."

American police officials are preparing for the worst.

Terrorist Rogues' Gallery

There are between 50 and 100 groups in the world at present which employ terrorist tactics, including the indiscriminate slaughter of innocent civilians when it becomes

"necessary." Those involved in terrorist activities differ widely in their motivations and objectives. Some are revolutionaries out to overthrow a prevailing political system. Some are anarchists seeking to provoke a total breakdown of society and government. Some are separatists, minorities within nations seeking to break away and form their own autonomous countries.

In addition, there are individuals who are not affiliated with actual terrorist groups, but who resort to terrorist acts to protest a specific grievance or to seek revenge for a supposed wrong, often nonpolitical in nature. Sometimes their acts are of a highly personal nature, relating to a family or job problem.

Finally, there are the free-lance mercenaries who offer their services to political terrorist groups although they themselves are not politically motivated. Their primary interest is money.

Major terrorist groups operating throughout the world today include:

- The Japanese Red Army, an ultraradical, Japan-based group formed about 1970 and operating in the Far East, Middle East and Europe. It is allied with various Palestinian groups.

- The Baader-Meinhof Gang, a West German-based anarchist organization.

- The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), an umbrella for the diverse guerrilla groups operating against Israel, dominated by Yasir Arafat's Al Fatah. Once known as the most energetic of international terrorist organizations, the PLO has been bogged down in the Lebanese civil war since early 1975.

- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a Marxist terrorist group operating primarily in the Middle East and Europe. A split-off from the PLO, the PFLP—led by Dr. George Habash—is possibly the most extreme group within the terrorist community.

- Black September, formed in 1971, an offshoot of Yasir Arafat's Al Fatah.

- The Provisional Wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), responsible for most of the bombings in Britain and Northern Ireland.

- The Mohammed Boudia Com-mando (also known as the Arm of the Arab Revolution and the Carlos Group), an anti-Zionist, radical leftist group, an offshoot of the PFLP. The elusive "Carlos," identified as Venezuelan-born Illich Ramirez Sanchez, is the world's most-wanted terrorist, a member of numerous groups and allegedly involved in the OPEC kidnappings and the Air France hijacking to Uganda.

- There are many other groups of note, including the Basque ETA, the Italian Red Brigade, the Puerto Rican nationalist FALN, the Turkish Peoples Liberation Army (TALA), the Spanish organization FRAP, and the South American Junta for Revolutionary Coordination led by Uruguayan and Argentine Tupamaros.

Global Brotherhood

Intelligence sources say that many of these diverse groups have now begun coordinating their operations—sharing weapons, money, training facilities and manpower—to increase their effectiveness. In some cases, cooperation is based on a specific operation, with the groups involved sometimes acting with widely differing motives. In other cases, cooperation is ongoing. The 1975 guerrilla raid on the Vienna OPEC conference, for example, was reportedly the combined work of the PFLP, the Baader-Meinhof Gang, and a Latin American group.

The glue holding together the many seemingly diverse terrorist groups is their common ideological struggle against the "Evil Three": imperialism, Zionism, and capitalism.

Moreover, terrorists in many cases now have the active or tacit support of a number of like-minded governments, including those of Libya, Iraq, Somalia and South Yemen, which serve as havens for escaped or released terrorists and often provide financial and other support for them. Under erratic dictator Col. Muammar Khadafi, the chief pirate state colluding with terrorism is Libya.

Intelligence specialists note that much of the weaponry used by terrorists has passed into their hands through these sympathetic coun-

tries. In most cases, the arms originated in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Though the Soviet Union officially opposes terrorism, many analysts have suggested that the Kremlin might actually act, to one degree or another, as a common central command for the seemingly multifarious international terrorist groups. Increasing evidence points to direct involvement by the KGB (the Soviet intelligence organization) in the support of terrorist operations in the West.

Political columnist Otto von Habsburg writes: "One common denominator is that most leaders of these organizations have spent some time in the Soviet Union The numbers who train in Russia are so great and their connections with the KGB so close that leadership by remote control from the Soviet Union must be presumed."

Whatever the case, there is no doubt that the world's terrorist groups, now beginning to coordinate their efforts, are becoming more and more efficient and professional in their operations, posing a significantly greater threat than ever before. "The trend toward greater international contact and cooperation among terrorist groups that has already markedly enhanced the operational capabilities of some of the organizations involved seems likely to gain further momentum," predicts a CIA study released last year.

Superviolence

Ominously, the acts of terrorism we have witnessed to date may only be child's play compared to what is to come. Professor Yonah Alexander comments grimly that "there is no limit to the terrorist imagination."

Intelligence sources reveal that within the past two years the terrorist underground has been discussing the possibility of attacking nuclear power stations; poisoning the water supply of a major city; stealing nuclear, chemical and biological warfare materials; hijacking oil tankers or large passenger liners; sabotaging strategic communications centers; destroying railway centers, oil refineries, or offshore rigs.

Terrorists today are increasingly able to get their hands on new, tech-

nically sophisticated military weapons by outright theft from military depots, on the black market, or from sympathetic governments which buy them from one of the major arms-exporting nations. These weapons—advanced machine guns, automatic pistols, and even portable missiles—can convert one man into a virtual walking army.

The CIA report previously cited warns that "the world will witness steadily greater and more widespread sophistication in terrorist targeting, execution, and weaponry." Many experts fear the day is fast approaching when a terrorist group will either steal or manufacture an atomic bomb and threaten to use it as a part of a blackmail scheme. There is evidence that a number of groups have already begun toying with the idea of "going nuclear." Underground pamphlets have been uncovered both in Europe and the United States containing plans for crude atomic weapons.

Terrorists and the Media

"The latest developments in that Mideast skyjacking . . . Channel 2 News at eleven!" intones an excited TV newscaster during a prime-time commercial break.

Terrorism is rapidly becoming a major spectator sport. It is not uncommon to see upwards of half of an evening newscast being devoted to the chronicling of the latest terrorist incident, or to be assaulted through the evening by a series of five-second commercial plugs for the upcoming late-night news, which will bring us "up to date" on this or that "spectacular" terrorist hijacking or raid.

Dr. Frederick J. Hacker, author of *Crusaders, Criminals, Crazyies: Terror and Terrorism in Our Time*, asserts: "Terrorism and mass media are made for each other." An obscure, ragtag group armed with a few rifles and grenades can command instant worldwide recognition for their cause by one daring terrorist act. In a matter of minutes, multiple millions can watch the drama unfold over television or hear it over the radio. Banner newspaper headlines proclaim the latest developments. The terrorists, in short, can achieve a notoriety far beyond

their power and number as the media closely follow their exploits for the public.

"While the terrorists may kill, sometimes wantonly, the primary objective of terrorism is *not* mass murder," says The Rand Corporation's Brian Jenkins. "Terrorists want a lot of people *watching* and a lot of people *listening*, not a lot of people dead."

Dr. David Hubbard, director of the Aberrant Behavior Center in Dallas and one of America's leading authorities on skyjacking, puts it somewhat more strongly: "The news is a whore. It will lie down and give itself completely to any man who skyjacks an airplane."

Walter Cronkite, anchorman for the CBS Evening News, may have pinpointed the problem during a question-and-answer session while in South Africa recently. Asked why television reported only the bad news, Cronkite suggested that "news is the aberration, not the norm. It is not the number of aircraft that land safely every day, but it is the one that crashes that makes the news."

Terrorism, without a doubt, provides plenty of aberrant grist for the world's news mills.

Thwarting Terrorism

The increase in bombings, kidnappings, hostage-taking and assassinations by terrorist groups has focused the attention and concern of law enforcement officials around the globe on the growing threat. Police organizations are still searching for the best way of dealing with terrorism.

Prevention is logically the first step. This would include tighter security around prime terrorist targets (airports, nuclear plants, government buildings, embassies, etc.), stepped-up police intelligence activities, infiltration of terrorist groups, and so on.

Brian Crozier, the distinguished British correspondent and director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict in London, suggests that each threatened country "needs to create a department of special defense that will pull together all of the knowledge necessary to combat the threat—experts in intelligence, explosives, commando tactics, languages, psychological warfare, com-

munications—and train anti-terrorist squads to be instantly ready whenever an incident occurs.” For even greater effectiveness, these individual national agencies could then cooperate closely with each other, possibly even forming a common unified international police command.

Stiffer punishments for convicted terrorists—including the death penalty—are also seen by many as a deterrent to terrorism.

A few have advocated even stronger measures, including preventive detention and restrictions on travel for suspected terrorists, prohibition of private gun ownership, official identity cards for every citizen, barring individuals with links to radical groups from civil service jobs, and the like. Proponents of this approach point to countries such as Iran, where tight security measures have made it extremely difficult for enemies of the Shah to operate.

Critics of this approach argue, plausibly, that the inevitable result would be a repressive, authoritarian police state and the loss of civil liberties. But if the terrorist situation worsens appreciably, there may be no choice. Says Rand’s Brian Jenkins: “I think we may see governments in frustration opting for measures that will result in the reduction of liberties.”

Curbs on the media are also viewed as a possible preventive measure against terrorism. If the sensationalism and glamorization of terrorism imparted by media coverage were eliminated, and terrorists could no longer be assured of the extensive worldwide publicity for their causes, some feel it would put a definite damper on terrorist activity. Some police departments have gone on record as stating that if responsible media self-censorship is not forthcoming, they will be forced to bar the media from vicinities where terrorist incidents are in progress.

Finally, since terrorism is a problem of global proportions, many have suggested that formal international legal conventions be drawn up to deal with it. Proposed anti-terrorist pacts would impose sanctions against nations colluding with terrorists or failing to punish appre-

hended terrorists; provide for the extradition of terrorists; allow for the crossing of national borders by police in pursuit of terrorists; standardize national policies for handling terrorist situations, and so on.

For years, however, the United Nations has not even been able to come up with a generally accepted definition of terrorism, much less tough international laws against it. The oft-heard statement that “one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter” is at the root of the problem. With the majority of its member nations customarily supporting anything anti-Western, up to and including terrorism, there seems little hope that the U.N. will come up with any sort of comprehensive and meaningful anti-terrorist program. Certain regional cooperative agreements, however, might eventually be seen among the nations of Western Europe and the United States, for example.

Precautions against terrorism, obviously, can be taken only up to a point. Terrorists, knowing when and where they will strike, always have the advantage. How, then, should police deal with an incident when it does erupt?

Once terrorists demonstrate they are willing to kill or be killed for their cause, there is no sure method of dealing with them. No one response can be expected to get the same results in every case.

Ruling out total capitulation to their demands, most officials advocate a *flexible* response—the use of different tactics for each special situation, and shifts in tactics as the situation changes. Such tactics include negotiations, deals, stalling for time, and in some cases strong-arm rescue or assault operations.

Officials generally agree that overreaction can be more dangerous than the immediate situation itself. Often the best approach is a slow, careful one—waiting it out and taking no precipitate action. The Israeli Entebbe rescue cannot, in most cases, be used as a model for responding to terrorism. The element of surprise is not always possible.

Perilous Times

To the majority of people who have not been victims of terrorism, the

terrorist threat is a remote and abstract thing. But if the experts are right, more and more people on an increasingly wider scale are going to be touched by its effects in the years just ahead.

The problem of terrorism, like the worldwide epidemic of crime, was predicted centuries ago in the pages of the Bible. Jesus prophesied that conditions in the world in the “latter days” would mirror the chaotic state of the earth in Noah’s time—an evil and corrupt world filled with violence (compare Luke 17:26 with Genesis 6:5, 11). The apostle Paul also warned (II Timothy 3) that “in the last days *perilous times shall come.*”

The Bible pictures an end-time world filled with lawlessness and hate; a world split by factions and international disputes; an era of rampant, indiscriminate violence and murder inspired by Satan the devil—the original murderer (John 8:44).

Only Real Answer

As long as the influence of Satan remains on the earth, terrorism and crime will continue to increase. When Satan is finally restrained (Rev. 20:2-3) and God’s millennial rule is established over the earth, violence will be eradicated and lasting peace and tranquility will be realized on a global basis. In that day, Satan’s way of vanity, jealousy, lust, hatred and greed will be replaced by God’s way of loving, giving and serving.

The CIA study declares: “All told, transnational terrorism promises to pose a continuing and potentially gravely unsettling problem for the world community until such time—possibly years hence—that the international system gets into new and generally accepted contours.”

Those new “contours” will be provided by the soon-coming government of God over the earth. Only the Kingdom of God can rescue this world from the scourge of violence and terror which has beset it from the beginning of history, and which now threatens to engulf it to a greater degree than ever before. It is a seemingly simplistic solution to some, but it is the only *real* answer. □

DOES GOD STILL ANSWER PRAYER?

Is there really a God "out there" who hears—who answers? Is prayer still meaningful in the twentieth century? The answer to both questions is a resounding yes. Here are keys to help you contact the living Creator and Supreme Ruler of the universe!

by Roderick C. Meredith

The atheist doesn't receive any answers because he doesn't bother to pray. The agnostic receives no answers because he's not sure that God really exists.

Fair enough.

But what about the average believing churchgoer in today's "Christianity"? Why doesn't he get more answers? Why is he so often unsure if God is really listening, or caring, or intending to answer?

Common Examples

The late Philip Wylie in his memorable book *Tomorrow* described fictitious American twin cities under atomic attack. He detailed with shattering effect the aftermath of an atomic explosion: the destruction of the central-city areas, the polluted water and food, and the subsequent fanning out to the countryside of the lawless and hungry mobs—now bent on burglary, murder and rape in a situation that approached anarchy.

Hearing of civil insurrection, Farmer Brown armed himself with his shotgun to protect his home and foodstuffs, and especially his wife and teenage daughters. But the mob shot him from behind, broke into his home, and looked menacingly at his wife and daughters.

"Let us pray, children," the mother intoned.

But, Wylie concluded the chapter dramatically, "God wasn't hearing any prayers that night."

How often have you heard, or known of, or experienced times like that when it seemed that *God just wasn't answering?* How often have you or others prayed for various causes, and your, or their, desires just weren't granted?

Why?

God Is Not Whimsical

The true answer to the dilemma involves an understanding of the nature of God, of His will, and of His promises.

The Creator is a God of love and concern, and also of design, of beauty, of harmony, and of consistency. "*For I am the Lord, I change not,*" says God (Mal. 3:6).

Consider: In war, how could God answer the prayers of bishops and chaplains on one side asking His blessing and protection for their

troops, while at the same time grant the prayers of opposing bishops and chaplains asking the same blessing for their side? What of similar cross-purposes in peace?

Whom will—whom can—God answer?

God says in His Word to the majority of mankind: "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isa. 59:2). So how can He turn right around and answer the prayers of those who persist in living in a sinful, unchristian way of life?

He can't! For God is logical and consistent.

God Hears the Obedient

This, then, is the first of the vital keys to effective prayer—and those who have put it to use know it works: Obey God. God's Word tells us: "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:22).

Frankly, most modern "Christians" don't take the Ten Commandments literally. A "little" lying or stealing, a "little" cheating on their wives or husbands, a "little" lust, hating, fighting, cursing—they think these things aren't serious. But, as we have already seen, God says our sins—our transgressions of His law (I John 3:4)—have separated us from Him so He will not hear!

God hears the person who is truly repentant and is *turning from* his sins (Luke 18:13-14). He does not expect "instant perfection." Rather He tells us: "But GROW in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).

So come before God and say (perhaps your first prayer that's bound to be answered): "Father in heaven, I'm weak, but from henceforth I will sincerely try to keep your commandments and walk in your paths. I want to serve you; I want to be like you; and with your help I'm going to make progress. Please, almighty, all-powerful God, hear my prayer."

If you really mean it, and you are studying God's Word and learning

more and more day by day to walk in His ways and to keep His laws, then He will hear and answer. But if you will not obey God's law, notice the result: "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, *even his prayer shall be abomination*" (Prov. 28:9).

It's not complicated. Just really *study* the Bible and do what you find that God says. "He *heareth* the prayer of the righteous" (Prov. 15:29).

(You may not be fully aware of how you are breaking God's law. You may not even be aware of all the implications of the Ten Commandments. If not, please write for our free book entitled *The Ten Commandments*. But, in the meanwhile, God will *begin* to hear you in accordance with your sincere motives and your dedication to follow what you do know of His ways.)

Pray to the True God

Though you may be offended by this assertion, it is a fact that millions of people pray regularly to the wrong "God" or "gods"!

"For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) but to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" (I Cor. 8:5-6). In this passage, the true God is identified as being the Creator—a real Spirit Personality who designed and created the universe; a God of law, order, symmetry, beauty, and total power.

Under threat of persecution, the early Christians "lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is . . ." (Acts 4:24). Notice here and elsewhere how the true God is constantly identified as the Creator, and the God of David or, often, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

This is because the true God is understood in terms of His character—by how he dealt with Abraham, Moses or David—and by His tremendous power in creating the universe, with His vast sense of design, beauty and unchanging law which is

manifested by and through His creation.

So, when you pray, learn to bow your knees and lift your heart and hands to the great Creator God, the originator of all that exists in the entire universe (Eph. 3:14-15). Recognize the great privilege it is to be able to come into the very presence and receive the personal love and attention of the Almighty God of heaven and earth!

As a begotten Christian, you can pray to Him in a very humble and

Faith becomes a whole way of life. It involves a deep understanding and commitment to the great central fact of human experience: God is, and He is working out a purpose here below. He has laws and standards by which human life should be governed; He rewards those who surrender to His will and walk in His ways.

personal way, as Jesus taught: "Our Father which art in heaven . . ." (Matt. 6:9).

How To Ask in Jesus' Name

If someone commands you to "open up in the name of the law," they had better be bona fide representatives of the law. Otherwise, they are imposters and are themselves acting illegally. Likewise, when one prays "in the name" of Jesus Christ, he should be sure he is acting and asking within the authority Jesus has given—which means to ask in accordance with the revealed will of the Son of God.

Fortunately, the Bible is a detailed setting forth of Christ's will. Anyone who sincerely studies the way of life, the examples, the prohibitions and the promises in the Bible has literally hundreds of pages of information to tell him what God wants him to do, what God directly instructs him to pray for, and many examples of what and how God does answer prayers! Of course, you need not always have a specific promise in the Bible to know that something is God's will. Often it is a matter of applying the principles

from biblical situations to modern situations which may arise.

Notice, for some examples, the attributes David mentions in his prayer to God: "I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies" (Ps. 18:1-3). God, then, will give us *strength, protection and deliverance*. In what is called the "Lord's Prayer," Jesus instructs us to pray for *forgiveness*, for our *daily bread*, for *His kingdom* to come, and for *deliverance* from temptations or trials (Matt. 6:9-13). The apostle James instructs us to ask for *wisdom*, and for *healing* when we are sick (James 1:5; 5:14-16).

Jesus stated: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name [that is, by my authority], that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14). Visualize Christ now seated at God's right hand in heaven—at the magnificently impressive and glorious throne of the universe. Know that He understands your trials and feelings; that He was tempted in every basic way all of us are tempted and He is there to be for us a merciful and understanding and faithful High Priest (Heb. 4:14-15). With that profound realization, do come boldly before God and talk to Him about anything, reason with Him and ask Him to even help you understand what to pray for and for the strength and mercy you need (verse 16).

What a fantastic opportunity!

Be grateful for this privilege, and use it often to pour out your heart before your Creator and your Father.

Ask in Faith

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him" (Heb. 10:38).

Faith becomes a whole way of life. It involves a deep understanding and commitment to the great central fact of human experience:

God *is*, and He is working out a purpose here below. He has laws and standards by which human life should be governed; He rewards those who surrender to His will and walk in His ways. Again: "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

Notice also the emphasis put on the fact that we must "diligently seek him." God intends that we go after Him, in a sense, "hammer and tongs"; that we burn our bridges behind us and commit ourselves to doing His will and then trust HIM for the extra strength, wisdom and love that we need.

James tells us to ask for wisdom: "But let him ask in FAITH, *nothing wavering*. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:6).

When Jesus healed people, He stated over and over: "Thy faith hath made thee whole" (Matt. 9:22; Mark 10:52; Luke 17:19). "Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you" (Matt. 9:29). Again: "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee" (Mark 2:5).

Ask God *for* faith. *Build faith* into your life by reading the Bible regularly (Romans 10:17), and by exercising faith and seeing the results of your trust in God's Word and in His promises. (Write for our free booklet entitled *What Is Faith?*) Then, bit by bit, you will learn to sincerely feel and say along with God's prophets, not "I think" or "I hope," but: "I *know* that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25).

Pray Persistently

When Jesus' disciples came and said: "Lord, teach us to pray," He instructed them by giving them the basic outline of prayer we call the "Lord's Prayer." We should study and follow this approach.

But He continued His teaching with an example of how we must keep on praying and not give up if our prayers don't seem to be answered right away. He gave, as an

analogy for prayer, a virtual pounding on the door of a friend until he does answer. Then Christ said: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9).

Sometimes you do need to keep knocking, so to speak, and let God know that you deeply desire whatever you ask Him; that you are willing to wait patiently for the answer; that you are willing to repent of any sin, right any wrong, overcome any

Sometimes you do need to keep knocking, so to speak, and let God know that you deeply desire whatever you ask Him; that you are willing to wait patiently for the answer; that you are willing to repent of any sin, right any wrong, overcome any problem, in order to be found worthy of His answer to your prayer.

problem, in order to be worthy of His answer to your prayer.

What *if* (and he almost has!) my fifteen-year-old son asks me: "Dad, please help me get an imported sports car." What will my answer be?

"Wait!" That will be my answer.

I'll think to myself, "He's not old enough. He doesn't have much driving experience, and there are all kinds of lessons I'd like to see him learn before he has a fast sports car. And besides, the car will mean a lot more to him, and he'll take better care of it and be more responsible if it doesn't come too easily."

Do you see the analogy?

God is supremely intelligent, loving, protective and logical. He wants us to prepare for some things before we receive them. As our Father, He wants us to learn certain lessons and overcome certain sins or weaknesses *before* He will answer some of our prayers!

So as you pray to God, talk to Him about these things. Reason with Him as Abraham did in Genesis 18:23-33. Ask Him to show you if there is any lesson you need to learn before He will answer your

prayer. And unless you find you are "asking amiss" (James 4:3)—asking for something you shouldn't have—keep on praying to God until the answer comes.

Fervency

Keep on praying—but in what way? With a tired, monotonous, routine approach? With a careless "let's-see-if-it-works-this-time" approach?

A thousand times NO!

Remember James 5:16: "The effectual FERVENT prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Realize that you are coming to plead your case before the Supreme Governor of the universe, the Lord and Giver of life. Put your heart, your mind and your being into an alert, profound, and heartfelt communion with your Creator. For our good, God wants us to serve and reverence Him in this way. The Moffatt translation makes plain God's concern about Israel's halfhearted prayers: "Though it was I who redeemed them, they have lied to me; they never put their heart into their prayers . . ." (Hosea 7:13, 14).

Even Jesus Himself, preparing for a slow and torturous death, poured His very being into His final hours of prayer to God: "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). No doubt this is where the expression "to sweat blood" comes from.

In our jaded and sophisticated society where many want to act cool and noncommittal, we need to be reminded of the personal examples of Jesus and of King David of Israel (see Psalm 69:1-3) and how they cried from the heart and poured deep emotion and feeling into their prayers!

If Your Need Is Forgiveness

Jesus said: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:14-15).

We must sincerely and completely forgive others. We must not hold grudges or harbor animosity. Otherwise, there is no way our prayer for forgiveness—or indeed,

any other prayer—will be heard. But, if we forgive others, and “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Prayer, along with meditation, is a good time for self-examination to determine whether you truly have repented yourself and completely forgiven others. But you can’t “fake it.” And even here, you’ve got to ask God for help and humility.

Make Prayer a Habit

Many articles have been written on the amazing power which habits have over our lives. They describe how building proper thought patterns and daily habits—even in little things—often spells the difference between success or mediocrity in many areas of our lives.

In *no area* of life is this more important than in the spiritual area of regular Bible study, meditation and personal prayer to God.

God puts examples in the Bible for a reason. Let’s notice.

The prophet Daniel, in danger of losing his life if he prayed, nevertheless followed his daily habit—the pattern of life which made him one of the most honored and powerful servants of God in history. “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed [forbidding asking anything from anyone but the king], he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime” (Dan. 6:10).

Note the statement “. . . as he did aforetime.” It was Daniel’s habit to pray on his knees before God three times a day.

Notice also the example of King David when he was in great distress: “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice” (Ps. 55:17). David was all man. He was a mighty warrior, an excellent musician and composer, and an inspired leader. But he was often in trouble. Hence his “supplications” (Ps. 55:1, for example)—the word means repeated prayer on the same subject. He had to pour out his heart and

ask repeatedly for mercy, strength, guidance and deliverance. The result?

You cannot read through the inspired psalms of David without realizing that he was a man who lived in close and continual contact with his God. He was vitally alive and lived one of the most exciting, romantic and yet meaningful lives in the history of the human race! His constant and even passionate communion with God certainly added depth and breadth to his

Remember James 5:16: “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” Realize that you are coming to plead your case before the Supreme Governor of the universe, the Lord and Giver of life. Put your heart, your mind and your being into an alert, profound, and heartfelt communion with your Creator.

magnificent life and character.

Reading David’s psalms, you note the obvious fact that David was not only just praying on his knees. He was constantly talking to God, relating all things to God—the very center of his existence. He was, as we say, in an “attitude of prayer” many times throughout each day.

So should we be.

Do we greet each morning’s sunrise with a quiet “Thank you, Father” as we first look out the window? Do we bow our head in thanksgiving over any of our private breakfast, lunch and dinner meals—teaching our children by this and other acts that God is our Creator and the Giver of every good gift?

Do we ask God’s protection as our children leave for school, as our car leaves the driveway, as our plane taxis out for takeoff? Do we ask our Father and Friend for wisdom and guidance, for patience and mercy, for strength and love, as we face various challenges through each day of our lives? We should—for this, too, is the meaning of prayer, and of learning to “walk with God” as did great men of old like Enoch, Noah and Abraham.

Often Jesus rose up early in the morning—“a great while before day”—and went to a private place to pray (Mark 1:35). He wanted to re-establish that close contact with God early in the day.

So should we.

At other times, times of unusual stress, or before making a big decision such as choosing His twelve apostles, Jesus would pray long and hard through part or even all of the night—reasoning and pleading with His Father for help, wisdom and guidance on the problems and decisions of the morrow (Luke 6:12-13).

It was the HABIT of our Savior who is our perfect example to pray to God continually and with His whole heart! So when it came His time to die, the most obvious and natural thing He could and did do was to drop to His knees, lift up His heart and hands to the Almighty one with whom He had shared eternity, and pray. With perspiration pouring off His body and with tears streaming down His cheeks (Hebrews 5:7), He begged God for the strength and love to become the perfect sacrifice which He, and He alone, could be.

Then, finally, when He knew He had the Father’s answer, He returned to find His disciples sleeping—seemingly unaware of the momentous events which were about to occur. “[He] said unto them, Why sleep ye? Rise and PRAY, lest ye enter into temptation” (Luke 22:46).

In this age of potential world annihilation, we, too, had better learn to do just that. We need to make the habit of constant and fervent prayer to God as much a part of our lives as breathing. For, as with the air we breathe, the quality and ultimate length of our lives directly depend upon it. □

RECOMMENDED READING

Roderick C. Meredith, a Senior Editor of *The Plain Truth*, has taught courses in church history and the epistles of Paul at Ambassador College for two decades. His supplementary article “The Answer to Unanswered Prayer” has bettered the lives of thousands. Request your free copy today.

A TRAGIC LESSON FROM JUDGES

Many have wondered about the account of Jephthah's daughter (Judges 11). Did Jephthah, judge of Israel, actually sacrifice his daughter to God? Above all, what is the lesson for us today?

by Scott G. Rockhold

The place: ancient Palestine. The time: about 1100 B.C. The cast of characters: ancient Israel, a divided and quarreling people consisting of many tribes; the Ammonites, formerly Israel's eastern neighbors, now her oppressors; Jephthah, a judge of Israel, the son of a prostitute. In return for God's granting victory over the Ammonites, Jephthah promises to sacrifice to God the first one who greets him upon his return from battle. To his dismay, his daughter, an only child, is the first to greet him. True to his vow, Jephthah offers his daughter as a burnt offering, a tragic event which was still being commemorated by the women of Israel when the book of Judges was written (see Judges 11:40).

The story of Jephthah's daughter is not only tragic, but seems so unusual that many have not been able to believe that the girl was actually sacrificed. Though the earliest Christian and Jewish commentators all seem to have accepted the story at face value, the medieval Jewish commentator David Kimchi was apparently the first to suggest that rather than having sacrificed his daughter, Jephthah merely kept her a perpetual virgin. Many subsequent writers have agreed with this idea (Keil and Delitzsch, *Biblical Commentaries on the Old Testament*, vol. 4, pp. 358-359).

Some puzzling questions surround the story of Jephthah's daughter: Why would God grant

victory to a man who had vowed a human sacrifice to Him? *Did* Jephthah really vow to sacrifice a human being, or was it in actuality an *animal* sacrifice?

Actually, the Hebrew text at this point is *ambiguous*: it could refer to either a human being or an animal. The ambiguity is obvious when one compares modern translations of Judges 11:31: "... *whoever* comes forth from the doors of my house to meet me, when I return victorious from the Ammonites, shall be the Lord's, and I will offer *him* up for a burnt offering" (RSV); "... *anything* coming out the doors of my house to meet me, when I return with victory from the Ammonites, shall belong to Yahweh; I will offer *it* up as a burnt offering" (Anchor Bible). Either translation is possible, so we cannot necessarily conclude that Jephthah deliberately vowed to offer a human being as a sacrifice to the God of Israel.

Notice also that both translations (as well as most other translations and commentaries) agree on the translation of "burnt offering." The Hebrew word *olah* used here is the common one used throughout the Old Testament to refer to a whole burnt offering (Brown, Driver, Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon*, p. 750). Thus we can be reasonably sure that Jephthah indeed intended to offer something in sacrifice to God upon an altar.

Now modern archaeology has shed some new light on the matter.

From excavations in Palestine of sites from the biblical period, we know that houses often had an enclosed courtyard where animals and supplies were kept. Thus Jephthah could well assume that the first creature to meet him upon his return would be an animal suitable for sacrifice (R. Boling, *Judges*, p. 208). But to his sorrow and dismay, his daughter, who had probably heard the news of his victory, was the first to come out!

Did Jephthah then really sacrifice his daughter to God? The author of Judges does not directly say so; he merely tells us that Jephthah "did with her according to his vow which he had made" (verse 39, RSV). The author seems to leave the outcome to the reader's imagination. We might conclude with most commentators that Jephthah actually fulfilled the promise he had made—a vow to God must be kept! Verse 38 tells us that his daughter bewailed her virginity for two months; this was probably because she was to die childless.

What lesson can this tragic and gruesome account have for us today? Certainly that one should never make rash and hasty promises that later must be kept, sometimes at great expense. But the lesson goes much deeper. The book of Judges portrays all of the judges as having some character defect or liability: Samson had a great weakness for foreign women that proved his undoing; Gideon lacked the confidence he should have had in God; Jephthah himself was the son of a prostitute, as well as prone, evidently, to making rash vows. Yet the book of Judges shows how people with all their defects could still be used by the God of Israel to accomplish His purpose, and how He could deliver Israel through the hand of a man who might even sacrifice his own daughter. The message of Judges, and of the story of Jephthah and his daughter, is one of more than simple bloodshed. It is the story of how God can use even the weakest of human beings for His own great purpose.

Moses was finally convinced that the God he worshiped—the One who became Jesus the Christ—did have mercy and grace in mind for every human being who had ever lived, or was yet to live. Moses and Jesus were of one accord on that subject—and that One to become Jesus had the *power* to bring to pass the *hope* of Moses.

Moses had a lot more to do with the Christian religion than most people know—he realized more of the true purpose of life than the majority of Christians today!

The Transfiguration

When the disciples of Jesus' day asked Him to show them the Kingdom of God and its coming, Jesus, through a "vision," provided three of their number with a foretaste of what that Kingdom would be like. Peter, James and John, from among the twelve apostles, were chosen for this special revelation. The whole scene is described in Matthew 17.

The two individuals Jesus chose to show in vision to His disciples were Moses and Elijah! Moses, then, will definitely be in *God's Kingdom*. Moses was Jesus' first choice, along with Elijah, as an example for Peter, James and John of the end product of the purpose of creation. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are earlier mentioned by Jesus as definitely being in the Kingdom of God, as well as Noah, Daniel and David—but Jesus chose to show in vision only Moses and Elijah! Surely, then, Moses and Elijah must have known the purpose of life Jesus was about to reveal to His disciples!

Power To Become Sons

The Bible clearly reveals that the purpose of the creation of human beings is to make them "sons of God." Yet this presents an enigma because it also clearly states that "flesh and blood *cannot* inherit the kingdom of God" (I Cor. 15:50).

The only answer to that problem is the equally enigmatic statement by Jesus that human beings must "be born again" (John 3:3). That statement by Jesus is perhaps the most misunderstood of all He made. "Born again" is turned by most of religion into some sort of "spiritual

PART 5 A TALE OF TWO PROPHETS

by Jon Hill

God told Moses that every human being would have his opportunity for salvation—but that He, the God of grace, reserves the judgment of when and to whom He grants that salvation. A special physical, mortal resurrection is planned for the great majority of mankind in all those "lost" generations so that they may have their one and only chance at salvation. But the question is: saved for what? What is the purpose of human life? Why are we here? Saved from Egypt? From sin? From death? From "hell"? But for what? And, once saved, what will we be?

experience" which leaves the body still flesh and blood, incapable of inheriting the Kingdom. It seems no one actually wants to take Jesus at His word!

Let's cheat, and believe Jesus—that second of the two prophets of this tale—really meant exactly what He said. He said: "But as many as received him, to them gave he *power to become the sons of God*, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, *not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*" (John 1:12-13).

Let's face it: Jesus was not talking about pseudo sons, or allegorical sons, or religious-terminology sons, or pretend sons—but *real sons*! If you can believe it, the purpose of creation is to raise human beings to

GOD BEINGS: real sons of God, *God as God is God!*

"Blasphemy!" shouted the righteously indignant and generally enraged religious bigots of Jesus' day when He said, "I am the Son of God."

"For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God!" they explained smugly in their theological straitjackets as they stooped to pick up rocks.

But, for some reason, they paused to give Jesus time to pose a puzzling question from the heart of their own Scriptures: "Is it not written in your law, I said, *Ye are gods*? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?" (John 10:33-36.)

Is a Son a Son?

At the very heart of Christian belief is the absolute necessity of recognizing and believing what those of Jesus' day labeled "blasphemy!" Every good Christian believes as the cardinal point of doctrine that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was and is the Son of God—but how many good Christians do you know who *also* believe *equally* in the words of that *same* Jesus of Nazareth when He said, praying to His Father in heaven just before His crucifixion: "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, *that they may be one, as we are*. . . . Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which *shall* believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, *that they also may be one in us*"! (John 17:11, 20-21.) How many do you know who believe *that*?

Why do so many use all the words and slogans so common to Christianity in vain? Do we believe that neither Jesus nor the Father in heaven really *mean* what they say? Do we believe that the gospel message so plainly stated by Jesus is all allegory, all symbolism, all parable, all fable, all myth? Do we say by our beliefs and actions that the

Communists are *right* after all when they say that belief in a supernatural being, in religion, is *indeed* "the opiate of the people"?

Do we believe that plain, clear words in the Bible describing the purpose of life, the plan of God, and defining the gospel are all empty phrases holding no practical meaning? Are these phrases to be taken with a grain of salt as mere religious phraseology having no *real* meaning or substance? Do words used in the revelation of God to mankind have a meaning apart from reality? Do we really believe that God *says* one thing but *means* another? (That was Satan's first argument back in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve! Check it for yourself: Genesis, chapter two.)

When God says His purpose is to make you and me His sons—just what kind of sons do you suppose He means? Real ones, or fake ones? When and if you become a son of God, what kind of son do you think you will be?

When you get right down to it, are *you* really satisfied with *any* religion's explanation of the meaning of life, of the key purpose for our creation, of the ultimate goal to be attained by *any* religious exercise? Let's briefly examine the major options offered to us.

What Would You Like To Be When You Rise Up?

Billions have believed that the ultimate goal of mankind is to achieve nirvana: "the state of perfect blessedness achieved by the absorption of the soul into the supreme spirit"; that is, an unconscious continued existence, as it were, like a cell in the body of the great one. It may have served billions, and driven them to extremes in their worship to accomplish nirvana—but I must admit that it does *not* satisfy me personally. What good is it to live forever and yet not even *realize* you are alive; have no *personal* existence? How about *you*?

A nearly equal number have believed that the afterlife of the faithful will consist of forever living at ease in an oasis called the "Garden of Allah," where, lounging in hammocks strung between date palms, the men (because this is a rather

male-dominated religion) will be fed delicacies by a bevy of voluptuous women (an eternal harem?) and will have all the hashish needed to keep them in a stupor (alcohol is not allowed) so the eventual boredom will not bother. In the name of the god of *peace* (Islam), true believers have converted others by the *sword* to believe and seek this reward! This goal may be pleasing to many—it does have some specific, concrete goodies explained—but again I must admit that it does not satisfy me personally. How about *you*?

Christianity is separated into two basic camps, which for many centuries have endeavored to exterminate one another. The more universal belief held by the larger of the two camps is that the purpose of life is to achieve the "beatific vision." After wading through about six pages of fine print in the encyclopedia of that religion, attempting to define just *what* the "beatific vision" *is*, you come to the disappointing conclusion that, in their own words, "no one really knows"! The best you can get is that it is a state of blessedness in which you, living forever, will be able to gaze upon God, seeing Him better than you see Him now, but not ever being able to see Him as He really is. Vague as it may seem, it is avidly pursued by hundreds of millions as the goal of their existence. Perhaps the threat of the only other alternative—suffering unimaginable torments in hellfire, all explained in vivid detail, spurs them on. One more time I must admit that this theory does not satisfy me. To think that the Creator who has fashioned this fabulously complex, intricate, material and very real universe would propose such a vague purpose for His highest creation—mankind—just does not compute with me. How about *you*?

The other Christian belief—developed in protest and now shattered into hundreds of splinters, each having a slight variant of doctrine regarding the afterlife—is basically this: When you die, you go to heaven as a spirit being of some sort and live eternally in bliss—some-what similar to the beatific vision, but with more details added. You check in at the pearly gates with

Peter, get your wings, your harp, your golden slippers with which to walk the golden streets, your white robe, your cloud—and then you DO NOTHING (virtually), and you do (?) it forever! Granted, you are never hungry or thirsty; never cry or suffer. A sort of a great golden, peaceful retirement center in the sky, with, torture of all tortures, *nothing* to do . . . *forever*. It doesn't satisfy me—how about *you*? Is the suffering of hell again the driving force that encourages enlistment for this theory?

There are many more beliefs with goals equally vague—but those mentioned cover the majority of mankind, with the exception of the billions who believe we are born and die, like dogs, with no purpose. This doesn't satisfy me either, and I even refuse to address it—how about *you*?

Why the Mystery?

There is a very definite reason for all this confusion. The vagueness about the ultimate reward of the true believer of any religion, and particularly the Christian religion, is specifically predicted and explained in your Bible. It is nobody's fault; no one is to blame. All who cling to these faiths can easily be given the benefit of the doubt and be said truly to be deeply sincere—the blood of the believers and martyrs of all these religions bespeaks eloquently the indelible fact of sincerity.

But there is a reason why *no* faith gives the clear purpose of life, the reason for creation, the plan of God, the ultimate goal God set for mankind. The reason is that God locked up that truth and gives the key to unlock it only to those of His own choosing at the time of His own choosing.

Many a sermon has been preached on how impossible it is for us to understand just what it is that God has in store for us, using as the text this scripture: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Cor. 2:9). This conveniently explains away the vagueness. This allows all manner of speculation, of possibilities for scenario-developing,

of doctrinal discrepancies among believers. This brings comfort to the confused, helps in swallowing the impractical visions advanced regarding God's purpose.

It also fulfills that very scripture itself! *Nobody* has *seen* the perfect will of God. Since nobody has seen it, obviously nobody has *heard* of it. No man has *thought up* or *conceived* of the plan God has in mind, try though they may. Intelligence, wisdom, dedication—all in absolute sincerity—have been applied in vain. Still, no one has come up with the plan.

This one "text for the day" seems an inadequate tool—let's cheat again just a little and read the *next* text also! Maybe we'll see, hear and begin to conceive what others have not: "*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God*" (verse 10). This plainly says that despite the fact that man alone has not been able to come up in his own imagination (even with all the effort he has expended at it) with the plan God has in mind for those who love Him, He, by His Spirit, reveals that plan!

In short, God's purpose for mankind *can be known*, but only by His Spirit. "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the *revelation* of the mystery, which *was kept secret* since the world began, but *now is made manifest*, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, *made known* to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen" (Rom. 16:25-27).

The Bible Says . . .

You are made in the image of God.

Why?

None of the other millions of creatures God created are made in His image. God doesn't look like a snake, a bull, a bird or a fish—He looks just like a human being, or, better put, human beings look just like God! "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . . So God created man *in his own image*, in the image of God

created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:26-27). God is not a male chauvinist: He created both male and female *in His image!*

We look like Him, but we are not *exactly* like Him. An image shows design and shape, but is not made of the same substance as the original. We are flesh—physical, temporary, mortal. God is spirit—eternal, immortal (see John 4:24; Isa. 57:15).

David knew that God had created us in His likeness, yet he said: "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: *I shall be satisfied, WHEN I awake, with thy likeness*" (Ps. 17:15). To be like God as God is God—to be *totally* in the likeness of God—requires a change in our composition, from physical to spiritual. "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood *cannot* inherit the kingdom of God. . . . Behold, *I shew* you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but *we shall all be changed*, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump [the "WHEN" David referred to—when he would finally be satisfied!]: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and *we shall be changed*" (I Cor. 15:50-52).

Job was familiar with this necessary change: "If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, *till my change come*. Thou shalt call [the last trump], and I will answer thee: thou *wilt* have a desire to the work of thine hands. . . . For *I know* that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though *after* my skin worms destroy this body, yet [apart from] my flesh shall I see God!" (Job 14:14-15 and 19:25-26.)

What is changed is the flesh, attitude, character—*not the personality*, the integral, personal, conscious *you*. Job makes this clear: "Whom [God] *I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another. . .*" (Job 19:27).

Sons of God, Brothers of Jesus

Jesus is *the* Son of God—no good Christian denies that. Jesus is unique: He is the *only* son of a human being who had God the Father in heaven as His literal Father who caused His impregna-

tion in the womb of a woman, Mary.

But to Jesus, and through Jesus, was given the power to make us *all* sons of God!

Jesus became the **FIRSTBORN** Son of God by the resurrection from the dead (Rom. 1:4). Even Jesus was physical, flesh and blood. That had to change. And that overwhelming change came about at His resurrection. But the beautiful thing about the resurrection of our Savior, the captain of our salvation, our Redeemer who lives, is that it becomes possible through the power of that resurrection for *you and me* also to be changed, also to become sons of God! To be God as God is God! To be God as Jesus is now God!

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the **FIRSTBORN among MANY brethren**" (Rom. 8:29). "For it became him, for whom are all things [the Father], and by whom are all things, in bringing **MANY** sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation [Jesus Christ] perfect through sufferings. For *both* he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are *all of one*: for which cause he [Jesus] is not ashamed to call them *brethren*" (Heb. 2:10-11). "And he [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church: who is the **BEGINNING**, the **FIRSTBORN** from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. . . . Christ in *you*, the hope of [your] glory" (Col. 1:18, 27).

This is not just religious-sounding language. This is the straightforward biblical truth that when *you and I* are changed we will be glorified sons of God, just as Jesus is **NOW!** Sons of God, brothers of Jesus—in every sense of those words!

Not Yet Born

This may seem difficult, because the Bible calls physical human beings "sons of God." Yet the Bible also plainly states that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, *be sons*. Humans must be born again. Not just an experience of the mind, but an actual rebirth; a complete change to a new being as different in state as the mature plant is from the seed which is planted in

the ground (an analogy the apostle Paul used in I Corinthians 15—the resurrection chapter).

The difficulty is resolved when you realize that the New Testament was written in Greek. The Greek language uses one word, *gennaō*, to refer to conception, the begotten stage of the fetus, the whole nine-month gestation period, *and the actual birth*. So, from the beginning of the new life, conception, the individual is considered to *be* a “son,” even though he is not yet born. When you, as a natural human parent, are first aware that there is life in the womb, don’t you think of it as your child, even though it is not yet born? And do not *most* of those conceived finally achieve birth?

It’s the same with God.

God begins the birth of His sons very small, just as we *begin* the birth of our own children. “Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the EARNEST of the Spirit” (II Cor. 5:5). An “earnest” is a very small down payment carrying with it a promise of more to come, until the full commitment is reached.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Rom. 8:14). There are no capital letters in the Greek, by the way. It is only the translators who decided to capitalize “Son” when it referred to Jesus and *not* capitalize “son” when it referred to us. Most reverent and sincere humility no doubt, but it leads to misunderstanding.

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” (Rom. 8:15). That word “adoption” can just as well be translated “sonship”—or even “Sonship”—but according to the very scriptures the translators were translating, it never entered their minds that we could be the actual “Sons of God.” They only took words like “brethren,” “son,” “Father” to be metaphors, niceties, condescension from God as it were. But this scripture clearly declares that *we* human beings, after receiving God’s Holy Spirit, are to call God *Abba*—which is Aramaic for “father”—and then amplifies and reinforces that by adding “Father”

from the Greek. An actual Father, not a pretend Father. Perhaps it was fear of the same charge of “blasphemy” leveled against Jesus by the religious people of His day that caused those men to use the translation “adoption” in the clear light of the context of a double-language (Aramaic, Greek) “Father-son” relationship discussed in Romans eight?

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that *we are the children of God*” (verse 16). This Spirit of God is, remember, the *only* source of this humanly inconceivable concept of what it is that God has in store for those who love Him. I have chosen to believe the Spirit of God, and not be satisfied with the ideas of men—how about you?

Now these “children of God” discussed in Romans are not *born* yet. They have just begun, just been spiritually conceived. They are not changed yet from physical to spiritual totally; they just have the “earnest” of that yet future total change.

The fact is, *nobody* has been changed yet except Jesus of Nazareth. All the holy men of old are dead and in their graves, waiting, as Job stated he would wait. Some decayed to dust—as Peter said of David *after* the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2). Some became ashes; some possibly were partly preserved physically—as Joseph, for example, whose body was mummified after the Egyptian style. But ALL are waiting for a “better resurrection. . . . God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect” (Heb. 11:35, 40). “. . . the general assembly and church of the firstborn . . . the spirits of just men made perfect” (Heb. 12:23) . . . waiting . . .

Worth Waiting For

God is not playing games. God is not perpetrating some cosmic joke. God is not sponsoring some eternal rest home in the sky for retired Christians.

God is reproducing Himself!

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God Beloved, now *are* we the sons of God, and [would you believe

“but”] it doth not *yet* appear what we shall be [we’re not born yet, just begotten]: but we *know* [do we?] that, *when* he shall appear, *we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*” (I John 3:1-2).

What is Jesus going to be like when He comes back to this earth? A metaphoric, allegorical, mythical “Son of God”—or a real, spiritual, all-powerful, actual Son of God? You guessed it: The latter is correct. Now if He is like that, and we are going to be like He is—what do you suppose *we* will be like?

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises [beyond the scope of human imagination]; that by these *ye might be partakers of the divine nature*” (II Pet. 1:4). “I [Jesus says] will make them [people, human beings] to come and *worship before thy feet*” (Rev. 3:9). Now, *you* know, and I know, and God commands that only God Himself is worthy of worship!

There is only one inescapable conclusion.

If we are to be changed from physical to spiritual—and not just any ordinary spiritual, but by and into the Spirit of God; if what we are taught by Jesus is true, and we are to pray “*Our Father* in heaven. . . .”; if He really is *our* Father and not just His Father; if we are (to be) His sons; if we are to share the Father’s and the Son’s glory and be one as they are one; if we are to inherit eternal life; if we are to partake of the divine nature; if we are to be just like Jesus now is; if we are to have the complete mind of Christ in us; if we are to be worthy of worship—then . . . WE MUST BECOME GOD!

Blasphemy?

No!

Just the “unbelievable” *truth* of your Bible!

Believe it or not, “Ye are Gods”—it just doesn’t show yet!

And *when* you become God’s own born son, what will you *do*? Will God equip you with eternal life, His own Spirit, glory, power . . . just to sit around on clouds and pluck a harp? What do Gods *do*? What

(Continued on page 29)

what our readers say

In March we ran an article entitled "A People Who 'Can't Afford' To Tithe," by Garner Ted Armstrong. In this issue we are devoting the "What Our Readers Say" section to letters from members of the Worldwide Church of God who have commented on their personal experiences with tithing. We thought you'd find their comments interesting and encouraging—perhaps even inspiring! If you have an interesting story to tell concerning your experience with tithing, we'd be glad to hear from you.

Daughter Finds Money

We have just completed our sixth year as members of God's Church. We have received many blessings since we started to tithe, but one is very special and we'd like to tell you about it.

Our daughter was returning from a friend's house when she spotted a roll of money on the sidewalk. When she counted it there were eleven \$100 bills. We called the police, who took the money and kept it for three months. At the end of this time they notified us that no one had claimed it, so we could keep it.

Mr. and Mrs. D.T.,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Man Wins Two Prizes

About nine months ago, I decided to send in a \$50 special offering. A few weeks later one of our local banks began advertising free promotional gifts and a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate for opening a new savings account. Because of my very thrifty nature, I took advantage of this opportunity and chose a pocket calculator as my gift. I also reluctantly (I can count previous winnings on one finger) took the time to fill out one of their coupons for the daily drawing. You should have seen my surprise when I opened a letter from the bank the following week informing me that I was a \$25 winner! But don't go away yet; the story is only half over. Upon picking up my prize, I less reluctantly deposited another coupon on behalf of my little boy. I've already tipped you off as to the outcome. Another \$25 winner! Who said lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place? Only a few short weeks after sending an offering for the Work, our great God returned my \$50 to me. To be completely candid, the \$50 offering at the time wasn't a real hardship. If it were, my

hunch is that God would have returned my \$50 with interest.

Gary H.,
Camillus, New York

Nonfinancial Blessings

The blessings we received because of tithing were not necessarily financial. Sometimes it is necessary to sacrifice the material to obey God's Word. God does bless the tithe-payer.

Mrs. Merle C.,
Irving, Texas

Widow Protected from Debt

Death overtook my husband after 48 days in the surgical intensive-care unit, leaving me totally disabled and with only Social Security for income. After the funeral the bills started coming in, amounting to over \$35,000. Under our health-insurance plan, which we had through my husband's work for the past 17 years, I would have been in debt for 20 percent of the \$35,000. But just 117 days before, the board of directors had changed the insurance coverage, so I paid only a standard deductible of \$295. The insurance paid everything over that, up to one million dollars. I know God worked this miracle after 17 years to protect me, just as He has always done in all my necessities of life.

Name withheld,
Missouri

Instant Return

When I started to tithe in earnest, something happened that I will never forget. I sent in my first tithe before anything was taken out. The following Sunday night I found \$1000 lying where hundreds of people could see it, but it was only to be seen by me. If you tithe you will be blessed.

Harry B.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Embarrassed by So Much

Since I started to tithe about three years ago, my salary has jumped almost 63 percent. In one of those years I received a bonus amounting to over 160 percent of my base salary at that time. My lifestyle has improved to the extent that now I have all the material things I could possibly want, and to a certain degree I feel somewhat embarrassed in front of other people, including those in the Church, because of a multitude of physical possessions.

William K.,
London, England

"Terrible" Attitude Changes

As soon as we learned we should tithe, I asked God to make sure He fed my family, as I was giving up "all this money." My attitude was terrible toward tithing. But now, ten years later, we have a new car, money in the bank, both our daughters married in the Church, my mother attending for the very first time last week, hundreds of friends, happiness beyond words, faith beyond words, etc., etc.

Mollie K.,
Sidcup, England

Uncle Sam Comes Through

Several years ago, I received an income-tax rebate for \$50. Knowing had I not received it I would get along without it, I decided to send it to Pasadena. Then, human nature being what it is, I thought why not wait and put it in a later offering? Then another thought occurred: Why wait? The money is needed now. So before I could change my mind, I endorsed the check and mailed it. Several months later, I received a call from the Social Security office, telling me to come down. They said they had some good news for me. I wasted no time getting there, and they gave me a check for over \$600. After tithing on this, my sister and I went to England for the Festival of Tabernacles and met brethren from 91 countries. This is just one of the many proofs that you can't outgive God.

Carrie Y.,
Springfield, Virginia

Pay Raise Follows Tithe

When I first heard what the Bible said and contrasted it with what I had been taught all my life, I was shocked. I learned about tithing and, after many months of consideration, studying and reading, I decided to tithe. On payday during my lunch hour, I cashed my paycheck and went directly to the post office and made a money order for ten percent of my wages. When I got back to work after lunch, the boss called me into his office and complimented me on the work I was doing and gave me a raise for more than the ten percent I had just sent, and also told me that I did not have to come in for work on Saturdays anymore. I was very, very surprised to say the least.

Name withheld,
Canada

Success Story

In 1973, when I first began tithing faithfully and regularly to God's Church, we only had an annual income of \$4300. This was right after I was severely hurt

on my job in 1970 and was out of work for a year and a half. Well, to make a long story short, while on disability (benefits of only \$87.50 per week) we started a small business which we never thought much would ever come of. After about six months of tithing, one of our suppliers, from whom we were only purchasing maybe \$2500 per year, trusted us with over \$135,000 of merchandise on an open-account basis to sell and pay back at only 5 percent interest, a rate unheard of. This led to more and more in tithes and offerings until in 1976 we have given over \$12,000 to the Church. My wife and I are dedicating our lives and financial resources to the Work in this last-ditch effort, and hope we can expand our business and give a contribution of \$100,000 to the Work in 1977. We will help get the broadcast on the air more, and more *Plain Truths* in more locations. I am not praying to God just to increase *our* gain, but each and every member's business, so we can all contribute more. We are praying that we can keep our goal in mind and not let the increased amount of money "go to our heads."

Name withheld,
California

Promotion Comes from God

Last June I decided to go out into the "big world of business" as a nurse's aide. My children were all in school, and I wanted to do something "big"! I got a job at a nursing home working part time. In December the owner stated he was looking his employees over, as he had room for a promotion for one person. I discussed it with God and applied for the promotion. Wonder of wonders, the owners chose me—gave me the promotion, and a raise—and after three months I'm to receive another raise after "proving" myself. I'm in charge of this new program—have one employee under me and will have another soon. I had been working the 3-to-11 shift—now I work 8 to 4 Monday through Friday. Great, huh? You see, in my discussion with God I gently "reminded" Him of the tithes and offerings He's prompted me to give back—and now I needed Him to help me get that promotion over women who had worked there for years. He listened, and acted fast. By the way, at the year's end the owners of the home gave out bonuses. Employees that had worked there for 10 or 15 years received \$15 or \$25—I received \$50 and had only worked there since June. Talk about God being on His children's side! He's the greatest!

Name withheld,
Nebraska

Money Inherited

Back in the '40s we were sending money to various organizations who were on radio at the time. It was about this time that we had started to hear Mr. Armstrong, and decided we would send the money to him instead. This was before we were associated with the Church. But we were blessed for tithing and giving even then. After we were baptized, we started giving more and made several loans to the Work, as we had a little money saved. So we were blessed even more. Then after a few years we decided to cancel the loan and let the Church have the money. Well, it was not long after this that we received money from an estate. The more we gave the more we were blessed.

Name withheld,
Kansas

* * *

If you would like to know more about the blessings of giving, please request our brand-new booklet entitled Your Best Investment. This free publication also contains a study of the subject of tithing. To obtain your copy, please use the coupon on back cover. □

TWO PROPHETS

(Continued from page 27)

does our Father have in mind to keep us *busy*, joyfully, eternally productive? And if God is eventually going to save the great majority of mankind anyway, why bother about it *now*?

Moses knew the answers to these questions—do *you*? Read them in the next issue! □

(To Be Continued)

RECOMMENDED READING

Several of our booklets provide the needed background to enable you to better comprehend this series of articles. Please write for the following literature: *Why Were You Born?*, *Just What Do You Mean—Born Again?*, *After Death—Then What?*, *What Is the Reward of the Saved?*, "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?" "Who Was Jesus?" and "When a Man From Space Visited Earth." All of these publications are provided free of charge by the membership of the Worldwide Church of God, as well as by our co-workers and friends.

CONVERSION

(Continued from page 10)

I have to WONDER *how many* professing Christians have actually experienced the receiving of God's gift of the Holy Spirit? How MANY, because of Satan's deceptive, erroneous teachings, have only seen enough of the truth to say: "I see this TRUTH. I am SO GOOD—SO RIGHTEOUS—that I want the truth, so I'll join this church." Yes, HOW MANY? How many have accepted the truth—or what they suppose to be the truth—in their own righteousness? They have not as yet even *really* repented; never MADE THE FIRST INITIAL START of the first experience of conversion.

Begetting of the Holy Spirit

But back to our comparison or analogy of human begetting and development and birth. In the human mother, a life starts as merely an embryo, as small as a tiny pin point. Most truly converted Christians start comparatively SMALL SPIRITUALLY. But the embryo, nourished on physical food from the mother, develops and grows, and after three months develops into a fetus. A spinal cord has developed, a head, arms and legs. Gradually other parts of the physical body develop. After nine months a new human is ready for birth—delivery from the mother's womb.

So once we are IMPREGNATED—given immortal life—given GOD-life—by the receiving of the HOLY SPIRIT from the very body and person of God, we are begotten sons of God, nourished on spiritual food through the mother of us all—the true CHURCH (Gal. 4:26; Heb. 12:22-23), until BORN by a resurrection as Jesus was (Rom. 1:4). We shall then be *composed* of spirit. But we must have GROWN in this life to a point where, once BORN of God, we CANNOT sin (I John 3:9).

Yes, you see God is REPRODUCING HIMSELF. We can become AS HE IS! But it requires a BEGETTAL (the experience of receiving the Holy Spirit), a period of spiritual gestation, and a final BIRTH, when we shall BE Spirit (John 3:6; Phil. 3:21). □

The Cocaine Craze

by D. Paul Graunke

The ancient Incas considered the plant from which it was taken to be divine. An early twentieth-century German user exclaimed: "God is a substance!" And a contemporary American user said of its effect: "You feel like Adam, and God is blowing life into your nostrils."

The divine drug so ardently revered is cocaine, one of nature's most powerful stimulants. Used and venerated by the Andean Indians for 3,000 years, cocaine has acquired hundreds of thousands of modern devotees in North America and Europe in the last few years. It has fostered a billion-dollar industry in the black market of illicit drugs.

Status Drug

Cocaine is often called the "marijuana of the rich" or the "champagne of drugs." This is because the well-to-do are often the only ones who can afford to buy it illegally at the champagne prices of \$1,000 to

\$2,000 an ounce. (Hospitals and pharmacies can buy the drug legally as an anesthetic for \$31.50 an ounce—which gives an idea of the possible profits on the black market.) To be able to distribute the drug gratis among friends at social occasions is thought to be a sure sign of success; the chic way to flaunt one's affluence is to proffer the coke for inhaling (a "snort") through a tightly rolled \$100 bill.

The drug so desired among today's decadent rich is derived from the leaves of the coca bush, grown principally in the uplands of Bolivia and Peru. For centuries the Indians of the Andean regions in South America have chewed the leaf for the stimulant and appetite-depressant effects that facilitate heavy labor and long treks. Some writers compare the consumption of cocaine in this form to the Western habit of drinking coffee (which contains the stimulant drug caffeine) to stay alert. The amount of drug

found in both products is small (1.6 to 2.5 percent caffeine in Latin American coffee; .65 to 1.25 percent cocaine in coca). Because of such low levels of concentration, chewing the coca leaf is not considered a "dangerous drug abuse" by many drug experts, although both the Bolivian and Peruvian governments have tried to cut consumption in their countries—with little success.

Freud and the Cocaine Papers

Cocaine became a problem drug after it was isolated and concentrated from the leaf, a feat accomplished in 1865 by the German physician Albert Niemann. In 1884 Sigmund Freud read about the use of cocaine to increase the stamina of some Bavarian soldiers during training maneuvers. He promptly procured a supply of the drug for experiments on patients and himself. There followed a flurry of papers on his use of cocaine to treat morphine dependence, depression and fatigue.

Freud termed these reports a "Song of Praise"—so high was his initial opinion of the drug.

But his rapturous relationship with the drug soon soured. True, cocaine didn't build significant tolerance. (That is, it didn't require escalating doses with regular usage to achieve the same high as did morphine.) And it didn't lead to excruciating withdrawal symptoms (as did morphine). But Freud, and other contemporaries working with the drug, observed that a strong psychic dependence often developed in many users. The drug's high only lasted 15 to 20 minutes, after which the user sank back into a depressed state—a state which now seemed worse when contrasted to the fleeting drug-induced high. This strongly motivated him to repeat the dose frequently to restore the euphoria. Repeated doses eventually led to toxic psychosis—hallucinations, paranoia, etc. Prolonged snorting also resulted in deterioration of the mucous membranes and septum.

Freud published his last defense of the drug in July 1887 and shortly thereafter discontinued use of the drug personally and professionally. Though he never developed a dependence for cocaine, it is said he had to undergo three operations to repair the damage to his nose.

"The Real Thing"

The research into cocaine by Freud and others contributed to a small boom in the pseudo-medical and nonmedicinal use of the drug at the close of the nineteenth century. Makers of patent medicines quickly jumped on the bandwagon and concocted scores of potions containing the drug. Cocaine was the "real thing" in Coca-Cola until 1903. A wine containing coca extract, called "Vin Mariana," was heartily drunk and endorsed by such notables as Pope Leo XIII, President William McKinley, Anatole France and Thomas Edison. "On a per capita basis, cocaine used in America in the mid-1890s was considerably greater than it is today because it was found in the cola drink, was the first remedy for hay fever and seemed like one of the miracle drugs," says Dr. David F. Musto, associate professor of

psychiatry and history at Yale.

But cocaine was rapidly acquiring a bad name, and in 1922 the U.S. Congress prohibited most importation of coca leaves and cocaine, thus driving it underground. The act also destroyed legitimate medical research on the drug. Consequently, a deficiency of knowledge about the drug exists to this day. "The medical and scientific community have appallingly little information [today] about the effects of cocaine," lament Lester Grinspoon and James B. Bakalar, coauthors of a new book on the drug, *Cocaine: A Drug and Its Social Evolution*. "The clinical literature is sparse, and mostly more than 50 years old."

Though cocaine was rediscovered during the hippie rebellion of the 60s, it has been only in the past couple of years that a really heavy trade in the drug has developed. Federal agents seized only 16.4 pounds in 1964. That grew to 96.8 in 1968, 407 in 1971 and 1,232 in 1975. But they have been intercepting only a minute fraction of the illegal drug coming into the United States.

Comparing Cancer to Pneumonia

True to form for today's decadent culture, what started out as a drug-induced thrill has become, in some circles, a crusade for personal freedom. The inevitable call has gone out to decriminalize cocaine. Proponents argue that "it's safer than alcohol and heroin"; "cocaine is as harmless as coffee"; "we allow and promote the use of other psychoactive agents (such as caffeine, tobacco, alcohol, tranquilizers, etc.), so why not coke?" And so forth.

Many of the slogans and arguments made on cocaine's behalf are misleading and irresponsible. To compare the relative merits or demerits of various psychoactive drugs is to obscure the central fact that *no drug is perfectly safe*. All drugs have undesirable side effects.

It's true that cocaine doesn't have some of the dramatic side effects of such drugs as, say, heroin or amphetamines. But cocaine presents hazards to mind and body in its own right. To compare it with heroin is, in the words of one drug enforcement official, "like comparing cancer to pneumonia."

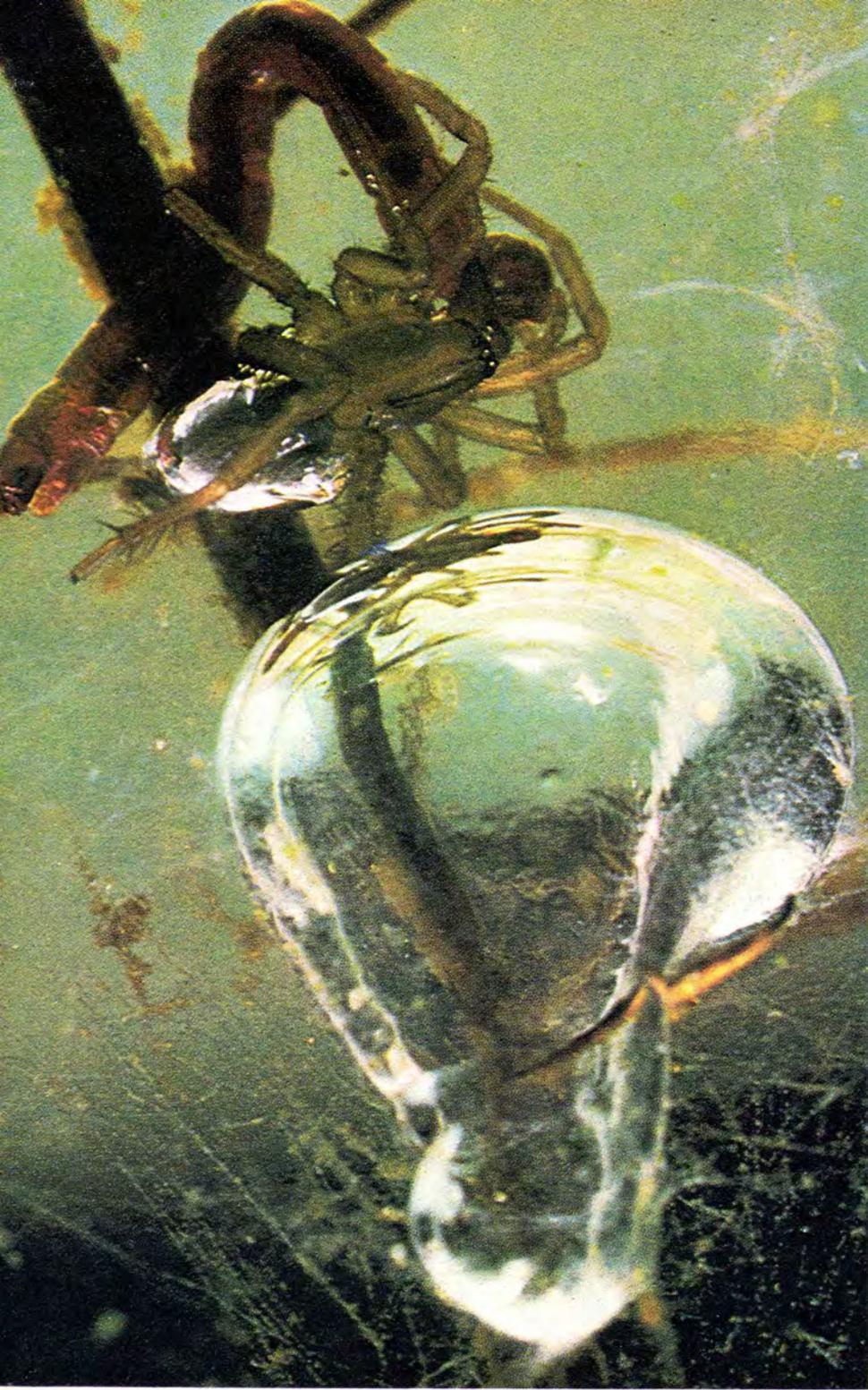
To further exacerbate the debate, opponents of cocaine are often blinded by certain misconceptions—or just plain ignorance—and issue misleading and irresponsible statements of their own. They seem to forget that each culture sanctions the use of certain psychoactive drugs. Those who decry the corrosion of the national fiber through psychoactive drugs often use several—usually alcohol, tobacco and coffee—themselves!

The current rage for cocaine must be placed in the context of the drug revolution of the past decade. And that revolution in turn must be placed in the context of the recreational use of psychoactive drugs by almost every culture down through history. The issues are complex and there are no easy answers for countries that are wrestling with the problem of which mind-altering drugs should be sanctioned and which should be taboo. For an overall look at today's drug problem, write for your free copy of our booklet *The Dilemma of Drugs*. □

DRUGS: the good, the bad, and the deadly

From booze to hash, from caffeine to heroin, mind-altering drugs have become a way of life. Nearly everyone needs a "fix"—for pleasure, for escape, or just to keep going. If you'd like to know more about drug use, its benefits and dangers, write for *The Dilemma of Drugs*. It's free—just return the coupon on the back cover.





Dr. Frieder Sauer — Bavaria-Verlag

UNDERWATER AIR BUBBLES THAT DON'T BURST: *Argyroneta aquatica* shows how it's possible for a lowly spider to spend practically its entire existence submerged in shallow ponds and streams. In the photo at right, *Argyroneta* is comfortably ensconced inside its airy domicile with its abdomen (center of its breathing apparatus) surrounded by air. In the photo above, *Argyroneta* is shown perched next to his underwater lair, clutching his portable air supply or "aqualung" along with recently captured prey. Note how the larger air bubble is anchored with a network of silken strands. Spiders eat, breed, and raise young inside their bubbles.



THE WORLD'S FIRST SKIN DIVER HAD EIGHT LEGS

by George Ritter

Silently and stealthily the hungry skin diver, his portable air-breathing equipment securely attached, inched along. A suspicious movement in the water ahead suddenly arrested his attention. Quickly he lunged toward the spot of the disturbance and came away with his prey—an inch-long guppy, more than enough for a sumptuous meal back at his submerged diving bell.

Lloyd Bridges or Jacques Cousteau he's not. But he's been at it a lot longer than any of his human counterparts. He's *Argyroneta aquatica*, an air-breathing spider who spends most of his life submerged in shallow ponds and streams in Europe and Asia. From the day he leaves the egg, *Argyroneta* is off and swimming with a tiny air bubble attached to his abdomen. When his air supply is depleted, he will rise to the surface, firmly grasp a new bubble between his legs and abdomen, and quickly resubmerge. This air-gathering technique also comes in handy when *Argyroneta* decides to build his underwater home. He first begins by spinning a silk canopy that is anchored to various roots and twigs along the bottom. Then *Argyroneta* will surface, do his air-gathering routine, return and release his bubble under the canopy. After a number of such trips his canopy will be sufficiently inflated to form a comfortable underwater air bell. If space is available, *Argyroneta* may even construct two separate bells—one as a summer residence and the other for a winter home. During mating season, male and female spiders may even build a silken tunnel to link "honeymoon" bells. After fertilization, the female will then install an upper story in hers to act as a brood chamber. When the young spiders hatch they will gnaw through the canopy that covers the chamber, and set out with tiny air bubbles to explore their fascinating underwater world.

Since spiders don't come equipped with gills, it would seem the last place one would attempt to survive would be underwater! And even assuming in some million-to-one long shot that spiders on land found an underwater existence more comfortable, the problems they would have to overcome in adapting themselves to it would be staggering. How, for instance, would they *learn* to use portable aqualungs and submerged diving bells complete with silken canopies, anchor lines and brood chambers? Humans, even with their superior intelligence, had been unable to master similar techniques until comparatively recent times. With their *limited* intelligence, can it—does it—seem reasonable that spiders could have stumbled on such sophisticated submarine survival strategies on their own? Doesn't the behavior of *Argyroneta aquatica* cry out for the existence of a higher creative intelligence who knows what it takes to make a successful eight-legged skin diver?

Design in nature is one of the great attributes of all creation. Our free booklet *A Theory for the Birds* takes a look at the marvels of bird flight. Why not write for your free copy? (Please use coupon on the back cover of this magazine.) □

Jane Burton — Bruce Coleman, Inc.

Questions & Answers

We invite you, our readers, to send in your questions on biblically oriented prophetic, doctrinal, historical and Christian-living topics. While we cannot promise that all questions will be answered in print, we will try to cover all those that are of general interest as space permits. Send your questions to the appropriate address listed on the inside front cover, care of The Plain Truth.

Q "I read in Matthew 18:10, 'Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.' Is this verse saying that God's people have guardian angels watching over them, protecting them?"

Mrs. Robert K.,
Matheson, Colorado

A The Bible does not specifically indicate that each and every Christian has a guardian angel watching over him. In these verses Jesus was specifically referring to little children (see verses 1-4). Because of the vulnerability of small children, their lack of wisdom and ability to care for themselves, God may provide special protection. But even children experience "time and chance" (Eccl. 9:11).

God does inform us that angels are "ministering spirits" sent forth to serve those who are to be the heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14; see also Ps. 34:7). But nowhere does

God reveal that each human individual has a "guardian angel."

Q "Your booklet 'The Real Jesus' was very convincing except for one point. How do we know He did not sin in any way?"

L.W.S.,
London, England

A To sin is to merit the death penalty (Romans 6:23—"the wages of sin is death"). If Jesus had sinned, He would have had to die for His own sin, and therefore could not have died for anyone else's. He could not have been our Savior.

Yet the Bible clearly tells us that not only is He the Savior, but that He definitely did not sin. Hebrews 4:15 states that He was "in every respect . . . tempted as we are, yet without sin." He successfully strove against sin by calling out to God the Father for help whenever He needed it (see Hebrews 5:7).

Though Jesus was sinless Himself, it was God's express will that He be delivered up to die as our Savior: "For our sake he made him to be sin *who knew no sin*, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (II Cor. 5:21).

Isaiah the prophet foretold His sacrifice: "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray . . . and the Lord

has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:4-6).

I Peter 2:21-24 also confirms that Christ was guiltless: "Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. *He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips. . . . He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.*"

Q "What does the Bible say about having pierced ears for earrings? I feel I should know what God thinks of this kind of thing before I do anything with my ears."

Anonymous,
Boise, Idaho

A In Old Testament Israel, having one's ear "bored through with an awl" was a ceremony carried out to indicate that a slave wished to remain with a particular master for life (see Exodus 21:5-6 and Deuteronomy 15:12-17). Since this custom was handed down by God, it is obvious there is no prohibition against the act of ear-piercing. It is recorded that ancient Israelites wore earrings (Gen. 35:4; Ex. 32:2; 35:22; Num. 31:50; etc.), and they apparently were not the clip-on variety. Figuratively speaking, God says He put earrings in Israel's ears (see Ezek. 16:12).

If you are considering ear-piercing, it would of course be wise to have it done by competent professionals and to follow their instructions for care until your ears are healed. Also, some individuals tend to have problems with formation of scar tissue on the earlobes. But these considerations are medical, not spiritual, and ear-piercing is nowhere condemned in the Bible.

Q "What is the meaning of I Timothy 2:6? What was the 'due time' mentioned there?"

J.D.,
Pasadena, California

A I Timothy 2:5-6 (RSV) reads: "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was

borne at the proper time ['due time' in the King James Version]."

Most commentators express the opinion that this phrase fits in with Paul's feeling, expressed elsewhere, that Christ's life and death occurred at the proper time in world history as determined by God (see Titus 1:3; Gal. 4:4; Eph. 1:10; Rom. 5:6). Paul may also have had in mind the fulfillment of certain prophecies in the Old Testament which needed fulfillment at a specific point in history. Although the Greek of this verse is somewhat difficult (the word translated "time" is actually in the plural), the identical expression occurs in I Timothy 6:15 where the translation "at the proper time" is probable.

Q "What do God and the Bible have to say about labor unions?"

George E.,
Baltimore, Maryland

A These organizations are not mentioned in Scripture, since they are a rather recent historical development in the industrialized world. The Bible does, however, have much to say about how employers and employees should treat each other (see I Tim. 6:1-2; Col. 3:22-24; Eph. 6:5-9; Lev. 25:43, 46, 53). Perhaps the question in your mind is, "Should a Christian join a labor union?" Sometimes the only way a person can work in a certain field is to join such a union. We have to remember that this is not God's world (see Rev. 12:9). Yet Christians have to function in this world in order to get the gospel out and to sustain their own livelihood.

Romans 13 bears on the subject. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. . . . For this cause pay ye tribute also. . . . Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour" (verses 1, 6-7). Based on these principles we may conclude that it would not be wrong for a Christian to belong

to a labor union. Unions are at least a *de facto* part of Western economic systems and are usually sanctioned by governments. Paul recognized that Christians must work within "the system" at times (never disobeying a specific spiritual law, of course) in order to be able to earn a living or function effectively within the community.

Q "I read your booklet 'The Plain Truth About Christmas,' and I have a question: On page 12 it states that the Christmas tree originated in Babylon, and on page 17 it says that the tree originated in Egypt. Which is correct?"

Doris L.,
Massapequa, New York

A Page 12 mentions that the "real origin" of the Christmas tree was the evergreen that sprang up out of a dead tree stump, symbolizing the resurrection of the dead Nimrod, while page 17 quotes Frederick J. Haskins as stating that "the use of Christmas wreaths is believed by authorities to be traceable to the pagan customs of decorating buildings and places of worship at the feast which took place at the same time as Christmas. The Christmas tree is from Egypt, and its origin dates from a period long anterior to the Christian era."

Although Haskins states rather dogmatically that the Christmas tree originated in Egypt, this custom, like many elements of ancient religion, may have been handed down through several civilizations in variously modified forms. Since Babylon predates Egypt, it would probably be safe to assume that this particular custom either developed independently in both cultures or was passed down to the Egyptians from Babylon.

Q "Recently I read an article which gave examples of hyperbole in the Bible: e.g., Paul remarking that he had preached to virtually everyone in Asia. Also, the remark about man becoming heir to 'all things' in Hebrews 2. Of course I can understand the emotional context in which Paul wrote, and I suppose

every man is entitled to his context. But hyperbole in any case does not, upon its encounter, foster an attitude of trembling at the Word of God. It fosters an attitude of taking everything with a grain of salt."

Jack R.,
Westlake Village, California

A The Bible is composed of many books written at different times to widely diverse audiences in many different literary styles. Hyperbole is one literary device used at times by some of the authors of Scripture to make various points to those to whom they were writing. Their readers understood that what they were saying was idiomatic, just as we understand when people use such expressions in our day. We do not take them literally or accuse them of lying.

If we try to interpret certain passages in the Bible too literalistically, not taking into account the idiosyncrasies of each original language, we may lose sight of the intended meaning. Remember that hyperbole is deliberate overstatement in order to get a point across.

You stated that hyperbole "fosters an attitude of taking everything with a grain of salt." Would you rather God had inspired the Bible to be written without any skill or cleverness, using no literary devices such as personification, simile, metaphor, and hyperbole? Would you rather He had inspired His Word without untranslatable humor (Philemon 10-11, RSV) or poetic imagery?

One way around this difficulty is to consult in up-to-date commentaries the opinions of expert biblical scholars familiar with the original languages. Such reference works will usually accurately indicate which texts consist of poetry, imagery, hyperbole, and so forth. When figures of speech are indicated, one should be careful about using such texts as primary "proofs" for various doctrines or beliefs. For more information and helpful guidelines on how to understand and rightly apply God's Word, write for the free booklet entitled *How To Study the Bible*. □

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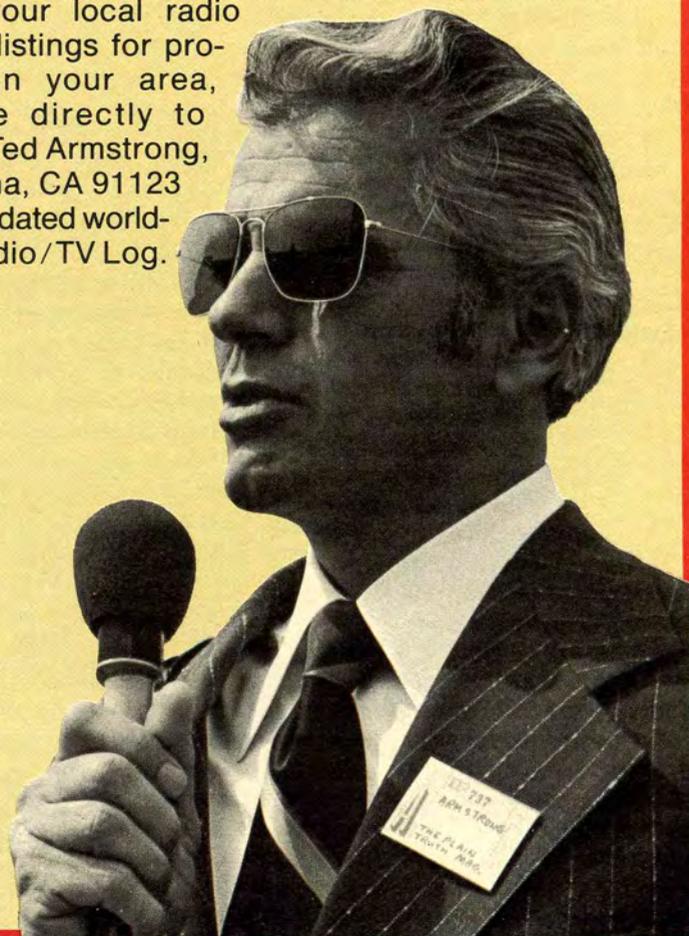
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IS JESUS GOD?

(Continued from page 3)

The person of the Godhead who is our REDEEMER is Jesus Christ. John 4:42 contains this: "They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that *this is indeed the SAVIOR* of the world.'" "But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a *Savior*, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20). Read also Titus 2:10-14 and Luke 1:68-69.

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

Christ Was David's Shepherd

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

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

will obtain the unfading crown of glory" (I Peter 5:2-4, RSV).

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

The Eternal Father is a Person, and is God. Jesus Christ is a different Person and is God. They are two separate and individual Persons. The Father is Supreme Head—the Lawgiver. Christ is the Word—the divine Spokesman.

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

Now notice Isaiah 2:1-4 and Micah 4:1-4. "It shall come to pass... that the mountain [Kingdom] of the YHVH's house shall be established in the top of the mountains [kingdoms]"—ruling the world. "And he [YHVH—Christ] shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people," and then they shall have PEACE.

In almost every Old Testament passage, the LORD YHVH—the Eternal—is Jesus Christ. Clearly, Jesus is the God of the Old Testament.

Summary

God is not merely one Person. God is a divine Family—only one Family—but more than one divine Person. Jesus Christ spoke of His divine Father as GOD. Jesus said He was the Son of God (Matt. 27:43; John

10:36). Jesus is called *God* in Hebrews 1:8 and elsewhere. All the holy angels are commanded to worship Jesus (Heb. 1:6)—and none but God may be worshiped.

The Eternal Father is a Person, and is God. Jesus Christ is a different Person and is God. They are two separate and individual Persons (Rev. 4:2; 5:1, 6-7). The Father is Supreme Head of the God Family—the Lawgiver. Christ is the Word—the divine Spokesman.

So God is presently a Family of two Persons — God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. And the wonderful truth is that human beings may be born into this same ONE God Family as distinct, separate Personalities by a resurrection from the dead. Jesus Christ was the FIRST-born of many brethren (Rom. 8:29)—having been born again when God the Father resurrected Him from the dead (Rom. 1:4). The thorough details of these awe-inspiring Bible truths are freely given in our booklet *Just What Do You Mean—Born Again?* Write for your free copy. □

CONVERSION

Sudden experience...
or lifelong process?

How do you define the word *conversion*? An adoption of religious belief? A "born-again" experience? Contrary to popular belief, the Bible teaches that there is more to conversion than a singular event, a one-time change. In the booklet *Just What Do You Mean—Conversion?* Herbert Armstrong supplies valuable insights on the subject. Request your free copy by returning the coupon on the back cover of this magazine.

Just what do
you mean...
CONVERSION?

IN BRIEF

DEMOCRACY PREVAILS IN INDIA

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.

Last March, some 300,000,000 voters of the largest democracy in the world cast their votes and, for the first time in the history of the world, a dictatorship was overthrown in a free election.

For almost two years Indira Gandhi and a small clique had ruled India with an iron hand. Visibly upset by increased criticism coming from her political opposition, Mrs. Gandhi suspended most of the civil liberties of the country in June 1975 and declared a state of emergency. It seemed to most observers at that time that democracy was doomed.

As the state of emergency continued throughout 1975 and all of 1976, Mrs. Gandhi defended her position by claiming that only a handful of malcontents were concerned about the suspension of democratic procedure.

Since Mrs. Gandhi's regime had been hard on journalists and other members of the media, and particularly severe with foreign journalists, Mr. Armstrong and I were unable to visit India since the state of emergency had been declared. Having developed many close friendships over the years with the Indian people and their leaders, we were watching carefully all of the events taking place on that troubled subcontinent, hoping that within a reasonably

short period of time Mrs. Gandhi would see the light and would end her declared state of emergency, which appeared to most observers to have been instituted to save her political career. We were particularly concerned with India's further shift toward the left and to the Soviet sphere of influence and with Mrs. Gandhi's consistent anti-American attitudes.

We were not alone, therefore, in being surprised to learn that Mrs. Gandhi would permit an election in what seemed to be an unnecessary political risk on her part. But perhaps she had simply underestimated the discontent over her leadership, her efforts to pave the way for her 30-year-old son Sanjay to be her political successor, and perhaps first and foremost, her policy of birth control and forced sterilization of males. Perhaps the mere two months' notice of the elections given to her political opposition—many of whom had been jailed by Mrs. Gandhi—was conceived by her as inadequate to allow an effective campaign against her and her party.

In any event, Mrs. Gandhi opted for an election, and more than 300,000,000 Indians, some three-quarters of whom were illiterate, found their way to the ballot boxes and cast their resounding vote against Mrs. Gandhi and her political regime. In fact, Mrs. Gandhi failed to win election in her own district and thus lost even her own parliamentary seat. Her son Sanjay was overwhelmingly defeated in his first political effort for elective office.

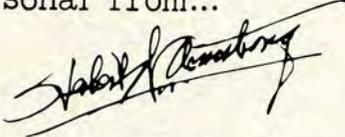
Thus, the democratic process has brought to an end the incredible political dynasty that has shaped India's destiny ever since its independence 30 years ago.

What lies ahead for India remains to be seen. A few years ago, when we last met Mrs. Gandhi face to face, she stated emphatically that she and her fellow Indians were well aware that their country was confronted with every conceivable problem that has plagued mankind in its troubled history, but that India was working as best it could to resolve or ameliorate those conditions.

Unfortunately, under Mrs. Gandhi's leadership, India did not make the kind of progress that had been hoped for in its fight against poverty, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, famine, drought and overpopulation—just to name a few of the woes of a much afflicted people. Since 1973, in fact, the condition of the peoples in the developing countries, or the so-called Third World, has not improved, primarily because of the horrendous impact of worldwide inflation that has followed the exorbitant increase in the cost of energy.

It will take considerable time for Mrs. Gandhi's successors to form a stable government and to begin coping with the problems they have inherited. We hope that our government and other governments will do what is possible to help India and its people. We in the United States have always felt close to the people of India, despite their government's policies in recent years. In addition, whenever and wherever democracy is threatened, we too are threatened, and whatever we can do to shore up the foundations of the largest democracy in the world will inure to the benefit of every American and every person who cherishes liberty and the other fruits of the democratic process. □

Personal from...



(Continued from page 1)

a GOVERNMENT—HIS government, with His constitution and LAWS. God's LAWS were—and are—a WAY OF LIFE; the way of LOVE—outgoing concern for the welfare of others; the way of peace, harmony, helping, serving, sharing.

But the angels sinned (II Pet. 2:4). They rebelled, rejected GOD's government, and adopted the way of GET, which is vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition, strife and violence, resentment and rebellion against authority. This brought disaster to the earth which these angels could have developed and improved. In six days God "renewed the face of the earth" (Psalm 104:30), prepared it for man.

God created humankind, male and female, to reproduce and bring forth the human family, made of matter from the ground; made in the image, likeness (form and shape) of GOD HIMSELF; made for a special relationship with God; made with the potential of being begotten and BORN into the very GOD FAMILY.

The first created man, Adam, was instructed in and offered, by personal teaching directly from GOD, the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, which Adam could have restored to earth, and he could have received the fantastic, *awesome* potential of being BORN INTO THE GOD FAMILY, restoring the WHOLE VAST ENDLESS UNIVERSE! But such a grand and awesome potential could be possible only in peace, harmony, working together with mutual CONCERN for one another, and OBEDIENCE to the guiding LAWS OF GOD.

Adam then also listened to the former Lucifer, superarchangel RULING over the sinning angels—his name now changed to Satan the devil. Adam, for his offspring and the entire HUMAN FAMILY, *rejected* God's government and guidance, chose to decide for himself the WAY TO GO, chose to decide right from wrong by eating from the tree of

knowledge of good and evil, and thus CUT HIMSELF OFF from God. Satan, powerful beyond human recognition, an invisible spirit, has deceived the entire human race, leading them into the WAY of GET.

Upon Adam's rejection of God's government, God adopted a hands-off policy for 6,000 years, allowing MAN to DEMONSTRATE that the GET way can lead only to trouble, evils, pain and suffering, anguish, frustration, confusion, failure and DEATH.

God's great PURPOSE is to build into mankind His holy and righteous character, so that man will turn to the WAY of LOVE or GIVE, and NEVER again turn to the WAY OF GET.

God is about to prove, by 1,000 years of His rule under the give philosophy of love, that it is the only way to universal peace, happiness, success, desirable accomplishment, and well-being.

Part of God's MASTER PLAN for working out His purpose was to call the nation ISRAEL. He called them and delivered them out of Egyptian SLAVERY, promised them that HIS WAY OF LOVE and GIVE—the way of His LAWS and HIS GOVERNMENT—would automatically *pay off*; make them the most prosperous, most successful, most blessed, most powerful, most happy nation on earth. Hence, the marriage covenant that set them up as one of the world's NATIONS.

But they clung to Satan's way of GET. God has allotted 6,000 years to man for this experiment of PROVING by human experience that the fruits of the GET way result only in total failure, unhappiness, discontent, anguish, suffering and death.

God sent Jesus Christ to earth, begotten by God Almighty, born human of a human mother, to proclaim the GOOD NEWS (gospel) of the KINGDOM OF GOD: the restoration of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth—after the 6,000 years. First, however, Jesus, after living a perfect

sinless life, met and conquered Satan, and thus QUALIFIED to reestablish GOD'S GOVERNMENT. Then He called and taught His apostles in the ANNOUNCEMENT of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD, and He Himself went forth announcing it. The humanity of the Promised Land of Israel of that day REJECTED His message, rejected GOD'S GOVERNMENT—as the angels had done, as Adam had done. They CRUCIFIED Jesus, who gave His sinless life in payment for human sins. God raised Him from the dead, making eternal life possible for MAN. He ascended to God's throne of the universe in heaven, where He has been since as the HIGH PRIEST of those CALLED out of humanity to accept HIS WAY—His GOVERNMENT—to REPENT of the GET way of sin, and to turn to God voluntarily, beseeching Him to develop in them His holy and righteous character.

At the END of that 6,000 years, God knew the GET way of a man-made society swayed invisibly by Satan would bring man to the brink of cosmocide—to the point where he could create the powers of MASS DESTRUCTION that would blast all human life from this planet!

At that time, the merciful Almighty GOD of LOVE will intervene at the very last minute; He will PREVENT man from erasing all humanity from the earth; He will save mankind ALIVE. He will send Jesus Christ in supreme almighty power and glory to take over and RULE over all mankind—to once again restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth.

Now back to ancient ISRAEL. God gave them a SPECIAL CHANCE to live under His GOVERNMENT and by His WAYS, in order to PROVE that those ways will bring success, prosperity, happiness, joy and abundance to any people who will live that way of love. But Israel FAILED.

We reached by 1933 the beginning of the very generation during which Christ will return to reestablish the government of God. That year—1933—God conferred on me the STAGGERING GREAT COMMISSION to take the GOOD NEWS—the ANNOUNCEMENT of the soon-coming KINGDOM OF GOD—to all the world for a witness to ALL NATIONS, just

before the END of today's civilization, built by a Satan-guided humanity.

Man has formed his OWN kind of governments and sought to GOVERN HIMSELF, rejecting GOD'S RULE over him. Today we are in world trouble greater than ever before in human history. Governments of men are being overthrown at the rate of one a month. Crime has never been so great. Marriage and family life are falling apart. Sickness and disease and mental illness have reached the highest point in humanity's history. And weapons of mass destruction have been developed in the past 40 years that can erase all human life from the earth!

Now notice in further prophecies what GOD said in giving HOPE to ancient Israel—and it applies to us today: "Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the ETERNAL; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the ETERNAL, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the ETERNAL thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the ETERNAL. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the ETERNAL; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion [this is a prophecy for OUR TIME, after the U.S., Britain, etc. have gone into a yet future—soon-to-occur—captivity]: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. . . . At that time they shall call Jerusalem the THRONE OF THE ETERNAL; and ALL the NATIONS shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the ETERNAL, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart [attitude of GET]. In those days the house of JUDAH [the Jewish people] shall walk with the house of Israel [the U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Western European nations], and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an

inheritance unto your fathers" (Jer. 3:12-15, 17-18).

God has a tremendous PURPOSE. He is fulfilling. For almost 6,000 years now, He has demonstrated, by keeping hands off except in a few instances necessary for His purpose, that humanity, REJECTING God's rule and GOD'S GOVERNMENT and forming its OWN governments under the sway of the invisible and unrealized Satan, IS INCAPABLE OF GOVERNING ITSELF; that living by the self-centered GET way is NOT good for us and brings only unhappiness, failure, suffering, frustration, destruction and DEATH. Now God is about to PROVE, by 1,000 years of HIS RULE under the GIVE philosophy of love, that it is the ONLY way to universal PEACE, happiness, success, DESIRABLE accomplishment, well-being and joyfulness.

There is a REASON for today's tragic worldwide EVILS. There is a CAUSE for every effect. That is the lesson the Creator God is teaching by 6,000 years of actual EXPERIENCE.

And through the lessons mankind is learning by experiencing cause and effect, God is DEVELOPING perfect, holy and righteous CHARACTER in human beings—REPRODUCING HIMSELF—making us His own very CHILDREN, finally to be BORN into the GOD FAMILY!

Notice a little of the GOOD NEWS of the world that will start in THIS VERY GENERATION: "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse. . . ." Jesse was the human father of King David of Judah. David was the "stem" that came out of Jesse. Jesus Christ was a descendant of David, and therefore is the "ROD" of this prophecy. In other words, "CHRIST shall come forth." Continuing, ". . . and a Branch shall grow out of his roots." The "roots" of Jesse is GOD, and the "BRANCH" that grew out of His roots, therefore, also is CHRIST (Isa. 11:1). Now continuing in verses 2-5: "And the spirit of the ETERNAL shall rest upon him [Christ], the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the ETERNAL; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the ETERNAL: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the

hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins."

This is speaking of CHRIST as KING of kings, RULER OF THE WORLD, restoring the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth—yet in THIS PRESENT GENERATION. It is speaking of the seventh millennium since Adam, following the EVIL 6,000 years to END in our present generation.

Truly, we are in the very end time.

Now continue the prophecy, describing the thousand years SOON to start: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them" (verse 6). What a picture of PEACE and contentment—wild animals tamed!

Continue: "And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw [hay] like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp [a small African cobra], and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' [serpent's] den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the ETERNAL. . . ." How FULL? ". . . as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse [Christ], which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it [Christ] shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the ETERNAL shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people. . . . And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah [the Jews] from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim [Britain] shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah

shall not vex Ephraim" (verses 7-13).

Now continue in Isaiah, chapter 12. Note the GOOD NEWS coming! "And in that day thou shalt say, O ETERNAL, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD ETERNAL is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore WITH JOY shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation" (verses 1-3). That is the time God will set out to "save" the world spiritually—salvation with eternal life!

Continue in verses 4-6: "And in that day shall ye say, Praise the ETERNAL, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. SING unto the ETERNAL; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and SHOUT, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee."

In Isaiah 14, speaking of an evil human type of Satan at a time in the very near future: "He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. THE WHOLE EARTH IS AT REST, AND IS QUIET: they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us" (verses 6-8).

Just one more glimpse into the wonderful WORLD TOMORROW, at its very beginning. At His coming as KING of kings to rule, Christ's "feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives" (Zech. 14:4).

"And it shall be in that day, that living waters [the Holy Spirit] shall go out from Jerusalem . . . And the ETERNAL shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. . . And men shall dwell in it [Jerusalem], and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited" (verses 8-9, 11).

Today we live in the most terrifying time of human history. It will get WORSE. Then God will step in. Then PEACE shall come! □

IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE

Many hundreds have written asking if we have representatives in their local areas to counsel with them personally and to answer their questions.

The answer is yes, we do.

The Worldwide Church of God stations personal representatives (most are ordained ministers) in the United States and many other areas of the world. These local ministers will visit you, if invited, directly in your own home.

So if you have spiritual matters to discuss or questions to ask about biblical topics such as repentance, baptism, etc., please feel free to write to us and request a private appointment. Worldwide mailing addresses are as follows:

- United States: P.O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123 (Or simply dial this toll-free number in the continental U.S.: 1-800-423-4444. Readers in California, Alaska and Hawaii may call 213-577-5225 collect.)
- United Kingdom, Europe, India and Africa: P.O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., England (Or dial this number in U.K.: Radlett [092 76] 2670.)
- New Zealand and Pacific Isles: P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1, New Zealand (Or dial Auckland 686-114—reverse the charges.)
- Australia: P.O. Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Queensland 4220 (Or dial this number: 075-35-4233—reverse the charges.)
- Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2
- South Africa: P.O. Box 1060, Johannesburg 2000 (Or dial this number: 011-216406.)

Those residing in other areas of the world should see the inside front cover for the address of our office nearest them.

RESURRECTION

(Continued from page 13)

"mushroom cult" to a charlatan and a fraud, the solid evidence of history proves Jesus Christ of Nazareth walked out of His tomb; that He is alive today; that He is directly intervening from time to time in human affairs; that He is on a "countdown" from heaven; that time is drawing very near for His return to this earth when billions will finally be FORCED to believe!

Neil Armstrong said that he was taking a giant step for mankind when he walked on the surface of the moon. Yet Jesus took a bigger step when he walked right through that solid rock tomb.

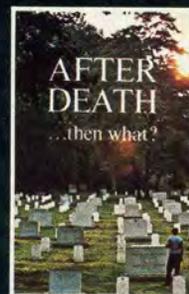
You, too, can step out of your grave in an instant of time when the heavens are rent at the return of Jesus Christ. You can also take your walk into eternity.

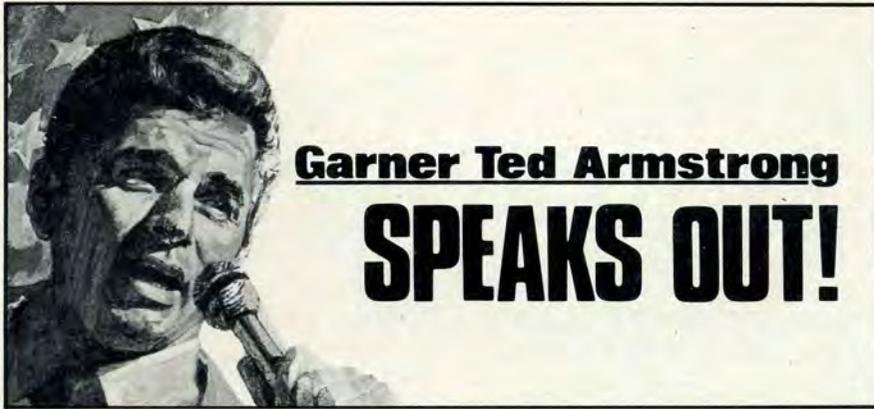
If you're interested, write immediately for our free booklet *After Death—Then What?* It could be the biggest step of your life! □

(To Be Continued)

Death takes all the fun out of life.

No one likes to think about his own death. We'd like to postpone it forever. The apostle Paul called death man's enemy—"the last enemy that shall be destroyed." Everyone hopes for some kind of afterlife. For an explanation of what the Bible says on the subject, request the free booklet, *After Death, Then What?* Just return the coupon on the back cover.





Garner Ted Armstrong **SPEAKS OUT!**

Our Energy Binge Is Over!

Amazingly enough, there are still people who continue to maintain that the energy crisis is merely a contrivance of the big oil companies to drive up the price of gasoline. Such persons refuse to believe that this nation, and in fact the whole world, is confronted with an *emergency* situation with regard to dwindling nonrenewable energy supplies. They refuse to believe this world is finite; that there are no new petroleum and natural gas deposits being built up within the earth today. They like to believe we have thousands of years of energy reserves left, instead of, in fact, comparatively few.

The view of these people notwithstanding, the energy crisis is *real*. The Western world has been on a three-decades-long energy binge, and a massive hangover is just about to strike!

Over half of the energy that Americans and other Westerners consume so liberally comes from a single source—*oil*. Since the end of World War II, the consumption of oil by the Western world has risen with reckless abandon. As far as energy was concerned, we thought there was no tomorrow. The hard reality of the energy situation didn't really dawn on most Americans until they were forced to begin waiting in endless lines for their gasoline following the Arab oil embargo of November 1973. That embargo marked a turning point in the course of modern history, signaling an end to the days of cheap and

plentiful energy that Western society had so blissfully enjoyed for three decades.

Whether we admit it to ourselves or not, our energy joyride is over. In the future, says former U.S. Commerce Secretary Peter C. Peterson, the days of cheap and easy energy "will be an era on which we will look back with nostalgia, but no amount of wistfulness and sentimentality will bring it back."

Many do not realize, moreover, that the energy problem is far more than just one of exploration, of development, of prices. We are facing a crisis in energy because of fundamental shortcomings built into the very fabric of our modern society. We are literally *hooked* on an energy-guzzling way of life!

Just press a button, flip a switch, turn a key, or push a lever, and automatically something is buzzing, humming, or whining away—blenders, juicers, mixers, electric can openers, garbage disposals, electric razors and additional dozens of appliances and conveniences found in most American homes today. And, of course, there is that biggest "toy" of all—our inefficient, gas-guzzling automobile, for which we continue to import increasing billions of gallons of oil.

In the past 30 years, the world has consumed more power than was used in all of history before 1940! With only six percent of the world's population, America alone has managed to consume a walloping *one-third* of the world's an-

nual energy and mineral production. To Americans today, power is not simply a luxury; it is a vital *necessity*. We could not function without it. We depend upon it not only to run all of our electric conveniences and to fuel our automobiles, but also to grow and distribute our food, heat and cool our homes, and ignite the furnaces of industry. We have literally become *slaves* to energy.

Compounding the problem, most of the major reserves of our primary energy source, oil, lie beneath the sands of the politically volatile Middle East. As wealthy and powerful as the nations of the West are, they lie today at the mercy of a few small, potentially unstable states which most Westerners couldn't even pinpoint on a map.

"One does not have to be a prophet of doom," states the International Institute for Environmental Affairs, "to foresee the emergence in the not-too-distant future of politically divisive competition among high energy-consuming nations for access to dwindling fuel supplies . . . [or] even temptations to resort to the use of force to assure reliable supplies of energy materials . . ."

And that's precisely the way things are going today.

The solution to this multifaceted problem involves a total change from top to bottom in society itself—a change we have thus far refused to make. Yet, for over four decades, this magazine has been predicting just such a change. It has been proclaiming a message of *hope* for the future, a way out of the snarled mass of problems besetting the earth today. To be sure, we are living in a time of global social, economic, political and military chaos, of which the energy crisis is but a part. But there's coming a new, a brighter, a different, and a totally better world than the one we know today—a prosperous, peaceful, restructured World Tomorrow under the government of Jesus Christ. And that's *good news!*

But until then, we may have to learn some important lessons through hard experience. □

update

TO OUR READERS

With this issue, we begin a new feature—a Worldwide *Update* of the many diverse activities of a unique Work. Each month we hope to familiarize you with an organization that Herbert W. Armstrong has often succinctly characterized as founded on the ethical principle of giving rather than the all-too-prevalent one of getting.

It is singularly apropos that we start this feature with the June issue, for it was fifty years ago this month that Mr. Armstrong made a commitment to the new way of life that this magazine proclaims. His commitment came after an agonizing six-month period of intensive study into the basic philosophical, religious and moral arguments and premises on which he previously had unquestioningly built his life.

His wife Loma D. Armstrong had made a statement about a teaching of the Bible that completely contradicted everything Mr. Armstrong had believed and which contradicted the teaching of most religious denominations. Mr. Armstrong was angered into a deep personal study of the Bible for the first time in his life, in an effort to prove his wife wrong.

But at the end of six months, Mr. Armstrong had to admit that his wife was right! And in the futile process of trying to prove her wrong on one point, he also came to realize that there was a wide divergence on many other points between what the Bible said and what people thought it said. He wrestled in his conscience with the dilemma of following the ways of the world at large or accepting and following the way of life he saw prescribed in the Word of God.

In June 1927, Mr. Armstrong accepted God's way and was baptized. Six years later, in July 1933, he started a series of lectures that led to the formation of this worldwide Work. In January 1934, he started broadcasting regularly on radio. The response to the broadcast resulted in *The Plain Truth* magazine, which made its humble bow to the world on February 1, 1934.

From the ministry of one man and one small congregation in the Willamette Valley of Oregon during the depths of the Great Depression has grown a Work of churches, colleges, publications and a charitable foundation that is worldwide in scope and impact.

We hope you will find this new feature interesting and informative. We welcome questions and comments about any of the stories which appear in this feature.

MR. ARMSTRONG SPEAKS TO AFRICAN LEADERS

On March 14, Herbert W. Armstrong addressed the constitutional conference of Namibia, and a week later, on March 21, spoke before the parliament of the newly independent Transkei.

The constitutional conference of Namibia, called the Turnhalle after the hall in which it meets in the capital city of Windhoek, is composed of eleven delegations from the eleven population groups that make up the 800,000 inhabitants of Namibia. They are forging a consti-

tution for the country, scheduled to receive its independence December 31, 1978. (The area has been a mandated territory of South Africa since World War I.)

Over forty delegates and officials were assembled for Mr. Armstrong's address. Dirk Mudge, conference chairman, welcomed Mr. Armstrong and then introduced Stanley Rader, who accompanies Mr. Armstrong on his frequent travels.

Mr. Rader compared the Turnhalle to the conference that wrote the U.S. Constitution nearly two centuries earlier. After recounting the time, effort and dissension involved in formulating the new U.S. government in 1789 (13 years after independence), Mr. Rader observed: "So the progress you have made here since the conference convened in September 1975 is remarkable in my opinion."

Cause of World Ills

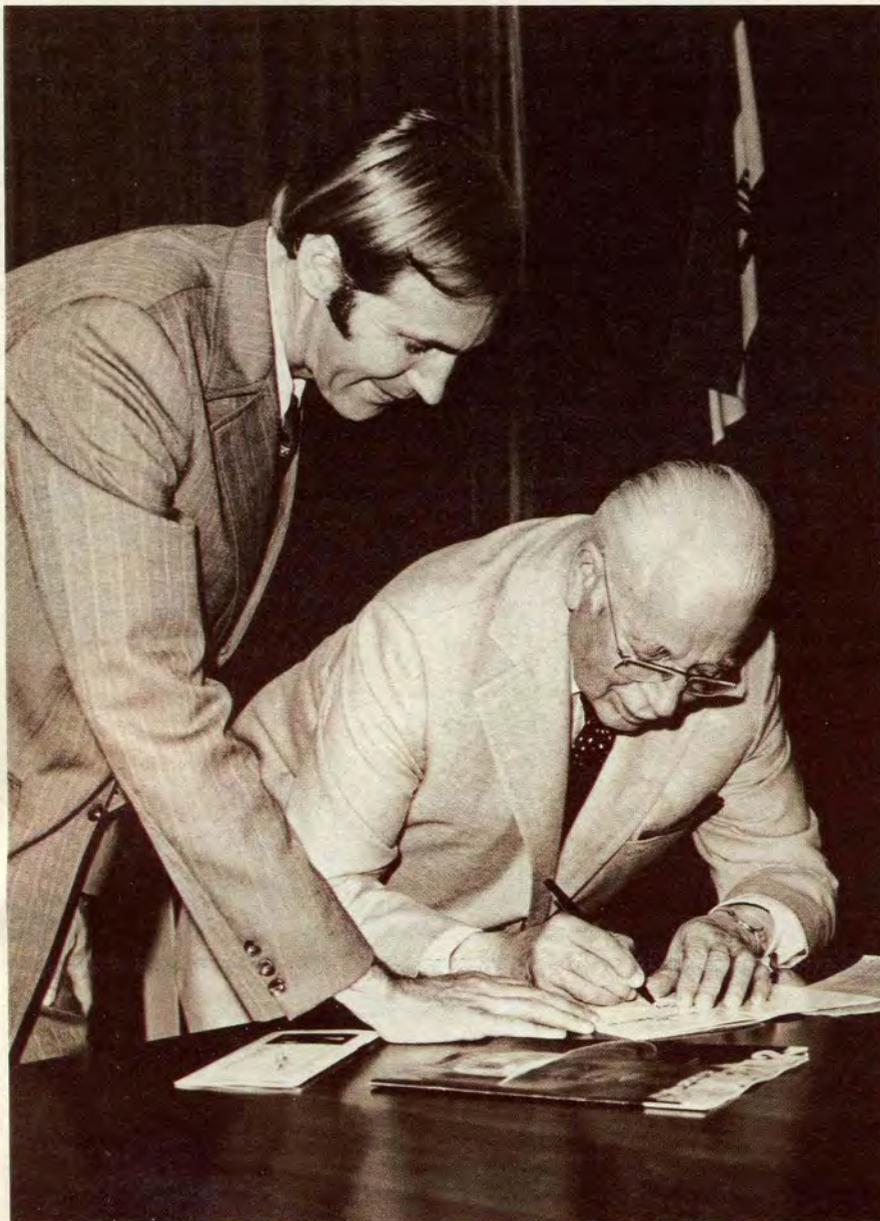
Mr. Rader then introduced Mr. Armstrong. He noted, "He has been called by leaders of some nations a builder of bridges between peoples, and has helped on more than one occasion to bridge one nation to another."

During his address, Mr. Armstrong used the Bible as a reference point to delineate the causes for many of today's ills. He pointed out that, as no world government can exist without law, neither does the government of God exist without law. "And the law of God is simply love," he said. "Love is an outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others equal to that for yourself." He further summarized it as the way of giving versus the way of getting.

Mr. Armstrong stated that from the very beginning almost all mankind has rejected God's law, choosing to pursue its own way. "This is the background that has led up to today and all of its evils."

Mr. Armstrong went on to say that although conditions may get worse in the short term, God will intervene to prevent global suicide and restore His way of peace.

In conclusion, he wished the conference well, but reminded them of their great responsibility: "You are going to be held accountable for the responsibility. And I say God help



you to do the best job that can be done. It is my prayer that you will succeed."

Mr. Robert Fahey, director of the African Work who was present for the occasion, remarked: "Mr. Armstrong may be 85 years old, but his voice was as strong and full as ever. The message was crystal clear."

Transkei Parliament

One week later, Mr. Armstrong addressed the parliament of the nation of the Transkei, which gained its independence from South Africa last October 26. About 250 parliamentarians gathered in Umtata, the capital city, to hear him. The format was similar to that in Namibia, with Mr. Rader prefacing Mr. Armstrong's address with an overview of his travels and the organization that sponsors his mission. Mr. Armstrong spoke for about 25 minutes.

The two extraordinary speaking engagements were highlights of a three-week speaking tour of southern Africa from March 10 to April 4. Setting a hectic pace, Mr. Armstrong met with numerous government leaders and spoke over a dozen times at banquets and meetings in the nations of South Africa, Namibia, the Transkei, and Swaziland. Among the leaders he met were Dr. Nicolaas Diederichs, president of South Africa, on March 15, leaders of the South African Parliament on March 17, Prime Minister Matanzima and the cabinet of Transkei, and King Sobhuza II of Swaziland on March 28. □

A WIDE-ANGLE VIEW (top photo) of delegates to the Turnhalle as they listen to Herbert W. Armstrong speak on March 14. The Turnhalle, comprising representatives of 11 population groups, is drafting a constitution for Namibia, which is scheduled to receive its independence December 31, 1978. Bottom photo: Mr. Armstrong autographs a copy of his booklet *The Plain Truth About Christmas* for Dr. J. Greyvensteyn, mayor of Pretoria, South Africa, March 10. The mayor, a Plain Truth reader, asked Mr. Armstrong to sign the booklet at the same time he requested an autograph of a Plain Truth article Mr. Armstrong had written two years ago when the magazine was in a tabloid format.

What's the driving force behind your marriage?

What is it that makes people marry . . . or stay married? For some, like the characters illustrated here, it might be the determination of one partner that gets and keeps it together. Others might marry for love or physical attraction, but find they stay married for more mundane reasons—security (financial or emotional), social pressure, moral obligations or “for the children.” Increasingly, though, as attitudes change, many are discarding marriage for less permanent arrangements. And in all the furor, it's unlikely that many people have taken the time to discover the real heart of the issue. An important booklet that's yours for the asking can help guide you through the confusion to an understanding of the meaning and purpose of marriage. It's entitled, *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* To request your free copy, just fill out and return the coupon below.



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