

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1980

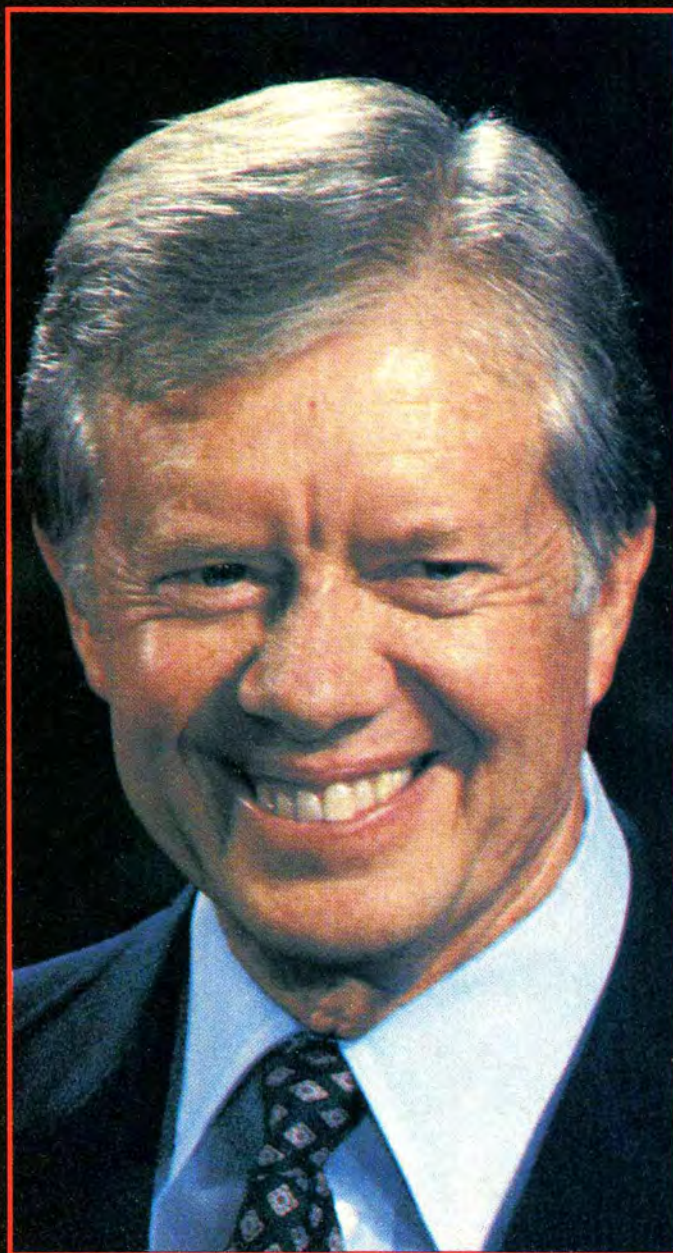
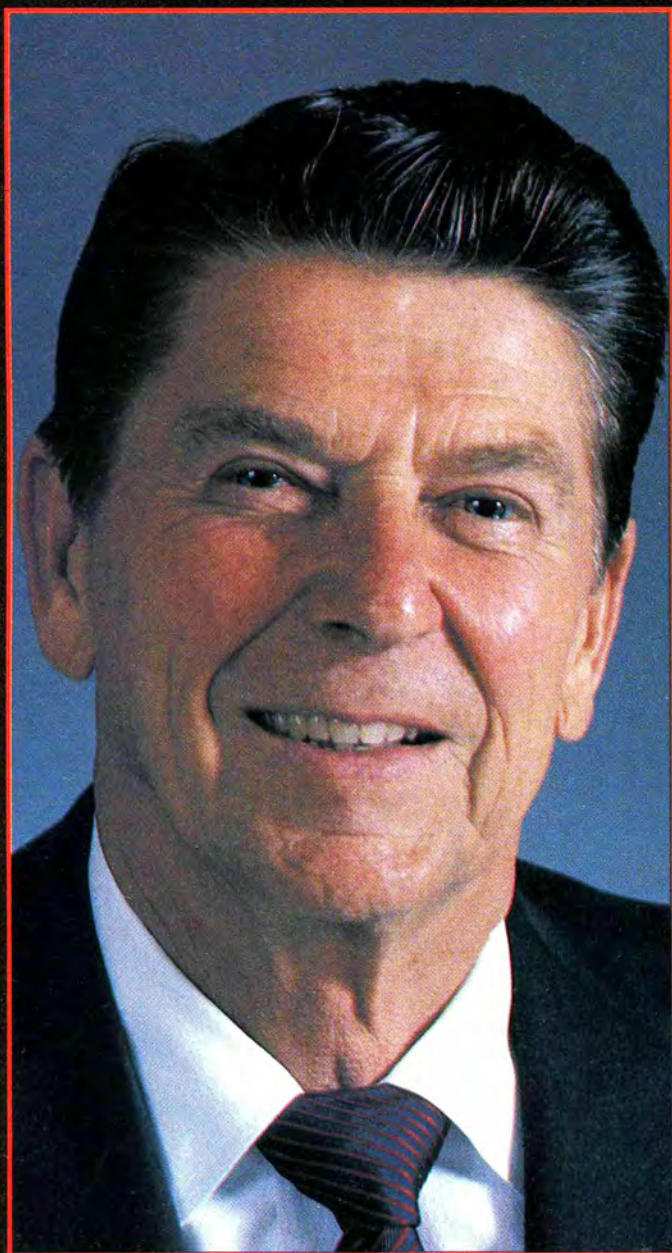
the

COMBINED ISSUE

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

COMING! AN END TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS
ME? A CREATURE OF HABIT?
RACE RIOTS—FAILURE OF MAN'S COURT SYSTEM



Is this the LAST ELECTION?

the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

Vol. 45, No. 9

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October/November 1980

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ABOUT OUR COVER

The election of 1980 may well be the most fateful in U.S. history. Featured on our cover are the two major party leaders—Democratic President Jimmy Carter, 56, and Republican challenger Ronald W. Reagan, 69. Minor party candidates, not featured, include Barry Commoner and Edward E. Clark. John B. Anderson is running as an Independent. Since Abraham Lincoln no president, elected in a year divisible by 20, has survived his term of office or to live out a succeeding election.

Cover Photos by Mike Norcia—Sygma (left) and Leif Skoogfors—Gamma/Liaison (right)

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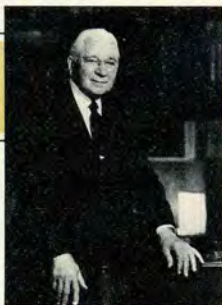
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Personal from...

*OLD JERUSALEM—New capital for state of Israel, or should it be an international city?
What prophecy says will now happen!*

NO SPOT ON EARTH is as fraught with explosive international tension as the Old City of Jerusalem. It is now a powderkeg, which could be loaded with nuclear potential.

It is the religious shrine of three major religions. It is the city that GOD chose, and therefore that is emotionally and violently a center of contention between religions and nations of this world.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin is rapidly preparing to move his government administration seat from the newer Jewish city to the west over to Mount Scopus in Old Jerusalem. This is for the moment threatening complete breakdown of the Camp David agreement between President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, Prime Minister Begin and President Carter. Mr. Sadat is furious.

The Arab world wants the Old City of Jerusalem back into Arab control. Some nations contend Jerusalem should be made an international city. But the State of Israel has control, having wrested it from Jordan in the war of 1967.

What has been happening in Jerusalem since the Israeli take-over in that war?

I have been somewhat personally involved in events there since that war.

Immediately after the death of my wife of 50 years, April 15, 1967, I flew to Jerusalem. I had two urgent reasons. I had seriously wanted to buy time on Radio Jerusalem, then owned and operated by the State of Jordan. Also I wanted to get away from Pasadena immediately into a totally different environment to ease the grief of losing the companionship of my beloved wife and partner in God's Work.

I wanted not only to go on Jerusalem Radio, I wanted to manipulate the increase of its power to one million watts to give coverage over the entire Middle East. At Amman, Jordan, and in Jerusalem, in conference with the Jordanian government and its radio management, I arranged for a price for a choice time on an extended

contract whereby our monthly payments for that time would finance the Jordan government in the purchase of German Telefunken equipment to boost the station power to this maximum wattage. It was one of the largest contracts for purchase of radio time ever signed.

On Sunday morning, June 4, 1967, I left my home on our campus in England for London airport to fly to Amman to broadcast in person that evening, the first broadcast on this new contract. En route to the airport we heard on the car radio the sensational news that the Six Day War had started early that morning. No planes were allowed to get through to Beirut or to Amman. My broadcast on Jerusalem Radio never got started. By the following Friday, June 9, the Old City of Jerusalem was in Israeli hands.

But I had made a personal favorable contact with a foreign government, King Hussein's Jordan. God had started opening doors for me to carry Christ's Message to many heads of state and into their countries.

In the summer of 1968 I had been invited to visit King Leopold III of Belgium. He had been shown by a friend a copy of the Ambassador College 1968 yearbook, the *Envoy*. The king got word to me he would like to meet me.

Also in the late summer of 1968 the Israel Archaeological Society had invited Ambassador College to come into joint participation in their largest and major-sized excavation southwest of the Temple Mount. In October I flew to Jerusalem to inspect the archaeological project and decide on participation. I had conferences with principal men of the Archaeological Society, the Hebrew University and the government. We had a luncheon in a private room in the Knesset, Israel's capitol building. I told them Mr. Stanley R. Rader, who accompanied me, and I would return on December 1 with a final decision.

We flew on to Tokyo, and there I was invited to

luncheon with Prince Mikasa, brother of Emperor Hirohito. Doors were opening rapidly to heads of state—and through them to proclaim Christ's Message to leaders in many nations.

December 1 we were again in Jerusalem with an answer in the positive. An official ceremony was arranged in the residence of President Shalom Shazar.

Through the years we have contributed much to this largest neareastern archaeological project of our time, beside sending many students there for summer vacation work on the "dig." Our acquaintance and close friendship with leaders in government, education and archaeology in Israel have developed and cemented. As Moshe Kol, minister of tourism in Israel, suggested at our Knesset luncheon, we have built an iron bridge between Hebrew University and Ambassador College. Mr. Kol since has publicly designated me as a "builder of bridges between nations for PEACE."

Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem and I have become close friends. One day some five or six years ago he came to my hotel suite in Jerusalem, to "pay his respects," and wanted to show me his plans for a downtown city park in Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem," he said, "is the only world-known city without a public park." He took me to the site, close to the city center and only a block or two from the former border line of the walled Old City. It was a perfect site for the purpose. I was invited to a luncheon attended by Israeli officials, the United States ambassador and the architects for the project. The plans were studied. Mayor Kollek asked if I would sponsor the children's playground first inside the entrance to the park. I did, and now a stone post marker there bears my name just inside the entrance to the park—now a most beautiful project.

Another time Mayor Kollek took me over the city to show me what he had learned from his visit to the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena.

"I am trying to follow your

example, and make Jerusalem one of the most beautiful cities in the world," he told me. It is being beautifully landscaped. Trees are being planted along all main boulevards. The Mayor took me into the Old City. There he showed me how he is completely remodeling and renewing old stone structures and renewing the rooms within them to a beautiful new finish.

In front of the International Cultural Center for Youth (ICCY) building on the edge of downtown Jerusalem is a square about 100 feet square. A sign erected now calls it "Herbert W. Armstrong Square."

So, beside personal acquaintance with President Sadat and King Hussein, as well as the resigned, though still active, President Franjeh of Lebanon and other Arab heads of state, I have close personal acquaintance with leaders in Israel. I believe, therefore, that I can tell our readers how they feel about these problems, as well as what is revealed in biblical prophecies.

Literally hundreds of new high-rise apartment residences have been erected near the Old City, to the east and northeast of the wall of Old City. The new Hebrew University has been built on Mount Scopus, just northeast of the city wall. The Israelis would never have erected these massive high-rise residential properties merely in order to hand them over to Arab neighbors as a gift! Mayor Kollek would never have done the extensive and upgrading renewing of ancient stone buildings within the walled city, if there were any intention of turning this over to either Arab nations or to become an international city! I know our Israeli friends well enough to know their determined intentions without asking them.

However, Mayor Kollek will be the first to point out that none of the scores of new high-rise residential buildings nor the new Hebrew University were built on land occupied in any way by Arabs. All was built on vacant land, totally unoccupied. No

buildings nor residences occupied by Arabs in the Old City have in any way been molested.

The Arabs who lived in the Old City still live there. And they live at a higher economic standard than Arabs in neighboring Arab countries. They have little crime and violence. Most violence there has come from outside PLO, Palestine Liberation Organization, commandos.

I have personally been very active in supporting the ICCY in Jerusalem. This center is working to bring peace, harmony and friendly relations between Arab and Israeli youth. And with remarkable success.

I also know the views and feelings, firsthand, of the Arab peoples in regard to Jerusalem. They, too, are sincere in their view.

What about making Jerusalem an international city? I would ask, as Mayor Kollek asks, WHO—and from what race or nation—would RUN the international city? The Jews would never accept an Arab and the Arabs would never accept a Jew. And neither would accept someone else. The very idea is out of the question.

What, then, does the Almighty Creator GOD say about it?

GOD once chose Jerusalem as His city. But ancient Israel polluted it and their covenant with GOD. They were conquered and driven out. GOD turned His back on Jerusalem. He says He will YET choose Jerusalem—it will YET become His chosen city—but it is not that today.

Look at the status of Jerusalem today, and the prophecies for tomorrow, in the Bible.

First, in the 12th chapter of Zechariah. "Behold I will make [am about to make—Revised Standard Version] Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day [near future now] will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it

(Continued on page 44)

NO POLITICAL ELECTIONS IN THE WORLD TOMORROW!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THIS WAS WRITTEN August 14—last day of the Democratic National Convention. I had to think—after viewing on television both this and the Republican National Convention a month before—HOW DIFFERENT it will be in the World Tomorrow!

All three national networks had their stars and superstar newscasters covering these major conventions.

The convention halls were decorated in bright colors with red, white and blue predominating. The delegates wore loud-colored casual or sports attire, many with outlandish oversized hats. There were horns, sound-making instruments, beside the brass bands. There were whoop-and-holler demonstrations. There were thousands with balloons, like little children at play. There were many large signs and placards.

Each convention was quite a show!

And of course the usual politics were being played secretly in the smoke-filled hotel suites away from the convention halls—the jockeying for selfish advantage, political gain and coveting of power.

I am reminded of the answer given by Franz Josef Strauss, often called “the strong man of Europe.” He had spent the day visiting the Ambassador college campus and was an evening dinner guest in my home.

It was a day or two after Richard M. Nixon had taken the oath of office after his first inauguration, January, 1969.

“What,” asked a guest of Dr. Strauss, “do you think was going on in Mr. Nixon’s mind as he was taking the oath of office?”

“How to be reelected four years from now, of course,” answered Herr Strauss without a second’s hesitation.

On the Wednesday night before I wrote this, there had been considerable delay and nervous concern over what decision Edward Kennedy would make. He had lost the primary elections as a whole, had lost the open-floor fight to have delegates pledged to President Carter released and to throw the convention open. He had won the battle against the President on strategic platform planks. And now after a preweek political move to “dump Carter,” the President had gone over the top on the first ballot. The President had not accepted without any personal reservation Mr. Kennedy’s much-insisted-on plank for spending \$12 billion immediately to ease unemployment. Mr. Carter got word to the convention he was for the same goal, but had personal reservations as to the Senator’s method.

Would Senator Kennedy hold out, split the party, or would he acquiesce for the sake of harmony and support Mr. Carter for reelection?

Just what, in these circumstances, was Mr. Kennedy thinking? Would German politician Dr. Strauss have said, “How Mr. Kennedy could be elected four years from now, of course”? Was the politician thinking of what is best for the PEOPLE or what is

best for his own fight to grab the throttle of greatest government power on earth? I won’t answer that—I can’t read his mind.

There was one bit of humor on the CBS coverage of the Wednesday night convention show. The dry-speaking Andy Rooney was asked by Walter Cronkite if he had any comment on whether the President should stick with Vice President Walter F. Mondale for reelection. The VP nomination was to come before the convention on Thursday.

Andy Rooney did.

“I think,” he said soberly, “the President should select a vice president with more color. Why not ex-President Ford? He almost made the vice-presidential bid at the Republican convention. A Republican on the ticket as Mr. Carter’s VP would at least add color.”

“Or,” he continued, “if Mr. Carter does not like that suggestion, how about putting brother Billy on the ticket—keep it in the family? That way Billy could make foreign connections officially. Or, I have still another suggestion—since the First Lady, Rosalynn Carter, is the President’s chief confidante anyway, why not a husband-and-wife team? She’s a good campaigner.”

Many millions of dollars of taxpayers’ money have been spent on political campaigns and these conventions to nominate candidates for the people to vote on. The conventions were big noisy shows. There was laughter, “having a time,” shouting, confusion, anger, jubilation, pathos, emotion and even tears. In all this cam-

painging to "GET" the office of POWER, one vocal observer said, "Thank God, only ONE candidate can win."

That is the way GOVERNMENT is carried on in this world.

Six thousand years ago, the former superarchangel Lucifer, having rebelled against the government of God on earth, and now called Satan, was slinking around as a serpent. God had just created the first HUMAN—in God's own image—with a potential of inheriting the THRONE OF THE EARTH.

From this man, Adam, God made a woman, Eve, to be his wife. Eve was all for a "Women's Rights Amendment." She took the lead. The man, created to be the head of the wife, succumbed to her leadership. She led him into Satan's way. Adam joined her in rebelling against the GOVERNMENT OF GOD—rejecting God as Revealer of basic knowledge and as Giver of eternal life!

When the first man and woman REJECTED GOD and HIS GOVERNMENT, CUT THEMSELVES OFF from God and the gift of His Holy Spirit, God made their decision binding on all their progeny for 6,000 years—until Christ, the "second Adam," should have come, qualified by overcoming Satan and Satan's way and actually RESTORE the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. This shall happen now, very shortly. For we are right at the END of that 6,000 years of the DAY OF MAN under SATAN, and the DAY OF THE LORD is almost upon us!

So ALL HUMANITY—except the minutest FEW God has specially called to His service in preparation for that future world government, has been CUT OFF from God and HIS GOVERNMENT. Man has been left to form HIS OWN ideas of how he should be ruled.

Down through history, some peoples have submitted to the tyranny of DICTATORSHIPS and autocratic MONARCHIES. Some have swung to the center and called it democracy. Others to the extreme left, calling it COMMUNISM. Even there it is actually the

autocratic dictatorial RULE of a central politburo, in which one man—a Stalin, a Khrushchev or a Brezhnev—dominates as real RULER.

Even in the Democratic national convention, some individual delegates interviewed were fighting for turning "still farther LEFT."

But through TV, the public has seen a sample of MAN-made government in our day.

The living Jesus Christ is soon now going to return, as KING of kings, to RULE ALL NATIONS with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

There will be no election campaigns. No multimillion dollar fund-raising campaigns—no political conventions. No politics, pulling the wool over the eyes of the people in the struggle for POWER!

No wars. No crime. No more broken families. No hospitals, for people will be divinely healed.

What will be the BIG DIFFERENCE, THEN?

The present world, though the world of humans doesn't realize it, is actually swayed and RULED by the invisible Satan—the former Lucifer who originally sat on the THRONE of the whole earth.

Backtrack a second, to the original Adam and Eve. In the Garden of Eden were the two symbolic trees—one the "tree of LIFE" symbolizing the Holy Spirit of God and gift of eternal life. The other, the tree of "the knowledge of good and evil" and this knowledge they—for all humanity—took to themselves.

Just one super-significant thing was wrong with that. They did not realize—and mankind does not know today—that man was made with a "human" spirit inside him. This spirit, not present in animals or any other physical life form, imparts the power of intellect to the human brain. But man's KNOWLEDGE is confined to the physical and material.

Man's PROBLEMS, troubles, evils, are all SPIRITUAL in nature. Man was made to NEED a SECOND SPIRIT—the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD. This was freely offered that

first Adam. But he rejected it—rejected GOD's GOVERNMENT and GOD's revealed spiritual knowledge. All humans have been born with only this one spirit, limiting human knowledge to the physical and material. Man, without the Holy Spirit of God, is NOT MENTALLY COMPLETE—actually "NOT ALL THERE." Human consciousness is limited to the physical and material, yet all his problems are SPIRITUAL and beyond his comprehension!

NOT ONLY THIS!

Satan the devil is REAL—he exists—he is SUPER POWERFUL—and he is "the PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR" (Ephesians 2:2). He BROADCASTS! He surcharges the air with HIS ATTITUDE of selfishness, vanity, lust for power and greed, envy and jealousy, competition and strife, rebellion against GOD!

It is not only that mankind—our human LEADERS—are only "HALF THERE" mentally—Satan has begun injecting from infancy into every human his SELF-CENTERED ATTITUDE! All we humans grow up saturated with it. It has become HUMAN NATURE!

So it is not only a matter of what ISN'T IN OUR HUMAN MINDS (spiritual comprehension!), it is a matter of WHAT IS IN HUMAN MINDS—what from infancy Satan has been injecting there—the SELF-CENTERED ATTITUDE—that of competition, getting the best of others, "GETTING" instead of "GIVING"—TAKING FROM OTHERS!

This writing was finished on Friday morning after the conclusion of the Democratic National Convention. Senator Kennedy did conciliate just far enough to go to the convention hall platform after President Carter's acceptance speech. But he was not smiling. He was sullen, plainly resentful. He coldly shook hands with the President—but no lifting of arms together in joyful smiles. I felt sorry for him. He had not gotten all he coveted—like a spoiled baby, who failed to take away a toy from another baby. Just as in all of us, Satan had

Continued on page 45)

RACE RIOTS

Failure of Man's Court System

"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil"—Ecclesiastes 8:11.

by Stanley R. Rader and Jeff Calkins

THE MIAMI, FLORIDA, riots of last spring were the worst outbreak of racial violence in 13 years in the United States. Fifteen people died. Both blacks and whites were set on, beaten—in some cases mutilated. More than a hundred million dollars worth of property was damaged. And what ignited it all?

The failure of man's court system to punish those who were guilty of murder!

The riots are testimony to failure of man's system of criminal justice. They are a result of the truth of Isaiah's prophecy: "Judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter" (Isaiah 59:14).

The Miami riots began May 17, after an all-white jury acquitted four white police officers, two of whom were Hispanics, of bludgeoning to death a black insurance salesman, Arthur McDuffie. As the rioters took to the streets, they chanted his name.

The facts of the McDuffie murder case are simply outrageous. While the stories differ on which police officer may have delivered the fatal blow, there is agreement that several Miami policemen savagely beat McDuffie and later lied in police reports to make it look like an accident.

McDuffie was on his motorcycle, about 2 a.m., December 17, 1979. According to police reports, McDuffie ran a red light, and when police gave chase, tried to outrun them. The chase allegedly hit speeds of up to 100 miles per hour. Stories differ as to whether McDuffie crashed or surrendered. The initial police report said he crashed and hit his head on the pavement. Yet it also said he then resisted arrest so violently that police had to forcibly subdue him—an unbelievable story considering the kind of damage anyone sustains who is in a motorcycle accident. After McDuffie was stopped, several officers set on him with nightsticks and heavy metal flashlights. After he was on the ground, motionless, one officer in particular repeatedly smashed him in the head.

The beating inflicted terrible injury. The coroner said his skull had been "cracked like an egg." A Dade County medical examiner said it was "the equivalent of falling four stories and landing between your eyes."

And yet the men who beat him got off scot free! How they did so reveals much about human courts and "justice."

False Witnesses

The beating of McDuffie had been so brutal, and the initial

police reports so inconsistent, that an internal police department investigation was launched. Eight officers were fired. Four of them eventually went on trial.

But in this world, human courts are tragically limited. How do human courts find facts? They must rely on witnesses.

This was the first tragedy in the McDuffie murder case. The only witnesses were the eight officers on the scene! In order to get testimony against the worst offenders, the local prosecutors had to promise certain of the officers immunity. Without their testimony, it would have been virtually impossible to prove who beat McDuffie.

The jury thought that it was not fair—as indeed it wasn't—to only convict some of the officers while letting the others go free with immunity. The human prosecutors, of course, had absolutely no other choice. It was either grant immunity to some or let all go free. Yet God's principle of justice, found in the Bible, is far different. Every evil crime should be punished: "For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known" (Luke 12:2). The Bible also declares, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for
(Continued on page 44)

Part Seven:

A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion

How could the world have become so mixed up? Out of this spiritual wilderness, a voice cries out in clarity and power, with the reassuring truth of the world's only and sure hope!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Editor's note: We are printing here, serially, the new book by Herbert W. Armstrong with the same title as this article. The book will appear in U.S. bookstores later this year.

Chapter 6

WHAT AND WHY THE GOSPEL?

COULD ANYTHING BE more unbelievable? To say that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was not proclaimed *to the world* for 1,900 years—100 time cycles—from the middle of the first century until the middle of the 20th—assuredly sounds preposterous.

And yet that happened!

One may well ask: "But hasn't the Gospel about Jesus Christ been preached throughout the world all through the centuries? Have not missionaries carried the

message about Jesus Christ into most or all pagan countries? Isn't Christ preached around the world today—by radio, by television, in print, by personal evangelism? Isn't a well-known radio program called "Bringing Christ to the Nations"?

Ah yes, true! But from about A.D. 53 until 1953 the Gospel of Jesus Christ was not proclaimed *to the world*. You see, preaching *about* Jesus Christ—proclaiming that He is the promised Messiah, the Son of God, is not proclaiming the Gospel *OF* Jesus Christ.

The world has not known that Jesus Christ came as a NEWSCASTER, forecasting world-shaking news of the FUTURE. It is recorded in Malachi, chapter 3, verse 1, that Jesus was to come as a divine Messenger, bringing a supremely important message from the living God. Jesus taught that message to His original apostles. He sent them forth proclaiming that message. *That message was Jesus' Gospel!*

The word *gospel* means *good news*. In this case it was advance

good news—to occur soon now in our time. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not man's message *about* Christ. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is *the Message* that God the Father sent to mankind by His divine Messenger.

In about A.D. 53 the apostle Paul wrote a letter to the churches in Galatia. Immediately after his opening salutation, Paul wrote: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto *another gospel*, which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." Already the true Gospel was lost in Galatia!

The Gospel was SUPPRESSED! No longer—after about A.D. 53—was the Gospel proclaimed to the world! However, the true Church of God retained the Gospel—but they were forced by persecution to "go underground," holding services secretly, communicating the truth of God privately only to those to whom they felt it safe to
(Continued on page 39)



Warren Watson—PT

KIDS AND TV— Putting Things In Focus

Television can be an effective tool for educating your children—or it can be harmful. Which role does television play in your home?

by Clayton Steep

No one is suggesting that television be banned for children. But comments like the following show something is not right:

"I can't live without television," exclaimed 8-year-old Elizabeth. She and her second-grade classmates spent an experimental day without TV just to see what would happen. "I can't stay away for more than an hour," Elizabeth declared. The experience affected her so deeply she was unable to eat. So she simply stared at the blank TV screen all day and pretended her favorite programs were on.

"Every minute seemed like a whole month," said Donny, a fel-

low second grader. He got so bored during the experiment he picked fights with his brother to kill time. In no uncertain terms Donny advocated unlimited access to the TV. "We kids have our rights!" he maintained.

Daniella was more realistic. "If my mother doesn't control it, I would just keep watching and I'll get dizzy," she remarked.

In another experiment, seventh and eighth graders went without television for a whole month and then reported on their findings.

"I had more time to do my homework neater and better," said Darien. "I used to get rotten grades but now I am doing bet-

ter and I have better grades."

"As the days went by, it seemed as though the month got longer and longer," commented Tammentha. "Kids just can't stop watching it," she stated.

"Some days I just roamed around the house," Sheila confessed. "I couldn't find anything to do, yet I had at least a million things to do."

Angela rediscovered an old friend—her mother. "The time I used to spend watching television [which was all the time] I spend conversing with my mother," Angela wrote.

Maybe the situation is different in your home. You can easily

find out. Just pull the plug on your TV set for one week. See what kind of ruckus is raised. Are your children suddenly at a loss for what to do? Do they get into mischief out of sheer boredom? Are they unable to entertain themselves or to find useful activities to be involved in? If the answer is yes to any of these, you have a problem on your hands.

Air Pollution

Various studies have come up with figures indicating that the average American child watches anywhere from 20 to 40 hours of TV a week. Often that's more time than is spent in school. In fact, that's more time than is spent in anything else except sleeping.

What do they see during that time? Certain programs of educational value? Yes. Fortunately. But also, at the time reports were compiled, half of all children's viewing time was spent watching adult programs. Thus, by the age of 17, it was computed that a child will have witnessed roughly 18,000 murders and other acts of violence. One youngster was heard to comment that he had seen so much violence on the video screen that if he saw the real thing it wouldn't even phase him.

It's not just the physical violence. There's also the psychological violence—the put-down humor, the scheming and plotting, the name-calling and cynical, unkind barbs that children so quickly imitate.

TV programming carries a heavy emphasis on sex. One has only to listen to children who have a heavy TV diet to realize that they have lost their innocence. One person summed it up when she lamented that "children, they see so much now. We don't know anything they don't know any more. All the secrets are out."

Little wonder—sexual subjects

dealt with on TV are usually of the sensational or aberrant sort. Ranking among TV's highest profit makers is one corporation that specializes in raunchy game shows based on bad taste, crude jokes and sexual innuendos.

A recent Gallup poll found that many Americans believe the quality of family life has declined during the past 15 years and they blame television as one of the chief factors. A majority found that "television programs hurt family life with too much emphasis on sex and violence."

But can "television" really be blamed?



Who makes television what it is?

Why Is TV the Way It Is?

Television producers and executives are not entirely responsible for what is on the tube. They are businessmen and it's basically a matter of profit in a highly competitive industry. And the profit potential is enormous, as evidenced particularly in the U.S., where ninety-eight percent of American homes have at least one working TV set—some 100 million TVs altogether. And which sets are tuned to which channels is the most important factor deciding which programs succeed or fail.

Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of *The Plain Truth* magazine was for many years in the advertising business. Drawing

upon his experience, he clearly analyzed why television is the way it is:

"The commercial and industrial interests who sponsor and pay for television programming and broadcasting want the largest mass audience for their money. It's a matter of supply and demand—and the public demands programs that are exciting, shocking, daring—and this means violence and sex."

Mr. Armstrong continues: "In a number of countries, and certainly in the United States, the major cost of television production and broadcasting is derived

from the commercials—the advertising. Rates are based on viewer-ratings at the various hours of day or night—the number of viewers tuned in. The competition for high ratings is furious. Millions upon millions of dollars are involved. The concern is not for what viewers ought to see, but for what the largest number will prefer to see.

"And television experience shows the public wants, not what is good for it, but what will entertain. The average TV diet would not be filled with violence, murder, crime and illicit sex if the viewing public did not prefer that to a diet of education, instruction and useful information. The profit motive rules. And the profit motive says, 'Jones pays the freight; give Jones what he wants!'"

Human nature being what it is, the majority of people demand less than worthwhile programs. What it all boils down to is that, in today's society, if the content of television programming is going to be regulated it will be regulated by the use of the channel selector and the on/off switch on the TV set in *your* home!

Additional Static

Just sitting for hours staring at the electric window teaches chil-

dren to be observers instead of doers. They become passive spectators to what is going on around them. Long-term plans requiring perseverance and patient effort subconsciously appear useless, since on TV problems in life work themselves out in 30 minutes or an hour—often thanks to a recourse to violent means of some sort.

Psychologists have reported that the quickly changing scenes and the rapid-fire delivery of television shorten the attention span of children. They develop an appetite for novelty and lively action that is increasingly hard to satisfy.

Many children who watch TV extensively tend to lose their powers of imagination. After letting electronic video do their thinking for them for hours on end, they become unable to think for themselves. Before TV came along youngsters easily entertained themselves using the simplest of toys and their vivid imagination. Now imagination often atrophies. Boredom quickly sets in when the television is not on. In fact, the point is often reached where TV itself is boring!

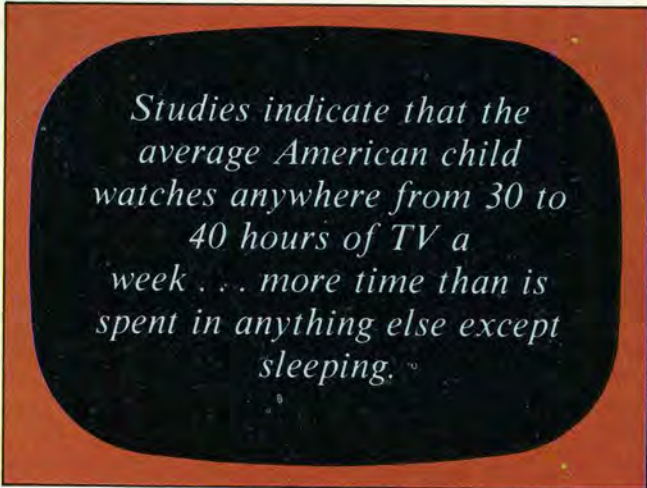
When a child, at the ripe age of 12, comes to the place where even television fails to alleviate boredom, what in life is left that is "exciting"? Sex? Crime? Drugs?

Many of the difficulties faced by educators may be laid at TV's doorstep too. Some of the popular "educational" shows, which make heavy use of nonlife-like gimmicks and electronic effects to capture children's attention, place school teachers in an awkward position. Teachers, unable to leap from tall buildings holding only a broken umbrella, or unwilling to act like the "Cookie Monster," often find it difficult to hold their pupils' attention for any length of time. "We want to be enter-

tained," said one youngster to his teacher.

One may compare TV to alcohol; a little bit is pleasurable and beneficial; too much is addicting and mind-dulling. The glazed-eye trance-like desire for escape from reality that many children exhibit hunched over in front of the television set is the same state of mind alcoholics have as they stare at the world around them through an intoxicated blur.

There are even warnings of actual physical damage caused by too much TV. These include exposure from radiation, especially from sitting too close to some



Studies indicate that the average American child watches anywhere from 30 to 40 hours of TV a week . . . more time than is spent in anything else except sleeping.

color sets; hunched spine, from the many hours spent in various TV postures; weakened eyes, from staring (sometimes without blinking for long periods) at one point, whereas the normal eye movement is from side to side.

What Can Parents Do?

Almost all experts agree that the single most effective recourse parents have is to involve themselves directly in the viewing habits of their offspring. TV must not be used as an electronic babysitter—a means of putting children "out of sight, out of mind."

The main problem is that television in many homes has become a substitute for good family relations. The less rapport between parents and their children, the greater influence TV will have.

Bob Keeshan, on the air for more than 20 years on children's television has definite ideas about TV and children. "Television and its use as a babysitter is a device to relieve parents from a responsibility they don't want to take," Mr. Keeshan exclaimed. He stated that if parents were parents, there would be no need to try pressuring network executives and station managers. Parents determine the kind of television children have by what they allow them to watch. And the number who watch determine the ratings—and the ratings determine the programming.

"Television is no competition for an active parent," he went on. "If a parent wants to spend some time with a child, the child will abandon that television set tomorrow!" (Interview for *Knight-Ridder Newspapers*, June 29, 1977.)

Some children may already be so addicted that it may not be that easy. But the extra effort must be made.

In an article in the *New York Times* (February 10, 1979), Mr. Keeshan

again stressed that the TV set should not fill the vacuum created by a parent's neglect. Children need to be talked to and listened to in their formative years. It is a tragic mistake to entrust them to the care of the electric box when they are young, hoping to establish meaningful communication with them when they become teenagers. "By then, communication will be impossible because love will have passed both parent and child by. An hour or two of high quality time, given consistently, will be a daily bouquet of love—and a message well received by a real human being."

Clearing the Air

It is not sufficient to just watch the youngsters watch TV. Parents need to talk about what is on the

screen. They should offer critical comments and encourage their children to do the same. What is good about the program? What is bad? And why?

It's not even necessary to be there every minute or to sit through every show. Just supervise what is being watched and be aware enough to give analytical guidelines as they are needed. There is no need to be afraid of interrupting the tube. It is not a person.

If the show is offensive, use your power of veto. Flick the switch!

It is not realistic nor essential to toss the TV into the trash barrel. (Although some few who have done just that wouldn't have it back at any price. "Now our kids are fun kids to be with," is the comment of one gleeful parent who got rid of the color TV and replaced it with a small black-and-white portable, which is used only on a limited basis.) If control is exercised, abolition should not be necessary.

Aside from the merits or demerits of television itself, there is another important consideration:

Aren't there more profitable things your children could do with some of the time they spend looking at television—things that will better prepare them for success in life?

For the average kid "TV has at the very least preempted the traditional development of childhood itself. The time kids spend sitting catatonic before the set has been exacted from such salutary pursuits as reading, outdoor play, even simple, contemplative solitude," wrote Harry F. Waters in an extensive *Newsweek* report (February 21, 1977). He then went on to relate how famed baby doctor Benjamin Spock took his stepdaughter and granddaughter to New York to see the Bronx Zoo and the Museum of Modern Art. "But the man who has the prescription for everything from diaper rash to bed-wetting could not dislodge the kids from their hotel room. 'I couldn't get them away from the

[censored] TV set,' recalls Spock. 'It made me sick.'"

A group of concerned parents in a Detroit, Michigan, suburb set out with a realistic goal of cutting the TV-viewing time of their youngsters in half. Receiving the cooperation of teachers they formulated "Alternatives to Television." Said one official of the local parent-teacher association, "If we can get a household to cut down even 10 or 20 percent, it's that much more time to socially, mentally and physically develop."

"Our intention was really to inform parents that they do have a right to say no or yes to what their children watch and that there were many alternatives many people seem to have forgotten about," the official explained.

The program was established to promote five basic alternative areas for children to invest some of the free time they would otherwise waste away in front of the TV set: sports, hobbies, family relations, academic pursuits and social development.

Such a program automatically requires a family to work together in a common effort and thus promotes stronger family bonds.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher recently advised her nation's children: "Although you can learn a lot from television, you must do things yourselves. You must be doers and not watchers," she stated. A very biblical pronouncement!

It may be difficult—even traumatic—at first. But once the parental foot is firmly put down and a strong hand begins to rule the TV control panel, the results will be seen. Provided with material and inspiration from parents, juvenile imaginations can begin to function once again and become involved in creative endeavors.

The Right Channel

The Bible gives clear indication that technical advances such as television and satellite transmission would exist in the last days of human civilization. (Revelation

11:8-9 speaks of people around the world being able to simultaneously "see" events taking place on the streets of Jerusalem). But the Scriptures do not, of course, mention such innovations by name. Nevertheless biblical principles support what many experts have said about television and its proper use.

"Make the very most of your time," enjoined the apostle Paul (Ephesians 5:16, Moffatt translation). Fill your mind with things that are worthwhile—things that are true, honest, pure, lovely, of good report. "Think on these things," Paul urged (Philippians 4:8). Unfortunately these positive adjectives do not describe most of what is now on TV.

The Bible places great emphasis upon parents being actively involved in teaching their offspring right principles in each facet of life. Those right principles are defined in the laws of God. Listen to what God says to parents: "And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them [discuss them] when you sit in your house in front of the TV set!—'and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise' (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Revised Standard Version).

What your children see is important. If they are looking at wholesome, educational, edifying subjects, they will be benefited. If their eyes gaze for hours at violence, illicit sex, disrespect and plain stupidity, their character is going to be adversely affected by what they see. Jesus, expounding this truth, warned: "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound [if it is used rightly and wholesomely], your body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" (Matthew 6:22-23, RSV.)

It is time to harness the television set in your home! □



The Shock That Staggers World Food Production

The bridge to easy and abundant food supplies—and prosperity—has been burned down. Many nations are now forced to mortgage the earnings of future generations to eat and survive today!

by Donald D. Schroeder

THE FOUNDATIONS of world food production began to shake and crumble seven years ago. It started with the 1973 Arab oil embargo against the supporters of the state of Israel.

Subsequent decisions by Mid-east oil producers quadrupled oil prices. This staggered not just energy-voracious industrial and technological nations, but food-short developing nations desperately struggling to feed soaring

populations with limited economic and land resources.

Here is how.

Profound Shock

Soaring oil prices were at first greeted with shock and disbelief in the Third World—a term applied to largely nonindustrial but developing countries. There was no two-tiered oil pricing system—one for rich nations, one for struggling developing nations—as they hoped. Oil prices and subse-

quent energy-related costs soared for all nations.

Imagine the impact on developing nations, already handicapped with meager foreign exchange reserves and limited development. Between 1972 and 1974, the combination of drought, fertilizer shortages and high energy costs tripled the import prices of wheat, rice, corn (maize) and soybeans. Soaring food and fuel prices meant less foreign exchange for other much needed items—such as fer-

tilizer or industrial development equipment.

In 1974, motorists in America, Europe and Japan fretted about long lines or high costs at gas stations. In India and other developing nations, irrigation pumps sputtered and died for lack of fuel. Precious water ceased flowing in ditches across fields.

Bearded Sikhs in the Punjab, and weary tenant farmers in the Philippines walked from their fields, carrying gasoline cans. They collected along roadsides, waiting for fuel trucks that did not come. The sun beat down and fields dried up.

"There is no fuel. The fertilizer costs so much. It's bad—very bad," said Charan Singh Maan, typical of farmers in the Punjab, one of India's most productive agricultural states, during this crisis. He, like many other farmers, was forced to sell his tractor, cut back purchases of fertilizer and watch wheat production falter on his family farm.

The energy crisis has inconvenienced rich developed nations. Energy-short developing nations are hungrier and poorer. Today, chemical fertilizer and pesticide costs are double, triple or more what they were in the early 1970s. Petroleum import prices have soared more than 1500 percent.

Unparalleled Times

You're living in a totally different world! These events are giant hammer blows to the survival of nations!

Prices of modern life-essential commodities don't just increase regularly any more. Now they leap, they double, triple or more, often in one year's time.

The world can't keep going on this way. A handful of nations possessing critical resources or power are now face-to-face with the fact that their decisions may mean other nations may suffer total economic collapse and millions may starve. Desperate nations will go to war rather than starve or collapse.

Why can't the nations of mankind solve their human problems

and needs with equity and justice? The Bible reveals the answer through the prophet Isaiah:

"The way of peace they know not. . . . We wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. . . . We stumble at noon day as in the night [especially with our agricultural planning] . . ." (Isaiah 59:8-10).

Food: Energy Related

You may not realize just how energy-dependent modern agriculture is—in developing nations like India, the Philippines or Latin America, as well as the technologically developed nations like the United States, Europe or Japan.

One third of world crop production is attributed to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that are made, for the most part, from petroleum or fossil-fuel feedstocks.

The great post-World War II growth in world food production and world population was propelled by *cheap* and *abundant* energy supplies—as well as good weather. These former blessings are no more.

The Green Revolution during the 1960s and 1970s locked many developing as well as developed nations into dependence on energy-intensive agriculture—fossil fuels, chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

This type of agriculture has kept several heavily populated developing nations—like India, the Philippines and Pakistan—just short of the precipice of mass famine. But to sustain and increase agricultural production these nations must import much of their petroleum and fertilizer supplies.

India, for example, must import nearly half of its petroleum and chemical fertilizers. India, however, is more fortunate than some developing nations. Half of Latin American countries, for instance, must import *all* of their oil and most of their chemical fertilizers.

More than half the acreage of wheat planted in India and Pakistan, over half the rice acreage in

the Philippines, and lesser but still significant acreages in other developing nations, are high-yield varieties. Without heavy use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and without sufficient irrigation water at the right times, yields from these grains would be but little more than from traditional varieties, and maybe even less.

Take fuel and chemical fertilizers out of the Green Revolution and its glamorous yields come tumbling down. In recent years, skyrocketing world oil import prices and refining difficulties in some nations have priced gasoline, diesel fuel, fertilizer and pesticides out of the reach of many developing nations' farmers. Yields are declining in more and more areas.

Yet, food experts say developing nations must double or triple fertilizer and pesticide use to realize the full potential of the Green Revolution. They must use energy-intensive agriculture to have a chance at feeding future soaring population growth.

Now that possibility has been priced out of the reach of many developing nations. So more and more nations are forced to import increasing amounts of food to make up shortfalls in food production. In fact, of the around 150 nations in the world, more than 140 must import some or sizable quantities of their food. Only *four* nations—the United States, Canada, Australia and Argentina—are major food grain exporters.

Food to Highest Bidders

You may assume that most food exports from the handful of major food exporters—particularly from North America—go to the hungriest nations. Just the opposite is true. Seventy percent of food exports go to advanced nations with growing populations, insufficient food-grain production and affluent food demands—especially Japan, Europe (including Eastern Europe) and Russia.

The developing nations, with limited cash reserves, compete with affluent nations for food.

Little food is now given away in government food-aid programs—from the United States or any other nation. Only relatively little can be. Food is no longer cheap to produce. Petroleum prices have risen over 100 percent just in the past year alone.

Surplus foods or cash crops (even in many food-short developing nations) must be sold to pay growing import costs—particularly high oil and industrial import costs. Food exporters sell to those who can pay for it.

Mortgaged Future vs. Mass Famine

You may wonder how so many energy- and food-importing nations, particularly the poorer nations with limited foreign exchange, have been able to meet soaring energy, food, fertilizer and development bills but still avert bankruptcy.

The answer is, many middle- and low-income nations have been heavily borrowing money wherever they can. They have been borrowing from international banks, the International Monetary Fund and United Nations development agencies. OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) has also established a fund for grants and loans to developing nations.

From Brazil to Zaïre, developing nations have mortgaged the income of future generations to pay for oil, food, fertilizers and other imports that were consumed years ago.

The Philippines is a case in example. That nation relies on imported fuel for 93 percent of its energy needs. Spiraling world oil prices have been little short of a national disaster.

Like many developing nations, the Philippines turned to foreign borrowing to ease the 1974 oil and balance-of-payment shock. The country is now staggering under a \$9 billion foreign debt, up 20 percent in 1979 over 1978.

Since 1974, the year of the first oil shock, the debt of less-developed nations has tripled to

more than \$370 billion. It was only around \$60 billion 10 years ago. The World Bank projects that, at present trends, the debt load of developing nations will increase to \$1.2 trillion in the next 10 years!

By 1990, developing countries are expected to be borrowing close to \$200 billion annually and accepting another \$70 billion in direct aid to finance their growing demand for food, energy and development.

The great worry among international bankers and lenders is that the ability of many of these nations to pay back such massive loans is becoming increasingly shaky. It becomes shakier with each leap in world oil prices or with each faltering in world economy, with crop failure or natural disasters, or with regional political or trading conflicts.

Already, many of the heavily indebted developing nations are near or over prudent lending limits—at least traditional prudent lending limits. Fears of default on loans have already panicked lenders to renegotiate later repayment dates, or even give new loans to prevent default. The international banking and lending system cannot afford total loss of confidence from several big loan defaults.

It is only because OPEC nations have been recycling around \$120 billion a year in surplus oil money in world banking investments that there has been enough monetary liquidity in international lending institutions to finance the trading deficits of so many nations.

"But," asks a West German central bank official, "will the oil-exporting countries take part in bad risks? One must doubt from past experience how far they will go."

What shocking power and leverage the major oil-exporting nations, as a bloc, wield among nations! Through their domination of oil exports and surplus oil money they have power, directly or indirectly, to determine what vulnerable nations will prosper and survive; in some cases even who can be ruined or starved if

they don't act according to their outlook, goals or values.

Debt Risks—or Starvation and Revolution

Nations already on the debt-ridden worry list are most Central American countries, the Sudan and several other African nations. International lenders are afraid to let critical nations go under. Turkey, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Peru, Pakistan, Zaïre and others have been allowed to reorganize repayments on existing loans for much later dates.

As a group, developing countries spend about 30 percent of their export earnings on oil. Turkey will have to pay as much as 90 percent to satisfy fuel needs and loan repayments.

In recent months, jittery international bankers have tended to shoo over-borrowed nations to the International Monetary Fund. But before extending any credit, the IMF frequently imposes a series of tough restrictions over domestic fiscal and monetary policies. Many nations simply do not want those strings attached.

If nations cannot get new loans to finance their trade deficits, many will soon be forced to sharply curtail economic growth and imports. But for many food-short nations, a reduction in borrowing means a steep economic setback with attendant mass starvation and revolution. What a dilemma many nations are in!

Whatever weather conditions in the years ahead, soaring energy prices and tightening fuel supplies by themselves have guaranteed that poor and hungry nations will become poorer and hungrier; rich nations will no longer be able to produce cheap food. Never have so many nations built such a false and fragile foundation of prosperity and "success"!

Never has the world more needed a "strong hand" from someplace to show nations the way to true peace, abundant food production and lasting prosperity! That's precisely what the Bible reveals the Creator will do. That's the good news—the only good news—for the future! □

IN BRIEF

CAMPAIGN/1980

by Stanley R. Rader

John B. Anderson, Independent candidate for the presidency, has been vilified by some participants on the political scene as a party turncoat on an enormous ego trip. Surely this is a biased oversimplification at best.

The big question is: How did John Anderson suddenly emerge as a potentially viable third-party candidate and come to be regarded as a serious threat by both major political parties? The answer lies more in the *conditions* now present in this country than in the man.

Rarely have we been in such political turmoil. We are beginning to receive the full fallout from the post-Vietnam and post-Watergate syndromes. Four out of five citizens maintain that this country is in "*deep and serious trouble*." Distrust of authority is now an integral part of American life. People feel that they are being deluded by politicians. And as *Fortune* magazine put it, "Never in modern times have voters been so *weakly committed* to one or the other party, so unconvinced that there are satisfactory 'Democratic' or 'Republican' answers to the nation's perplexing problems..." (December 31, 1979).

Add to all this the fact that the presidency itself is imperiled as never before. Even before the Constitution was ratified by the states, James Madison expressed his grave concern that one branch of the U.S. government might *unduly* encroach on the duties clearly belonging to another. It goes without saying that all three branches have been guilty of such encroachment in our 200-year history. And up to the last few years, the office of

the presidency has certainly *more* than held its own in this perennial struggle.

Now at a juncture in our history when we desperately need strong and capable executive leadership, the powers of the highest office itself have been seriously eroded. Congress has imposed many constraints and restrictions on such vitally important matters as presidential impoundments of large funds, the privacy of executive agreements, and instant presidential authority to employ the armed forces in trouble spots around the world. And, of course, whether rightly or wrongly, the harassment of

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Distrust of authority has become an integral part of American life. Many fear that they are being deluded by politicians.
”

the CIA has severely curtailed the President's ability to obtain reliable intelligence.

Unfortunately, by its very nature, the legislative branch *cannot* effectively fill this presidential power vacuum. As one leading eastern newspaper wryly stated: "There cannot be 435 secretaries of state on Capitol Hill."

Another factor that has gravely weakened the President's power is the steady erosion of practical party discipline. The day has ended when a President could simply pick up a phone and *confidently* ask the majority leader if he would muster so many votes for this or that measure. The chances are the answer would be

no—and not always because leaders of congress are unwilling. The truth is that the internal character and machinery of Congress itself has broken down to a large extent. Strong central leadership on powerful congressional committees is virtually a thing of the past.

One cannot fairly lay all the blame for ineffective executive leadership on the personal failures and inabilities of the President. Certain key *institutional* resources are no longer at the President's disposal in the way they once were.

Even worse is the loss of high regard for that office. This is a natural result of the post-Watergate syndrome. And I'm afraid the media has not been of much help even in so-called minor matters. If the President happens to slip and fall, the television cameras are there ready to lay it all before the American public in full color. (President Roosevelt was afflicted by infantile paralysis and could not walk. Yet 120 million people were hardly aware of his handicap because of the skill of the media and their concern for protecting that great office.)

All of these factors and others I don't have the space to mention, in one way or another helped create the climate for the sudden emergence of John Anderson's candidacy. People are desperate for leadership in this country, and party loyalty is *not* the factor it once was.

Early in his congressional career John Anderson made what he now considers to be a mistake. He sponsored a constitutional amendment which, while it *prohibited* the establishment of a state religion, it would have caused the United States government to "devoutly" recognize "the authority and law of Jesus Christ."

This is the long-run answer to all the problems afflicting the body politic. The difference is that Jesus Christ will impose that law and authority Himself! □

ME?

A Creature of Habit?

You will be surprised at how much of what you do, think and feel is a matter of habit.

by Donald D. Schroeder

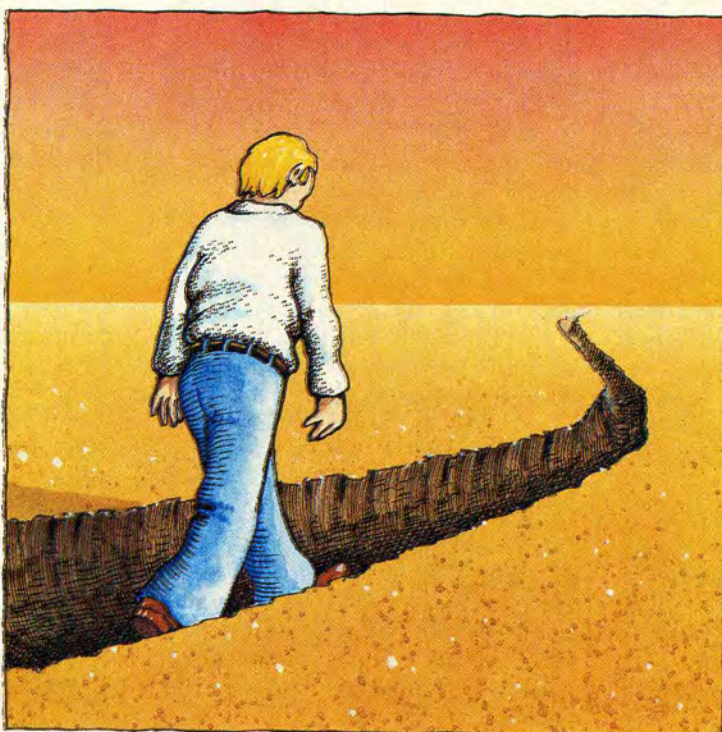
WITHOUT habits we could not function—or perhaps even survive. That's the good side of habits.

Habits allow us to perform an astronomical number of actions without significant conscious thought, effort or undue attention—like tying our shoes, buttoning a shirt, riding a bike, walking, running, typing, remembering a telephone number, even responding to danger.

What a Habit Is

A habit is a learned pattern of acting, or thinking or feeling. It is not a pattern we were born with, as many lower creature responses are.

Don't confuse these learned patterns with inborn or "wired-in" involuntary responses such as digesting, breathing, sweating or shivering at cold. Developing habits, particularly if they are good habits, allows us to conserve higher mental processes for more demanding tasks and challenges. By contrast, wrong habits waste human energy and limit human growth and development.



"Habits are at first cobwebs, then cables," says a Spanish proverb.

A habit starts to form when we respond to something—physically, mentally or emotionally—several times. How many responses are required to start a habit may vary from person to person or with different kinds of stimuli.

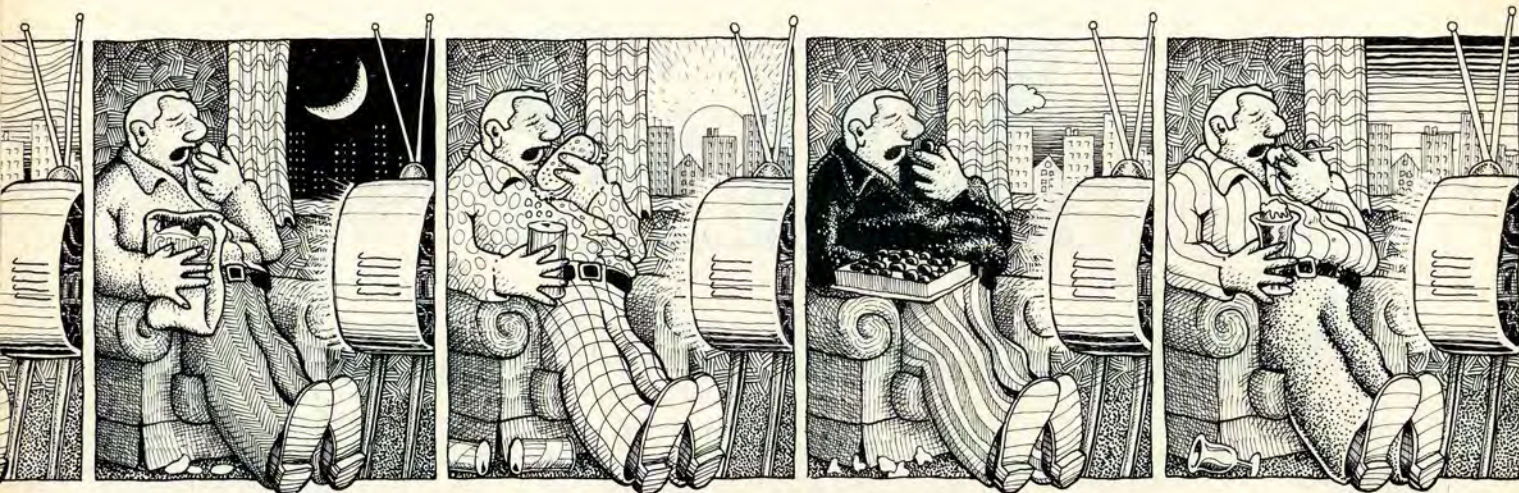
But as we respond, a pattern starts to occur, neural circuits and pathways in the marvelous human brain and nervous system are

formed. Precisely what happens in the human mind and body is even now beyond the mind of man to fully understand.

Learning patterns, at first, go into the brain's short-term memory system. As they become more established they move over into the brain's long-term storage center. This much is perceived by those scientists who have studied the subject of habits.

Then the brain activity at which humans excel—memory—goes to work so that a specific message or stimuli triggers an automatic response, thought or feeling. We call a lesson that the brain's cells have learned well enough to accomplish automatically, without thought, a habit.

Good habits and bad habits are formed essentially the same way. Therefore it is critically important for parents to see that children establish good habits particularly in early years of life. Habits are difficult to unlearn. The brain apparently never totally "forgets" bad habits, although they may drop out of dominance in one's life through lack of use,



or if replaced by another, it is hoped, better habit.

So-called free spirits and individualists (and many think that describes them) are not really free of habits. They merely develop their own idiosyncratic habits.

What we call human personality, in its broadest sense, is to a large extent a composition of thousands of individual and specific habit traits. Humans are compounds of various habits. Thoughts a human thinks are not habitual, of course, but patterns of thought very much tend to become habitual. Some people develop sound thought patterns; others are habitually scatter-brained.

The capacity to form habits is possible with most higher living things. But the way the marvelous human mind was created with the spirit in man, humans more than any other creatures, and more than we care to admit, are creatures of habits—habits of thinking, habits of acting, habits of feeling.

Unique in Habits

Our individual habit patterns show up not only in how we pronounce words, but in our general attitudes and demeanor in life. It shows up in how we cope with anxiety.

Some, as a result of learned habit, develop a perpetual frown, others exhibit a quick temper, others fearfulness, hostility or suspicion. Others are habitually

more open, loving, friendly and exude confidence.

We develop differing, even unique, habits in our hand, body and posture movements. Different dietary and appetite habits are acquired. We develop differing feeling habits—what makes us feel good or bad, what produces fear and apprehension and how and to whom we respond sexually.

All of these are learned. We do not inherit these specific traits.

Even repeated successes or failures in life are often a matter of habit; they result from a repeated way of responding to problems and challenges in life.

Negative Side

Habits free us to learn new things. They also make it difficult for us to change established ways of doing things, or thinking or feeling. Habits lock us into certain response patterns, so we tend to resist any change in our accustomed routine, even if it is in our best interests to do so.

Too often humans are slaves to bad habits. It takes strong character to break bad habits!

Animals could never survive for long in nature if they developed many of the bad habits humans do. We may smoke, abuse alcohol, misuse sex, pop pills, overeat, underexercise or develop emotionally destructive feelings and remain alive, though we are still slowly killing ourselves as individuals. By these bad habits we are limiting or crippling our human potential and develop-

ment. Many bad habits are, in fact, what the Bible calls sin! They involve violation of God's great spiritual law, the Ten Commandments.

Bad habits reinforced by chemically addicting substances—nicotine and certain drugs, for instance—are very hard to shake. But habits damaging human emotions and attitudes can also be very difficult, at times even more difficult, to change.

Tragically, whole nations can get locked into wrong habits of eating, acting, thinking and feeling.

Overcoming Wrong Habits

Who hasn't been a slave to bad habits? Who hasn't carelessly allowed bad habits to take deeper and deeper root in their mind and emotions?

Improving your life—physically, mentally, emotionally or spiritually—is largely a matter of changing or overcoming bad habits. It is a matter of developing new, better and more dominating habit patterns of thinking, acting and feeling.

There are absolute fundamental requirements and essential steps that must be applied to replace a bad habit with a good one. Many lose sight of such essential steps because of heavy demands on their minds or time or because of discouragement from past failures to overcome some nagging habit or vice.

The first law of changing any wrong habit is:



1. ADMIT WHAT YOU ARE DOING, OR THINKING OR FEELING IS WRONG AND HARMFUL. In biblical terminology this is the first step in *repentance*. (Of course, this demands the right standard of determining right and wrong. And this requires a knowledge of God's Law.)

It is impossible to change without taking this step. So many fail because they never, deep down in their minds, squarely determine or admit what they are doing or thinking is wrong. They will not admit to themselves that they eat too much, or drink too much or are addicted in a damaging way to some practice or thinking. They justify their present ways and refuse to see any damage they are causing to themselves or others—until serious consequences strike them.

You—not someone else—must be convinced you should change! You must *want* to change a bad habit!

After this critical step is taken, other essential steps are required. You must then:

2. POWERFULLY RESOLVE TO CHANGE AND QUIT THE WRONG HABIT IMMEDIATELY. This, in biblical terminology, is the second step in repentance. Don't put off a decision. You cannot expect success with a halfhearted or weak effort. You must be strongly motivated to change. Grasp the consequences or potential consequences if you don't change.

3. DEVELOP A CHANGE-OF-BEHAVIOR PLAN. This means:

Understand the influences or situations that spark old habit patterns and avoid them whenever possible. Abram did not shake off his past until he moved to a new land (Genesis 12). (Some situations you may not be able to totally control or alter, but you can change your attitude toward them.)

Develop right and *positive* habits or thought patterns to replace the old damaging patterns. Repeat right patterns as often as you can. These soon replace the wrong pattern of acting or feeling. You can do this if the new pattern has some great value or reward, or if failure to do so means an unwanted result.

Don't try to taper off from a bad habit. (Only a few situations might dictate differently. For instance, some physically addicting drugs could cause serious bodily harm or even death if suddenly quit "cold turkey." Some serious problems need the assistance and guidance of properly qualified and knowledgeable persons.) Occasionally giving in increases rather than decreases the persistence of an old habit.

Recognize and control self-defeating thought or reasoning patterns. Such thinking may be, "It'll be OK, just this once!" or, "He does it, why can't I?" or, "Why deprive myself when there are so few pleasures in life?" Resolve not to give way or start a new pattern of giving way, to pressures from friends or others. This is one of the toughest challenges in habit breaking. Keep

your eyes on your goal—keep it bright at all times.

Don't give in to your old habit—even once. You'll refire the old habit and get hooked again. Permissive thoughts and actions do count; it is like rewelding and energizing the old cables of habit. Yet if you do slip, don't get discouraged. It *is* difficult to break habits, to give up entrenched sins. Most people slip from time to time in the process of struggling against a bad habit. Get started again. Failure is guaranteed only if you give up.

4. SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP IF NECESSARY TO OVERCOME PHYSICAL HABITS. It is not possible for this article to properly cover all the various kinds of damaging habits humans can fall prey to, and to cover the special considerations that may be necessary to deal with them. Sound health and financial, ministerial or other help may be needed. Various pamphlets or books dealing with specific kinds of physical problems are available and helpful. For spiritual bad habits, you have Jesus Christ and the Bible to turn to for divine help.

A New Outlook Needed

Changing bad habits often demands living different patterns of life. It usually requires a totally different outlook on life, a sharp redefining of what is most important in life.

Breaking damaging habits means seriously asking, perhaps
(Continued on page 29)



Coming! An End to the

REFUGEE CRISIS

While you read this, millions of men, women and children—homeless, torn from their land as a result of wars of “liberation,” or religious persecution and economic chaos—wait for a better world.

by Michael A. Snyder

WHY SHOULD IT be that in this enlightened 20th century flood tides of human beings flee their homelands to escape oppressive governments, religious persecution or a host of adverse economic conditions? What has gone wrong? Why have humanity's problems escalated so dramatically over the past few years?

A Cause for Every Effect

It's hard for the Western or industrialized nations to picture the vast numbers of people fleeing for their lives around the globe. What makes an individual willing to face great personal risk and loss? What so overwhelms a family to cause its members to abandon long

years of residence for a glimmer of hope elsewhere?

Many of our readers in Africa understand the causes of the problem, for nearly half of the world's 10 million refugees are on this vast continent. Take, for example, the horn of East Africa. A Somali official has been making the rounds in the United Nations to drum up aid and support for thousands of refugees daily pouring across his border from Ethiopia. Despite U.S. contributions amounting to 59,000 tons of food, the specter of mass death by slow starvation hovers over the refugee camps in his land. Couple this with the inescapable stench and squalor that accompanies more than a million displaced ill-housed people and you begin to get an idea what it's like to be a refugee.

Somalia's situation is only a small part of the overall problem in Africa. Virtually every part of the continent (with few exceptions) is

A HOPELESS SITUATION? More than a million refugees exist inside of the borders of Somalia—human debris from the struggle over a section of Ethiopia.

smitten with some form of social malady. Algeria serves as a harbor of refuge for revolutionaries fleeing war in the western Sahara. Cameroon is now host country for more than 80,000 refugees escaping the conflict between Chad's president and defense minister. Zaire and Zambia harbor homeless people from the civil war in Angola. Neighboring countries often receive refugees from each other!

Numbers and statistics seem sterile in meaning. What you have is the equivalent of whole populations of American and European cities being suddenly displaced without sufficient resources even to house or feed them. With teeming hoards of people spread over the continent with nowhere to go, you would think someone would be able to do something, right?

There is someone—sort of: The Organization of African Unity (OAU), a loose federation of African nations that by rights should be able to contribute to the solution. Listen to what the *Times* of London says:

"The OAU's weakness . . . is that it is bound by its commitment to the sovereignty of nation-states. Its failure to exert more influence [over the policies of African nations] after 17 years [of existence] is surely exemplified by the existence in Africa of four million political or tribal refugees."

The OAU is limited by its own internal political problems. It lacks authority to make the decisions that would end the tragedies from which people flee. But if so significant an organization as the OAU lacks the authority, who has the authority to solve Africa's dilemmas? Mark this, because it touches on the real nature of the problem.

Similar problems exist worldwide. The United States, the wealthiest country in the world, is hard-pressed to deal with refugees pouring across the narrow strait between Cuba and Florida. It is neither prepared nor able to

absorb thousands of refugees from Castro's Soviet-backed government. America's own minorities face domestic hardships without the influx of another new and complex problem.

Thailand, an essentially rural country can hardly be expected to absorb the vast human fallout from age-old struggles in Indochina. As you circle the globe, unsolvable problems plague the governments of man.

What Produces Refugees?

But what's the cause? The United States Library of Congress summed it up: "The cause . . . may be rooted in a growing disregard by governments for the basic rights of their citizens and a wish to force internal problems onto the shoulders of the world community."

Why can't we have a solution?

Take Somalia as an example. We see the country locked in a head-to-head struggle with neighboring Ethiopia over the Ogaden region. Somalia claims the region as theirs. Ethiopia rules the land. Now throw in Soviet-provided armament for Ethiopia and American funds for arms in Somalia and you have a bloody conflict—but no solution.

The result is obvious. Thousands of innocent citizens caught in the middle. What would you do if army tanks rumbled by your front lawn and your bedroom was splintered by mortar fire? You'd grab your family and flee into the nearest relatively safe area.

The United Nations has brought 80,000 tons of food to those who escaped Ethiopia to Somalia. This world coalition of nations assembled an aid package of \$120 million purely for the refugees.

But all this treats the effects, not the causes.

Instead of exercising authority to stop the fighting, the United Nations sponsors an aid package to alleviate the result of a conflict it cannot stop. Even more tragic, the 80,000 tons of food delivered via

the aid package barely provides each refugee a little more than a pound of food a day! Remember also a large part of the world that is sponsoring this aid is in the grip of a recession and drought or floods. What happens if the food supply were to be cut?

If you want to have human rights—the right to live peaceably, the right to practice your beliefs and to have a secure job—you have to live under a government that allows you these rights. If you live under a system that doesn't grant these freedoms or rights, you simply don't have them. This translates into a crisis: you either accept your loss of rights or leave the country and system behind—if you can—and become a refugee.

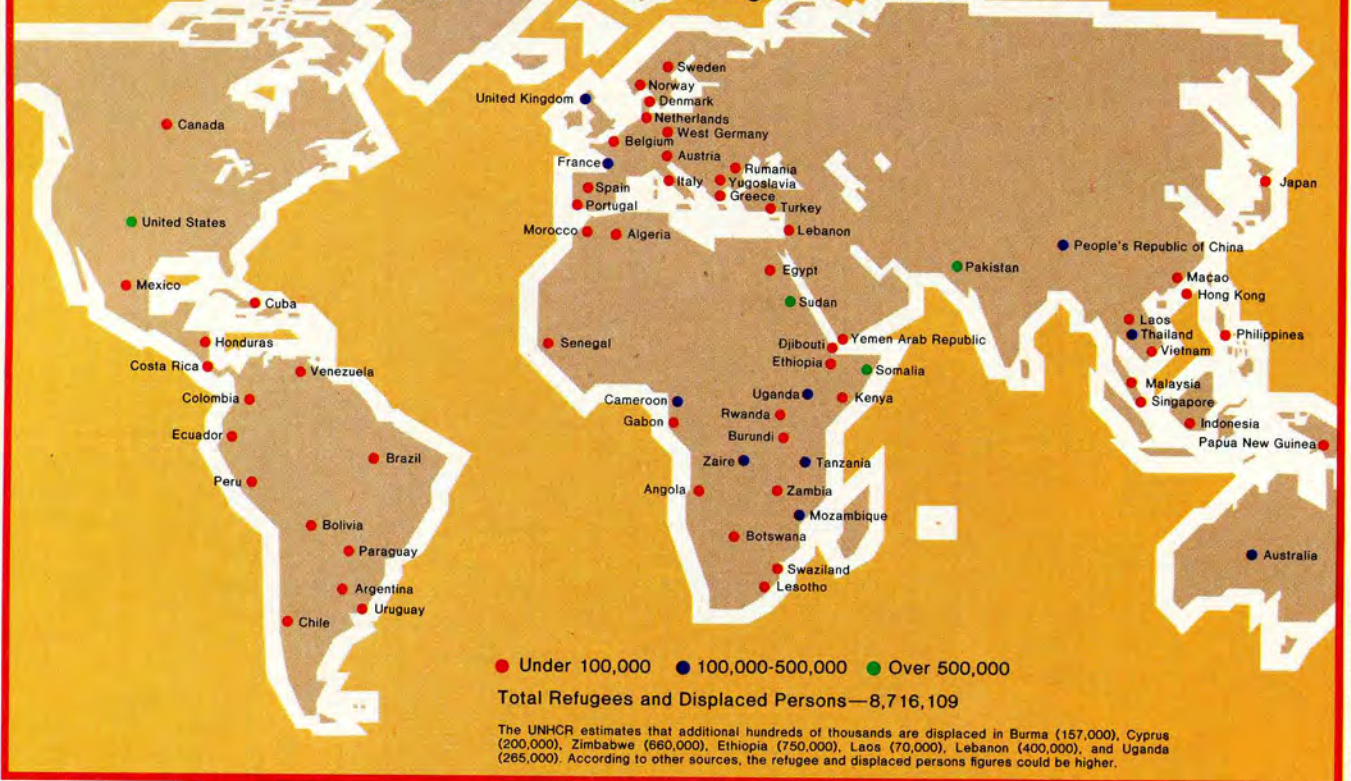
(Some take authority into their own hands, become revolutionaries and seek to topple the system. All too often the situation *worsens* and *more* refugees are created.)

The solution is then clear: man must stop thinking only in terms of treating effects by sending aid to displaced people—as needful as that is. Man must face the heart of the problem—the *self-centeredness of human government*, and acknowledge that a higher authority than man, a supreme authority above all governments of man must come.

That means the reestablishment of the government of the Creator God! What we have today are the governments of men guided by *self-interest*. Only *after* we reap the problem of human suffering in the form of refugees do nations extend a helping hand. But they seem powerless to deal with *causes*.

Listen to what the Bible says about self-centered human rule. Here is a classic illustration about the nature of human rule down through the ages: "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will . . . appoint *for himself* . . . some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. . . .

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Office's May 1980 Estimate of Refugees Worldwide



PT Map by Minette Collins

“He will take *the best* of your fields and vineyards and . . . give it to his officers and to his servants. He will take *your* menservants and maidservants and *the best* of your cattle . . . and put them to *his* work . . . And in that day you will cry out [in anguish] because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day” (I Samuel 8:10-18, Revised Standard Version).

This is a warning from God not only to ancient Israel (to whom it was spoken), but to *all people today* concerning the self-centered nature of human rule, whether it be authoritarian or bureaucratic.

The common denominator behind the worldwide refugee crisis is human government!

What *human* government can adequately handle the problems? To deal with the refugees, there must be a world government powerful and wise enough to resolve the causes of crises. The United Nations, as well as any

other organization, has proven it cannot cope with ultimate causes. These organizations of men are limited to treating the *results*, while they often, in ignorance, give rise to the very crises they try to solve. No human government exists on earth today that can resolve these human dilemmas. But there is one, about to be set up, that *can* and *will* bring about every solution.

Original Solution Rejected

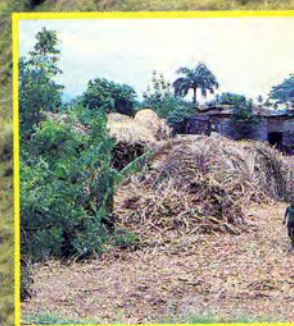
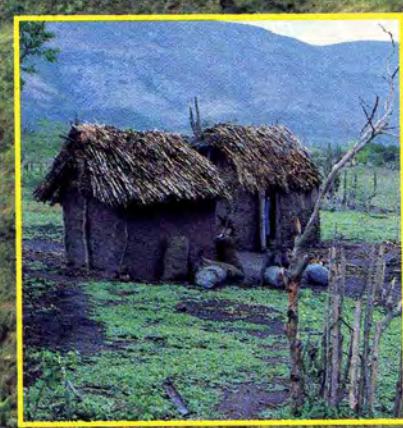
The real story of the refugee problem began nearly 6,000 years ago. The opportunity of administering a government capable of resolving every future crisis was offered by God to our original human father, Adam (Genesis 1:28). God's government had been taken from the earth by the spirit being Lucifer, who rejected the way of outgoing concern for others and instituted instead, the way of self-centeredness and competition (Isaiah 14:12-15; Jude 6). If Adam chose to accept this position, he would have

found the framework by which to prevent *thousands* of years in advance the contemporary refugee crises in Indochina, Africa and the Americas.

Adam had to qualify for the position. He had to overcome Satan and his own human nature (much of which comes from Satan himself! For an understanding of this vital subject, write for our reprint: “Human Nature—Did God Create It?”). Adam would have to embrace the government of God, which is the way of *give*.

If Adam rejected God and went Satan's way (taking the attitude of *get*), he would automatically bring himself and all of his ancestors under a government that is in direct opposition to God! In Genesis 3, we find that indeed, that is precisely what happened. Adam, who was *not* deceived into his actions as Eve was (Genesis 3:1-6), deliberately took of the tree of good and evil, which symbolized the choice be-

(Continued on page 45)



TO HEAL A NATION

Article & Photos by John Halford

LET'S USE OUR IMAGINATION—just for a minute—to project ourselves forward in history a few years. The government of God has been reestablished after tumultuous years of Satan's rule over the nations. People are recycling weapons of war for peaceful uses as Isaiah prophesied (Isaiah 2:4). And as they see the fruits of divine rule, they ask, "Teach us your ways, so that we can walk in your paths" (verse 3). The administrator of God's government, Jesus Christ, has been sending qualified beings, resurrected, of proven ability and loyalty to the shattered, but repentant survivors of the



HAITI—land of eroded natural beauty—patiently waits to be healed of its grinding poverty, diseases and voodoo. Concerned leaders struggle against insurmountable odds as the rural population toils to produce rice, maize, millet, bananas, sweet potatoes and yams from near-soil-less terraced hillsides. Huts dot the land as from another century. Yet smiles break forth on Haitian faces, foreshadowing the promised hope of that better Tomorrow's World prophesied in the Bible.

world—to help, to serve, to heal and to rule.

Now it is your turn. “Have thou authority over ten cities,” He had said (Luke 19:17). That could be quite a large piece of territory—a small nation even—maybe several million people. And they will be looking to you for help, guidance and leadership. The years of wrong living have taken their toll. Your people are illiterate, sick and ignorant of some of the most basic knowledge of health, diet and sanitation. Their land is worn out, the economy is a shambles. Frightened, beaten and discouraged—all they know is that there *has* to be a better way—and that *you* represent it.

How will you start? What decisions must be made?

Now let’s stop pretending, because we are dealing with reality.

Christ has promised a utopia, but not an instant one. A new world will be built from the rubble of the old. God, in His Work, does not do for man what man can do for himself. The millennial utopia will be built by human beings, working under the guidance and direction of the ruling Kingdom of God.

So let’s take a look at what may be needed to heal a nation. We will look at the problems of just one nation today—the Caribbean nation of Haiti. We will be realistic, but at the same time constructive and compassionate. Anyone can be critical, but not every problem a country has is always its own fault. Often people are victims of circumstances not of their own making. This is particularly true in the case of Haiti.

The people of Haiti have battled almost as long as the people of the United States to build a nation. In 1804 they declared their independence from their colonial masters, and became the second free nation of the Western hemisphere. But after nearly 200 years, they remain one of the poorest countries in the world. Why?

To understand, we must first

review briefly Haiti’s history.

From Riches To Rags

Christopher Columbus discovered Haiti in 1492. When he first saw the forest-clad mountains, the fertile lowlands, the abundance of fruit and minerals, he wrote, “I have found paradise.”

The Spanish returned the next year to colonize. The native Arawak Indians welcomed the conquistadors. They saw them as allies against their enemies, the Caribs, a cannibal tribe from whom the Caribbean sea takes its name.

But the Spanish had other ideas. They enslaved both Arawak and Carib to work the mines and plantations that they soon established. Within 40 years, the Indian population had almost disappeared—victims of sickness and forced labor.

So began the slave trade. In the next 300 years, countless thousands of slaves from West Africa were brought to work in Haiti.

The Spanish gave up the colony to the French in 1697. “Saint Domingue,” as the French called it, soon became the richest and most profitable colony in the 18th-century world. It was responsible for two thirds of France’s foreign trade. In the late 1700s, Saint Domingue was more profitable to the French treasury than were the entire 13 American colonies to Britain. But it was at a terrible cost.

While the merchants and plantation owners became rich, the slaves were condemned to life-long forced labor. They lived without hope. The slightest hint of resistance and rebellion was met with savage and barbaric punishment. Slavery, never pleasant, was seen at its worst in Haiti. Then at the end of the 18th century two events changed the course of Haitian history.

In 1776, Britain’s American colonies declared independence. Sixteen years later, in France, the peasants overthrew their monarchy and ruling classes, and declared the French Republic. France’s overseas colonies felt the

effect of the revolution. In Haiti the slaves moved against the Haitian aristocracy. A brilliant ex-slave named Toussaint L’Ouverture, led an army to victory, restored some order and set up a government modeled on revolutionary France. This remarkable man is rightly remembered as the “George Washington of Haiti.” Toussaint had the vision of a free Haiti, working in harmony and cooperation with the motherland.

But it was not to be.

Enter Napoleon

Napoleon Bonaparte came to power, and began to reestablish the French Empire. He sent an army of 40,000 to regain control over the colonies. Toussaint was arrested, and died later in jail. Napoleon’s forces had orders to reimpose slavery. But the Haitians had tasted freedom under Toussaint and were determined never again to become slaves.

After one of the most brutal military campaigns in history, with each side outdoing the other in ferocity and atrocity, Napoleon’s forces were defeated, and in 1804, the Republic of Haiti was proclaimed.

Napoleon had originally intended his army to subdue Haiti and then sail on to New Orleans. By having a force in the Mississippi Delta he hoped to dissuade the Americans from siding with the British in the then current wars. With the garrison force occupied in Haiti instead, Napoleon had to resort to other tactics to win American neutrality. His officials offered to sell *all* French possessions south of the Canadian border to the United States. The desperate fight for freedom by the ex-slaves of Haiti was directly instrumental in the United States becoming the beneficiary of the greatest real estate bargain in history—the “Louisiana Purchase.”

The new rulers of Haiti vowed that never again would they become a subject people. They organized the building of massive fortresses. One, “la Citadelle La Ferriere” in the

mountains overlooking the town of Cap Haitien, still stands today. Within its walls were stored ammunition and supplies for an army of thousands to withstand siege. Heavy cannon, captured from the French, were hauled up the precipitous mountainside and set on the walls, prepared to repel any invader.

But the guns of la Citadelle never fired a shot in anger. The world forgot about Haiti. By 1804, the mines were nearly worked out, and the fields, after generations of exploitation, were tired and unproductive. Since other, more lucrative colonies were available for the taking, the European powers let Haiti have her independence. Who cared!

Knowing nothing but slavery, the Haitian people were ill prepared for the responsibilities of nationhood. Only a handful were educated. There were hardly any who had any idea of how to govern. After centuries of servitude, the average Haitian wanted nothing more than to be left alone, to eke out a living on his small patch of ground.

Successive governments were more concerned with staying in power than building a nation. Disease, ignorance, superstition and poverty became the way of life. After years of abuse even the land gave up. Hunger and malnutrition added to the miseries of the place that Columbus had once described as "paradise."

For its first hundred years, the Western hemisphere's second republic slept fitfully—cut off from civilization and progress

Enter U.S. Marines

United States Marines, clutching the Monroe Doctrine, invaded Haiti in 1915. America was about to enter the First World War, and Haiti, guarding the eastern entrance to the newly opened Panama Canal, was considered too strategic to be allowed to fall under foreign influence.

For 19 years the Marines built roads, dug drains and organized schools and hospitals. But they never really came to grips with the little nation's chronic prob-

lems. An American observer, writing at the time, said: "Haiti's problem is not one that can be dismissed with a word or cleared up with the stroke of a pen. It is made up of all the accumulated evils and abuses of more than a hundred, fevered, retrograde years, years cursed with tyranny and bloodshed unimaginable, years in which all the plagues enumerated in the litany, of sedition, conspiracy, rebellion, plague, pestilence, famine, battle, murder and sudden death ravaged the body politic until the tortured tillers of the soil forsook their fields and fled to the hills" (*National Geographic*, August, 1916).

When the Marines left in 1934, Haiti drifted back to its relentless decay. Even as recently as 10 years ago, much of the world still had a hands-off policy toward Haiti.

Hope Reborn

Today, a more enlightened government is trying to solve the problems. Foreign investment is now actively encouraged, and new factories have created 130,000 desperately needed jobs. Labor is cheap (the minimum wage was raised recently—to \$2.20 a day), and the Haitians have a reputation for being hard workers. Tourism is increasing, and imported cars clog the streets of Port au Prince, the capital. There is even a stereo FM and a color television station. But such trappings are for the rich minority. The average Haitian is still a dirt-poor peasant, living in a mud hut, scratching a precarious living from a sad, worn out little plot of land.

Some reports would have us believe that all Haitians are just waiting for the chance to leave on a boat for Miami, Florida. That is not true.

Walk through the streets of Port au Prince for a few hours or drive out into the countryside. You will meet a warm, friendly, resilient and proud people, who love their country and who want to make the best of it.

They have become a remark-

able race, plodding on in hope, waiting for the day when things will get better.

And they may have to wait for the World Tomorrow. Even then, it won't be easy. The Haitians will need help in rebuilding their nation from the ground up. Yes, literally, the ground up. Let me show you what I mean.

The 120-mile journey from Port au Prince to Cap Haitien used to take 12 or 14 hours. Today, a good road, built with help from France, has reduced the journey to four. But now the traveler, driving in comfort through the majestic mountain scenery might not notice the evidence of one of the greatest problems that Haiti has to face.

Stop the car. Walk over to the side of the road and look down the precipitous hillside. Far below, a cluster of huts cling to the terraces. Small fields, planted with corn extend down farther into the valley and then up the mountain on the other side. It is a tranquil setting—makes a great photograph. But you are looking at a disaster.

Haiti is losing its most basic and vital resource—the soil. The nation is short of good farmland. As the population has grown (at six million, now the most densely populated nation in the hemisphere), so has the need for land to grow food. The peasants have been pushed farther and farther into the mountains. Trees have been felled, in the relentless quest for firewood and charcoal—Haiti's chief source of energy. Remember that for millions on earth today, the energy crisis means simply not enough firewood to cook with.

As the hillsides have been stripped of their trees, the rains have washed the precious top soil into the rivers and out to sea. As one writer put it, "The mountains of Haiti show their kneebones." Nobody knows for sure the full extent of the damage, but countless acres of precious land have been deforested and eroded. It will take decades of careful husbandry to repair the damage. In-

stead, the problem gets worse, as a hungry population mortgages the future to grow what they need for survival now. Centuries of exploitation will not be healed overnight. But God has so designed it that nature can heal itself—given time and a fair chance.

Haiti's land is going to need intensive care for a while if it is to be brought back to full productivity. The trees must be given time to cover the hills again, so that the rebuilt soil can gain a purchase on the rocks. Some small-scale experiments have shown that it can be done, but a hungry peasant is more concerned with his little plot of land today. He has neither the knowledge nor the means to plan the future. If Haiti's land is to be healed, some other provision will have to be made while it does, or the people will starve.

Breaking Poverty's Cycle

Haiti is just one of the many nations today that have become trapped in a vicious circle of poverty. How do you break the circle? It would take a central world government that knows what it is doing and that has the authority to act. There will have to be a new spirit among all nations, a spirit of giving and sharing. The richer, prosperous nations would have to make it a national policy to live by the golden rule—to do unto others as they would be done by. That—to put it mildly—is not the way of the world today.

A people that have lived for so long on the borderline of survival will also need help in the basic knowledge of health, hygiene and nutrition.

It does not take long for the visitor to Haiti to see that it is a young country—there are children everywhere. But too many of those children are sick. And thousands die every year, through malnutrition and related diseases—a much greater although less spectacular killer than outright starvation. The children in the rural areas are especially vulnerable.

A child will probably be born on the floor of a mud hut. The umbilical will be cut with a knife, old scissors or a stone, and the stump bound with unsterilized wire, grass or rags. The baby has an excellent chance of contracting tetanus and becoming another of the 15 out of every 100 newborn babies that die before the age of one. If he survives, he will have to fight off the gamut of communicable disease, such as typhoid, dysentery and yellow fever. His diet will be monotonous and deficient in body-building proteins.

When he learns to walk, he will almost certainly become infected by parasites that find their way into his body through his bare feet. He will sleep in a hut in constant contact with bacteria, coughed out by an adult member of the family, one of whom will almost certainly have tuberculosis.

As other brothers and sisters come along, he may even be farmed out to relatives for care. Should he survive childhood, his life expectancy will be only about 52 years. All this is unnecessary. Most of it could be prevented now.

God knows that a people who have lived in slavery need help in the most basic areas of health and hygiene. When He brought the people of Israel out from Egypt 3,500 years ago, He gave Moses laws that govern the physical environment.

Those laws, if obeyed, ensure a proper diet, pure water, clean bodies and hygienic dwellings. These laws, covering such basic subjects as what to eat and the proper disposal of human waste, are still in the Bible.

Many in the comfortable developed world scoff at them. They are casually dismissed along with the other Old Testament laws—those governing financial responsibility and the use of holy time. "Done away with," you will hear. "Christ nailed them to His cross." Yet it was the One who later was born as Jesus who led Israel out of slavery (I Corinthians 10:1-4),

and who gave them the health laws. That same Christ (you might want to think about Malachi 3:6) will soon lead all nations out of far worse bondage. He will rule them kindly but firmly for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-5). Most nations are going to once again need some very basic teaching.

Don't take lightly what you know of so-called Old Testament law. You may need it to help Christ heal a nation.

Needed: Genuine Education

One need that Haiti shares with many developing countries is adequate education. There are schools, of course, but not enough. And there is a shortage of qualified teachers, especially in the upper levels.

Young Haitians know that education is a key to breaking out of the poverty cycle. They are desperate for access to knowledge. This was brought home to me by a teenager who accosted me as I left my hotel in downtown Port au Prince.

"You want a guide for sight-seeing, sir."

"No thank you. I'm just going for a walk," I replied.

"Please, can I come with you."

He was very persistent. I didn't want a guide, but I could see that it was not going to be easy to turn him aside. I gave up. "How much?"

He looked embarrassed.

"How much do you charge for being a guide," I repeated.

He was genuinely hurt. "No charge, I just want to walk with you. To talk in English to you. I am trying to learn English. You can tell me how I am doing."

We walked through the streets of Port au Prince for perhaps two hours. He told me that he was the only one in his family going to school. It was a technical school and was very expensive. Several family members were working to support him, so that he could get an education and eventually a good job. He was using every opportunity to make the most of his chance.

In the World Tomorrow, everyone will have a balanced and adequate education and learn one language (Zephaniah 3:9). All nations will benefit. Haiti will benefit more than most.

Today the people of Haiti speak Creole. When you first hear it, Creole sounds like French—but is it? Over the centuries the people have mixed French with other European tongues and the original African dialects to make a language that is uniquely their own. All Haitians can speak Creole, but those with education have generally received their education in French, which is still the official language. Most books and magazines are in French—only a handful of books and periodicals are published in Creole each year. I managed to buy one and showed it to a Haitian friend. He couldn't understand it! Here was an educated man, a leader among his people, who through no fault of his own, could not read his native language.

This is a severe handicap to Haiti's efforts to increase education. It is not a unique Haitian problem—it affects many other peoples all over the earth. When the full benefits of one pure language are really understood, the world will welcome it with open arms.

The Problem of Voodoo

Finally, a word about religion. Although the official faith is Roman Catholicism, the popular faith of most Haitians is voodoo. Voodoo is a blend of African and traditional Christian beliefs. By practicing the rituals, believers try to become possessed by "gods." These "gods" it is believed control the rain, water, love, war, farming—and all other aspects of life.

The guide books told me that I could expect to be fascinated by the primitive rituals that have their roots deep in the pagan past.

I wasn't.

As Christ told the Samaritan woman (John 4:22), they worship they know not what. Voodoo is

the worship of demons, the sworn spirit enemies of all mankind. Voodoo ritual might bring in the tourist dollar, but it enslaves its believers in fear and superstition.

The Haitian people need true religion that will lead them to understand *who* the real God is and *why* He put them on earth. That truth *is* available to them, but so far only the few have found it.

The Kingdom of God will change that.

Transforming a Land

Even a short visit to Haiti leaves one impressed. Impressed with the magnificence of the scenery. But more than that, impressed with the people, who somehow shine through their poverty, maintaining courage, dignity and hope.

Their problems are typical of so many millions today—perhaps the majority of mankind. They live on the borderline of survival, in ignorance and poverty, when there is no need to live like that. There is a way of life that could have kept their homeland a paradise. They needed to know that way in 1804, when they took their first steps as an independent nation. But there was nobody to teach them. The people who should have known had long since forgotten it themselves.

God revealed that way in His guide book to living—the Bible. It is so much more than just an instruction book on religion. It can show the right approach to health, sanitation, family life, education, civil and criminal law, morality—a total way of life that *works*—and that would heal a nation. The information is still available today, but it is no use unless it is applied.

Late one night in Haiti, a friend and I were driving back to Port au Prince from the south coast. As we drove into Jacmel, a storm broke. The rain fell in what seemed like solid sheets of water, and within seconds, it seemed the road was inches deep. It was impossible to continue. Across

the town square, we could see the lights of a little restaurant through the rain.

The proprietor welcomed us. For half an hour or so, we sat at a rickety table, drinking the rich Haitian coffee and watching the storm through the restaurant's open front. The proprietor, seeing that I was a foreigner asked me what my job was.

"I work for a magazine, and I am also a minister," I said.

"What magazine?"

"*La Pure Verite*" (the French edition of *The Plain Truth*).

He had never heard of it. "But if you are a minister, monsieur, perhaps we can discuss some questions."

The man was quite an amateur philosopher. He told me he had once been devout, but was now an atheist.

I asked him what had made him give up his belief in God.

"Too many contradictions. So many churches, all the same book. And they all believe differently. For instance . . ." He rattled off several alleged biblical contradictions. "How can you take it seriously?" "I can explain that," I said, "but I'd need a Bible. Mine's in the car." I pointed through the deluge. "I don't suppose you have one."

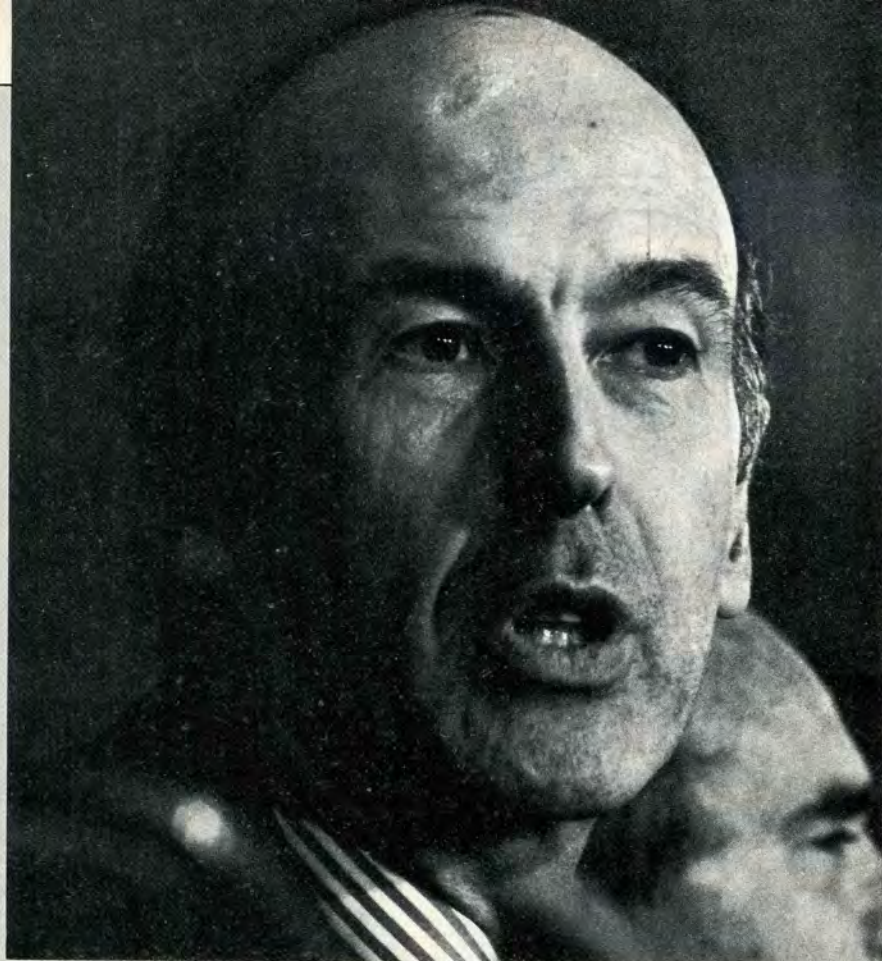
"That, monsieur, is where you are wrong." He disappeared into a large closet underneath his staircase, and after much rummaging emerged with the remains of an old French Bible. It had obviously been there for many years. He literally blew the dust off it (into my coffee) and we answered his questions.

At first he was skeptical, but after a while he became quite thoughtful.

"There is more in here than I thought," he said.

The rain stopped, and it was time to go. We bade him adieu. As we waded back to our car, the old Bible was returned to the closet. So near—and yet so far.

What about you? Are you readying yourself to help heal a nation? □



Henry Sturke—PT

“EUROPE MUST RESTORE ITS POWER AND INFLUENCE”

by Gene Hogberg

IN A SUMMER chock full of high-powered summit conferences, the five-day state visit of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to West Germany, beginning July 7, was an easy one, especially for Americans, to overlook.

President Giscard's trip to Bonn and other selected sites—the first official visit to Germany by a French president since Charles de Gaulle's historic fence-mending journey in 1962—was loaded with significance.

Call for “Independent Role” for Europe

Throughout his trip, President Giscard d'Estaing urged Western Europe to take a more indepen-

dent role in world affairs, implying that the region should loosen its dependence on the United States in political and military matters.

On the first night, at a banquet given in his honor in Bonn, the French leader said that France and West Germany must act together to prevent Europe from falling into political oblivion and restore its power and influence in world affairs. “If we succeed we will have rendered a great service to peace and the balance in the world, which, as we see every day, needs an independent and strong Europe,” he said.

Mr. Giscard drew attention to the significance, 18 years earlier, of President de Gaulle's tour of

reconciliation intended to heal the breach between Europe's most bitter foes of the past. He succeeded: the following year, West Germany and France signed their “Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation.”

Mr. Giscard spoke of a shared destiny between the trans-Rhine powers: “Never have our countries been so bound together. Never have we been so close.” West Germany and France have grown together, he said, and “now no longer aim cannons across the rivers at one another, but offer instead their hands in friendship,” adding that France and West Germany were “obliged to use our united strength to preserve Europe from a shadowy existence and return it to its proper role of might and importance in the world.”

Mr. Giscard concluded by raising his glass to “Franco-German friendship—may it serve not only peace but from now on also the influence of Europe in the world.”

Schmidt Cautious

In his reply to the speeches by President Giscard and other French officials, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt pointedly refrained from supporting an obvious French initiative for putting Western Europe on equal political footing with the United States and the Soviet Union.

West Germany is a nonnuclear power, dependent more so than France on the American nuclear umbrella, and therefore cannot afford to so easily express its desires for independence as can France.

Nevertheless, at a press conference concluding the visit, Mr. Schmidt supported closer Franco-German cooperation, saying he welcomed France's decision to modernize its independent nuclear forces. The move, he said, was in harmony with last December's NATO decision to deploy nearly 600 cruise missiles and Pershing II missiles in an effort to counter what military analysts say is a

massive Soviet buildup of intermediate-range missiles able to strike at any part of Western Europe.

While Mr. Schmidt generally listened cautiously, President Giscard's constant theme of European unity and renewed world influence won enthusiastic support from Mr. Schmidt's chancellor-challenger, Franz Josef Strauss. Mr. Giscard and Mr. Strauss met in historic Würzburg, a few hours away from Munich.

Mr. Strauss agreed with President Giscard that France and West Germany "shared a common destiny." This and the natural alliance between the two neighbors, he said, should cause no other country in Europe concern.

Mr. Giscard, incidentally, was the first French head of state to visit Würzburg since the Emperor Napoleon. While there, he recalled that Charlemagne had also preceded him and "looked upon its walls."

On the second day of the state visit, perhaps the most symbolic gesture of harmony between the two powers was made. The two heads of government inspected German and French troops at a joint parade in Baden-Baden. Baden-Baden is the site where about 50,000 French troops are stationed on West German soil.

Both statesmen pointed to Franco-German military cooperation as a demonstration of the friendship between the two countries, which the president's visit was intended to underline. For those with a sense of history, the parade of the two armies, marching shoulder to shoulder, was a truly historic event.

The Franco-German alliance—the absolutely essential ingredient to any concept of European unity revealed in biblical prophecy—has been building slowly for some time. But the lack of contemporary American leadership in the Western alliance is now forcing the two competitors together, for mutual protection, more than ever before. □

Habit?

(Continued from page 17)

for the first time, "What is the true purpose of life?" You will need to understand what character really is and its importance in successful living.

Character is coming to know right from wrong, good from bad. It means admitting when you are wrong and turning from the wrong. It means determining, despite all difficult circumstances, to do the right instead of the wrong. That means a person must mobilize all available resources to conquer a bad habit. And here is where the power of the Spirit of God comes in to overcome bad physical and spiritual habits or sins. Overcoming bad habits is one of life's supreme challenges!

You have to ask yourself squarely, "Is being a slave to a bad habit—damaging my mental or physical health, being obnoxious to my neighbor—really the way God wants me to live?"

"... glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's [not truly yours]," reveals Scripture.

Some may say, "But my bad habits are not my fault!" Perhaps that is true, particularly if patterns started in early years of life under wrong influences or from ignorance.

But the fact is, there was a time when habits were within our control, but we *permitted* them to reach a point where they became out of control.

There are all kinds of annoying habits. Perhaps not all are necessarily great faults, but then again, maybe they could be. Such could be chewing food with one's mouth open or talking with food in one's mouth. Frequent body odor in social situations from not enough bathing reveal a lack of sense of decorum or wrong concern for oneself or others. These become sin if you contemptuously refuse to change them after you realize them.

There are some bad habits that are outright sin.

"Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

Certain individuals develop the habit of lying, of exaggerating or cursing.

Human Power Not Enough

The Bible reveals all of the essential laws of overcoming bad habits mentioned in this article.

That is because the true way of life—the way of giving—is not just "accepting the Lord in your hearts," as many religious leaders emphasize. Living right before God *is* overcoming wrong habits of acting, thinking and feeling. It is developing—with God's help and His written revelation—sound mental, emotional and spiritual traits of character.

"To him that overcometh [sinful pulls and habits] will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame [temptations to sin], and am set down with my Father in his throne," said Jesus Christ (Revelation 3:21).

"Be not deceived, God is not mocked," emphasizes Scripture, "for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

We sow bad habits, we reap sickness, sorrow and eventually death.

The ultimate author of all bad habits is Satan the devil. Some deny his existence. But he is very real. He has influenced the way this world has lived throughout history. The apostle Paul put it plainly in Ephesians 2:2-3:

"... in time past ye [before repentance] walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince [Satan] of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

Satan broadcasts into human minds wrong moods, feelings and ideas to which humans can respond.

With what results? "Among whom also we *all* had our [con-

duct] in times past in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind . . ." (verse 3).

But God calls some in every age to a life of overcoming these lusts and desires. For these called out ones, the change process (repentance and conversion) is to be so far-reaching that only the power of God joined with human will and effort can produce a new man or woman.

Notice the way to begin breaking bad habits:

"Let the wicked *forsake his way*, and the unrighteous man his *thoughts*, and let him return unto the Lord . . ." (Isaiah 55:7).

"Repent," said Peter in Acts 2:38. That means a change in lifestyle and an about-face in thinking. For a wholly repentant individual it means demonstrating total surrender to God by being immersed in water, or baptism. This pictures the death of the old man and his wrong habitual ways, and the emergence of the new man—one desirous of forsaking his old habits and of totally going God's way. (Write for our free explanatory booklet *All About Water Baptism*.)

It Takes God's Power

Then God promises the gift of the Holy Spirit to help a newly converted person understand right and wrong and develop right spiritual habits and attitudes.

Converted humans then begin a life-long process in which they are to, "... put off concerning the former [conduct of] the old man [the old sinful habits], which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed [note, this is a process] in the spirit of your mind; and . . . put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24).

"Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness [foul habits] of the flesh and spirit, perfecting [again, a process] holiness in the fear of God," (II Corinthians 7:1).

Many bad habits and emotions are too deep, too powerful, to be overcome by human power alone.

Why? Because they are spiritual in nature. God has set in motion spiritual laws (Romans 7:14), and they cannot be fully fulfilled (as good habits) by human power and effort alone.

In addition, Satan and his evil host of fallen angels (demons) work to discourage humans from changing their wrong habits or sins (see Ephesians 6:10-18). And social organization and customs often militate against making such changes.

God knows all these difficulties. That is why human beings are offered such fantastic rewards of rulership in God's Kingdom for overcoming.

God offers "exceeding great and precious promises [His Holy Spirit among them]; that by these ye might be partakers of the *divine nature*, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through *lust*" (II Peter 1:3-4).

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal [or flesh-powered], but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations [or reasonings], and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:4-5).

Scripture commands, "... be not conformed to this world [with its wrong outlook and habits], but be ye transformed by the *renewing* of your mind . . ." (Romans 12:2).

Character development involves *meditating* on doing what is right. The book of Psalms is full of material on which to meditate. See also a grand summation of what our minds should center upon in Philippians 4:8,9. Character involves *doing* what is right, not just agreeing with what is right. If you are a hearer but not a doer you deceive yourself (James 1:22).

Overcoming some bad habits will be possible only through humbly yielding to God and asking Him for your needs *daily*—like getting strength from eating food several times a day.

"... work out your salvation

with [godly] fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to *will* and to *do* of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12-13).

But what if you slip? Get totally discouraged and momentarily give up? That's the attitude Satan would like you to fall into!

"If we confess our sins [falling into bad spiritual habits that violate God's Law], He [God] is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

In this human life, you may never totally overcome all bad habits or sinful pulls. But God wants to know the direction you have irrevocably chosen to go in your mind and life.

When need be, overcomers are instructed to seek help and encouragement from proper sources: "... if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual [that is, those more mature in outlook and knowledge], restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:1-2).

A mature person realizes humans are creatures of habits—good habits, bad habits. He never condones bad habits. He knows *he* cannot change anyone who does not want to change them. He will, however, try to set an example by overcoming bad habits in his life. He will encourage others who are trying to change bad habits in their lives, realizing given similar circumstances or experiences he could have similar problems.

All of our habits—whether acting, thinking or feeling habits—are "at first cobwebs, then cables."

But the miracle of conversion and a godly life and true spiritual understanding is that wrong "cables" can be snapped—their dominance broken in one's life. New and right habits of thinking, acting and feeling are developed in their place.

What kind of habits do you instill in your life? □

What Our Readers Say

Chemical and Biological Warfare

Your article, "The Specter of Poison Gas Warfare," June-July, 1980, issue of *The Plain Truth* indeed was very interesting. I would like to add my comments regarding the subject.

Having been an instructor for the military in Chemical and Biological Agent Weapons Systems from March, 1968, to late 1970, we knew in 1968 that the U.S.S.R. had a chemical agent capability and a potential biological agent capability with the possibility that either or both could be employed in warfare. We were well aware that the Soviets were very serious in their training of chemical warfare using the actual agents in the field as their troops went about their normal duties while being exposed to the agents. During warfare, it is expected that the Soviets could employ the incapacitating chemical agent "BZ."

The U.S. had no standard Biological Agent Weapons System; however, the capability of employing incapacitating or lethal biological agents was a possibility until 1969 when President Nixon ordered all "inventory" stocks of microorganisms and the delivery systems destroyed. We were well aware that a possible enemy such as the U.S.S.R. had a potential biological agent capability and very likely would use it to his advantage.

Now what about the possibility of causing disease in plant life? In this application antiplant agents called fungi would be employed. Fungi includes molds, mildews, smuts, mushrooms, toadstools, puffballs and yeast. These agents achieve their results by producing disease in the host plants so that the grain yield is greatly reduced, even to the extent that it is not sufficient to harvest. It would be possible to infect, let's say, a wheat field on the upwind side and under desirable conditions the anti-

plant agent will be carried by the wind from plant to plant eventually affecting virtually every stalk of wheat, destroying same. The disease spreads extremely fast and by the time it is discovered the irreversible damage is beyond control. This system of plant destruction can be applied to many, many types of plant life over thousands of acres and theoretically reduce the harvest substantially.

We have known for years the potential of chemical warfare. Is it possible a potential enemy could create a man-made pestilence of famine?

Don K. Colson
Sierra Vista, Arizona

Pro...

No magazine in our entire country has pointed out so clearly and convincingly the terrifying dangers mankind faces from our new weapons of war as has *The Plain Truth*.

The masses of people everywhere want nothing so much as to live their short lives in peace but we have allowed the hate merchants, warmongers and munition profiteers to take over and now we face a World War III which could kill every human being on earth.

Unless somehow people everywhere can be informed and really aroused we truly face an ominous future.

Charles C. Lockwood
Bradenton, Florida

...Con

Maybe what you say is true but I see no need to constantly indulge in horror stories concerning things over which I have no control.

Ed Kilber
Artesia, New Mexico

Prisons

I am in receipt of June/July, 1980, *The Plain Truth* and was pleased to

see some comment on the state of the prison system in the United States.

The researched processes of the criminal mind at a distant view for analysis do nothing to assist the prisoner to know that someone cares and certainly doesn't make for interesting reading material for those presently incarcerated.

Danna Sickler
Winter Park, Florida

Warmest greetings to you all. At the present time I am an inmate here at Jackson Prison in Michigan. The articles in the June/July issue on "Understanding the Criminal Mind" and "Are Prisons the Biblical Way to Deal with Crime?" are truly the most enlightening articles I have ever read. I speak as one that has been taken advantage of by a man-made system that doesn't even begin to understand God's way of doing things. It's just so wonderful to know that soon our Lord and Savior will be returning to this earth, to do away with such a poor system of doing things. A system that makes laws, just to break other laws. Laws that wouldn't be needed in the first place if mankind would just obey "God's Eternal Law." Please keep up the good work. You're all in my prayers and thoughts.

C.E.
Jackson, Michigan

Madame Chiang Kai-Shek

I want to express my deep appreciation for your recent article on Madame Chiang Kai-Shek. Not many have the understanding or the honor to recognize the greatness of this noble stateswoman and what she did and strove to do for her country and the world.

Rodney Whitt
York, Kentucky



Star Wars was the most successful movie in history. And now its sequel, The Empire Strikes Back, will probably be even more successful. Millions have become engrossed in this science fiction story. Yet the reviewers missed the most important aspects of this Hollywood blockbuster.

by Jeff Catkins

NEVER have two movies made the kind of deep, lasting impression as have *Star Wars* and its sequel, *The Empire Strikes Back*. Many viewers have gone back again and again—some literally, *hundreds* of times.

People waited—without complaining—for hours in long lines to see *Star Wars*. And by the time *The Empire* was to be released, people were waiting in line for *days*. One movie critic—John Simon of the *National Review*—observed that *Star Wars* and its sequel have turned into a "religious cult."

What could cause such fanatic devotion? The *Star Wars* movies are probably the best science fiction films—from a technical point of view—ever made. And yet other movies have had special effects almost as good. Other movies have had many of the same dramatic elements, and perhaps better acting. Yet they have not had even a fraction of the impact.

Why?

The reviewers, for their part, can point only to technical reasons. The special effects *are* spectacular. The music—performed by the London Symphony Orchestra—is positive, exhilarating, triumphal and uplifting. The good guys have a *clear, positive victory*—at least in the first movie. And

Photos courtesy Lucasfilm Ltd.
Illustrated by Ed Scarsbrick

The background of the poster is a deep black space filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes. On the left side, a large, metallic, blue-tinted structure, which is the nose and cockpit area of the USS Enterprise, curves into the frame. The Enterprise is illuminated from within, showing glowing orange and yellow lights. The title "STAR TREK THE MOTION PICTURE" is written in a large, bold, 3D font that appears to be floating in space. The letters are a vibrant orange-red color with a yellow-to-white gradient, giving them a metallic, three-dimensional appearance. The text is slightly tilted and overlaps the Enterprise structure.

STAR TREK THE MOTION PICTURE

What the Critics Didn't Tell You

both movies are viewed as family entertainment.

But these factors do not explain the whole reason for the popularity of the *Star Wars* movies. The critics have missed the most important reason for their amazing drawing power.

Plainly, the scriptwriters of the two *Star Wars* movies—especially, in the latest one—appear to have ransacked the Bible for plot and dialogue ideas!

Yet there is nothing that has been published concerning the movie makers that suggests that they were consciously putting Bible ideas in the script. They certainly have used other sources.

Nevertheless, *the movies are full of biblical inferences*. These inferences give the movies a “depth” lacking in almost all other blockbuster science fiction movies. Readers of *The Plain Truth* who have also seen the *Star Wars* movies will almost certainly have noticed some of them.

But just because biblical themes have found their way into the *Star Wars* movies doesn't mean they have always been presented biblically. Sometimes they have. Sometimes they have not. Now is the time to show where.

Warning—this article will also reveal much of the plot of the latest of the two movies, *The Empire*—including the surprise twist at the end. Most people who are going to see the movie have already seen it at least once. But if you *are* still planning to see it for the first time *and* you still want to be surprised—then read this article later. We're very sure you'll want to read this article afterwards. For those of you who haven't seen and don't plan to see the movie, read on. You'll be amazed by the exciting, dramatic, intergalactically spectacular

themes which in part parallel the biblical revelation.

The Real Star Wars

The first circumstance you notice about *Star Wars* and *The Empire* is the setting. “A long time ago in a galaxy far away. . .”

And what happened so long ago? A series of intergalactic battles between forces of Good and Evil for control of the universe.

This is the first inference of a biblical theme. The Bible reveals that *a long time ago* there was a tremendous intergalactic struggle between Good and Evil. Indeed, it was a literal “star war”—both because it took place out in the universe and because it was



“And there was war in heaven . . .” Evil lord Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker battle it out. But the real battle is spiritual. Luke is about to be tempted with promises of rulership if he will join forces with Vader.

fought between “stars”—a Bible symbol for angels (Job 38:7).

In the real story, a great created spirit being we call Lucifer, was given dominion over earth. He became covetous of more power and organized a rebellion among a third of the angels against the Almighty Creator God: “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God . . .” (Isaiah 14:13).

Lucifer's rebellion is also mentioned in the book of Revelation, in a verse that alludes both to his original intergalactic assault on God's throne and to a contemporary battle:

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought

against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels” (Revelation 12:7).

The original attack must have been a spectacular, dramatic, titanic conflagration! On the other hand, the real original star war did *not* take place in a “galaxy far, far away” but in our own. Lucifer had been put on earth. He intended to extend his area of authority to the rest of the universe. He suffered utter defeat.

He was cast back from the heaven of God's throne down to earth (Luke 10:18) where he is in power to this day, the “god of this world” (II Corinthians 4:4).

The Present Evil Empire

The next circumstance you notice about the two *Star Wars* movies is that the bad guys are in charge. According to the basic plot, the galaxy had been ruled by a republic, whose governors were an order of knights called “Jedi.” Eventually the citizens became apathetic and allowed Senator Palatine, an evil sorcerer, to make himself Emperor. The Emperor turned the galaxy into a tyrannical empire.

The basic parallel here, of course, is not with the Bible but with ancient Rome, which was subverted from within, and changed from a republic to an empire. But there is a Bible counterpart as well.

The earth, like the galaxy in *Star Wars*, is now directly ruled by the “bad guys.” Lucifer, now Satan, remains with the same territorial power that he had when he was first under God's government—ruler of the earth (II Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2). But at the same time, by turning from God's way, Satan has taken away the administration of the government of God from the earth. The true government of God is now administered by God outside

the earth and in God's Church on the earth. The rest of the earth is, as one writer once put it, "enemy occupied territory."

In the *Star Wars* movies, the heroes fight and war to reclaim the galaxy for the *prior legitimate ruling authority*. Today, true Christians hasten to do the Work of God to pave the way for the *restoration of the government of God* to the whole earth. Still, the parallel is not exact. True Christians do not physically battle to reclaim God's government, as the heroes of *Star Wars* do to reclaim theirs. Christ said, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight" (John 18:36).

That Old Serpent, Darth Vader

One of the reasons for the popularity of *Star Wars* and *The Empire* is its villain, Darth Vader. Vader is the true "mystery" figure in both movies. According to the plot, Vader was once a great Jedi knight himself, or was at least in training to be one. But Vader chose evil—and joined the Emperor and betrayed the other Jedi knights,

who lost their lives in his trap. One Jedi escaped, however—Obi-Wan ("Ben") Kenobi (who is played by Alec Guinness)—and in a fight with Vader, Kenobi wounded him to the point where Vader must forever after wear a grotesque black breath mask. (Vader resembles a figure from a 1940s political cartoon—the face of a human skull with a Nazi-style helmet.)

You can always tell Vader's presence by a low hissing sound—because of the breath mask he must wear. The hissing sound associates Vader with a serpent. Likewise, the Bible uses a serpent as a symbol of Satan. Revelation 12:9 is very plain:

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan. . . ."

But the parallels between Vader and Satan don't end there. Like Satan, who once occupied a high position at God's headquarters and was highly placed in authority under God's government (Ezekiel 28:14), Vader was once on the side of the "good guys," as either a Jedi knight or a potential Jedi knight. Like Satan, Vader is a creature of blackness. His costume is completely black. His private quarters is a black spherical chamber. His spaceship is black. For its part, the Bible describes Satan as the "power of darkness" (Colossians 1:13), whom the Bible contrasts with God, who "is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5-7).



"Cast out all hatred and anger." Yoda, an 800 plus year old "Jedi master" instructs disciple Luke in the ways of being a "Jedi knight." Some of Yoda's teachings agree with the Bible. Some of them do not.

(Of course, in *Star Wars*, the heroes are almost always wearing white. Notice Revelation 7:14, where the "good guys" are "arrayed in white robes.")

Vader also displays the characteristics of the devil. He is cruel and unmerciful. In the first movie, he works to destroy whole planets in his efforts to crush the opposition to the Empire. He terrorizes the crew of his own ship. He is unforgiving. Every time there is a military failure by the Emperor's forces, Vader uses his magical powers to choke the commander to death. At other times, Vader breaks promises. Part of one verse in the Bible seems almost written with Vader in mind:

"... covenantbreakers, without

natural affection, implacable, unmerciful" (Romans 1:31).

And, like Satan (Genesis 3:1) Vader is also very subtle. (We'll see how subtle later.) However, while Satan is the chief prince of evil, ruling over his minions of demons, in *The Empire*, Vader acknowledges that the Emperor is his superior. And, unlike the devil, who can appear as an "angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14) and thereby "deceive the whole world" (Revelation 12:9), Vader deceives no one. There is just no *mistaking* that Vader is evil.

Ashes Under Foot

There is another interesting thing about Vader. In the first movie,

Ben Kenobi—now an old man who has escaped into the wilderness and living like John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1) tells Vader in a lightsaber duel that if "my blade finds its mark, you will cease to exist. But if you can cut me down, I will only become more powerful."

Kenobi seems to be saying that good Jedi knights do not die forever, but Vader will—which is why he is desperately

dependent on his breathing system. Kenobi is then slain by Vader, but his body disappears into thin air, his clothes collapsing to the floor. Later, in the climactic battle scene, Kenobi appears in vision to his friend Luke while he is piloting his space fighter.

This whole scheme is partly correct and partly not. It is correct in that the wicked do not go to an ever-burning hell, but simply turn to ashes (Malachi 4:3). It is also correct in that Kenobi's statement, "If you cut me down, I will only be more powerful," harkens back to Christ's statement about himself, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up," (John 2:19). Vader does destroy Kenobi and Kenobi later appears, "raised up."

But the scheme is incorrect to the degree it implies that Jedi knights, once they die, *immediately* live again. In reality, the “good guys” who die, unless they are still living at Christ’s return, await a *resurrection* before they live again (see generally I Corinthians 15).

Young Men and Visions

In the opening scenes of *The Empire*, the young hero, Luke Skywalker, is captured while on patrol by a native animal on the ice planet where the anti-Empire alliance has set up base. Luke’s friend, Han Solo, a swashbuckling freighter pilot who spent most of the first movie talking about how he only cared for himself, now has a changed attitude. He goes out to “lay down his life for his friend” (John 15:13) in the blizzard in order to rescue Luke. Just before Han arrives, Ben Kenobi dressed like a figure from the Old Testament, appears to Luke in a vision. Kenobi tells Luke that he must journey to the planet Dagobah, to be trained as a Jedi knight.

The scene is remarkable for several reasons. It is a reference to Joel’s prophecy that in the last days “young men shall see visions” (Joel 2:28). It also reminds you of the biblical instances when an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to flee into Egypt (Matthew 2:13) and when God told Abraham to go to a far country where God would give him further instruction (Genesis 12:1). But most significantly, it reminds you of when Christ appeared to His disciples after He had been killed and resurrected and told them where to go and what to do (Matthew 28:19).

After escaping the ice planet, now invaded by the Empire’s forces, Luke journeys in his small fighter-type spacecraft to Dagobah, where he is to meet Yoda, who is to instruct him in the ways of being a Jedi knight.

The Overcomer

Dagobah, it turns out, is a swamp planet. Luke himself describes it as a “slimy mudhole.”

You have to wonder—if Yoda is so wise—why does he live amidst such gloomy, slimy filth and squalor? Here it appears that the scriptwriters have made an error common in this world’s religions. They seem to be associating poverty and squalor with godliness or spirituality. (God, in reality, is a multibillionaire heavenly Father who lives in great light and splendiferous beauty. Read the description of God’s throne in Revelation 4!) About the best you can say for Yoda’s living on Dagobah is that he can say, as did the apostle Paul, “I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content” (Philippians 4:11).

One of the most important parts of Luke’s training to be a Jedi is learning to *overcome his own nature*. In the main scene Yoda instructs Luke to go into a cave—but without his *weapons*. Lacking faith, Luke takes his weapons anyway. In the cave he meets the image of Darth Vader, whom he beheads in a “light-saber” duel. The mask on the head dissolves away to reveal Luke’s *own face!*

The message is clear. Luke must learn to overcome himself. As the Proverbs say, “he that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city” (Proverbs 16:32).

But another message comes through as well. Luke’s bout in the cave is *no victory*—he had been revealed to be *like Darth Vader!* Darth Vader was still a part of Luke’s nature just as the devil’s attitudes remain part of human nature because of the devil’s continual “broadcasting” through the air his spiritual attitudes. Luke’s traumatic experience was because he brought his physical weapons with him. As the apostle Paul clearly said, “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal [physical]” (II Corinthians 10:4).

Moving Mountains

In another scene, one that does not adhere so closely to the Bible, Yoda is teaching Luke to be able to use a mysterious power called “the Force” to move objects. In this case, the object is his crashed spacecraft, now half sunk in a

swamp. By concentrating, Luke is able to move the craft out of the water a little bit, then takes his eyes off his goal, and it sinks back down.

The scene is a takeoff of Matthew 14:25-32, where Christ walked on water, and helped one of His disciples, the young brash Peter, to walk on water also. But when Peter—like Luke in the movie—took his eyes off the goal, things started sinking.

The scene is also a reference to developing the kind of faith that can “move mountains” (I Corinthians 13:2). When, after Luke fails to raise his craft, his teacher Yoda does, Luke exclaims, “I don’t believe it.”

“And that,” says Yoda, “is why you fail.”

The problem with the scene is that moving objects by mental power—scientists call it “telekinesis” is *not* something you want to fool around with. To be frank, ministers in God’s Church have found that in those rare, rare occasions when objects do actually float through the air, a demon at that time and place is performing a petty miracle.

Yoda’s advice to Luke is a mixture of truth and error. When Yoda also tells Luke not to “choose the quick and easy path—as Vader did,” it is like Christ telling His disciples, “Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat” (Matthew 7:13).

Yoda also warns Luke against the way of anger, hate and fear. Yoda tells Luke “Cast out all hatred and anger,” and “anger, anger, fear, aggression! . . . Easily they flow . . . quick to join in a fight. Beware, beware, beware of them. A heavy price is paid for the power they bring.” This advice is in accord with what the apostle Paul instructed: “But now ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice . . .” (Colossians 3:8).

But there are also grave errors in the advice that Luke receives from Yoda. Yoda implies humans have an immortal soul: “Luminous beings we are, not this crude mat-

ter,” Yoda says, pinching Luke’s skin. Wrong! “The soul that sinneth, it shall die,” declares God’s Word (Ezekiel 18:4). The immortal soul is a false doctrine. Indeed, it was the very lie that Satan used to deceive Eve in the Garden of Eden—“Ye shall not surely die” (Genesis 3:4).

At another point, Yoda stresses virtues to Luke that are more appropriate for eastern or oriental religions than for true Christians. Be “passive” instructs Yoda.

You can find teachings like that in Hinduism and Zen, but you can’t in your Bible.

The Force

One of the central themes of both *Star Wars* and *The Empire* is something called “the Force.” The Force is impersonal. It pervades the universe. It is a source of great power. In this sense, the force is made to resemble the Holy Spirit of God, which is not a person but a divine, spiritual “force.” The scriptwriters of *Star Wars* would have, unlike many Christians in this world, no problem understanding the nature of God’s Spirit and the reason why God is not a trinity.

Moreover, like God’s Spirit, the Force *is* manifested by its fruits. When Luke asks, “How am I to know the good side from the bad?” Yoda replies, “You will know when you are at peace...” Likewise, one of the fruits of God’s Spirit is peace (Galatians 5:22).

But there are also ways in which the “Force” in *Star Wars* is *not* like God’s Spirit. According to the man who wrote the story, George Lucas, “The Force is neutral, and it can be used for good or evil.” God’s Spirit most assuredly *cannot* be used for evil.

There is also a “dark side” to the Force that has seduced Darth Vader and the Emperor. But there is *no* “dark side” to God’s Spirit: “God is light and in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). In *Star Wars*, the force originates with life. Yoda says, “Life creates it and makes it grow.” But God’s Spirit *comes from* God—it is a manifestation of His Personality

and Omnipotence, not that of His creation, but of Himself.

But perhaps the most disturbing problem with the *Star Wars* movies presentation of the Force is that a number of times, Luke’s teachers advise him to “trust” the Force and give up conscious control to it. In the climactic battle scene in the first movie, for example, Kenobi appears to Luke in a vision and tells him to let the Force take over and fight the battle for him. Complying, Luke switches off the targeting device on his spacecraft. At another point, Yoda tells Luke, as Luke learns the “ways of the Force” to “let yourself go.”

You should be able to spot the danger here! Giving yourself over to a “force,” as ministers of God’s Church can tell you, raises the possibility of demon possession. The point is—if you’re willing to surrender conscious control over your own mind and will—something else may decide to fill the void. (Matthew 12:44-45 alludes to this principle.)

Of course, there *are* similarities with true principles here also. It is not our own personal efforts that ultimately bring victory, but the work of God’s Spirit: “Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit,” (Zechariah 4:6) proclaims God.

Nevertheless, the real danger in some of the *Star Wars* movies about giving oneself over to the Force cannot be overemphasized.

The Way of a Fool

Luke has not yet completed his training as a Jedi knight when he receives a premonition that his friends are in danger. He is not yet finished—and Yoda warns him not to go. But Luke—acting like a fool whose “way” is “right in his own eyes” (Proverbs 12:15), goes anyway. As it turns out, he is to suffer for his foolishness.

Luke’s premonition is the product of a trap, set by Darth Vader, who has captured his friends in a cloud city on another planet and is using them as bait for Luke. Luke arrives and soon confronts Darth Vader in a one-on-one sword fight with light sabers.

But Luke has not yet overcome his human nature. He gives way to his own hatred of Vader, who, in the earlier movie, ordered Luke’s stepfather and mother destroyed while Luke was away from home. Vader uses this fact to stir up hatred and resentment inside Luke. Luke gives in.

Result of Luke’s own nature overcoming him? The battle goes against him. At first he had the upper hand—soon he is driven back.

Vader taunts Luke to give in to the dark side of the Force by giving way to his hatred.

Suddenly all sorts of metal debris rush at him. His attempt to use the Force for aggression against Vader backfires.

In the Bible, there is a similar incident: “Certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth” (Acts 19:13). But, since like the movie’s Luke, *they were not yet qualified to do what they were trying to do*, their efforts backfired on them. Just as all sorts of debris came flying back at Luke, so in the Bible, “the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded” (verse 16).

More Subtle Than Any Villain in the Movies

While Vader gets the upper hand, he doesn’t use the opportunity to kill Luke. Vader wants to recruit Luke to the Emperor’s side.

(Warning—the next five paragraphs reveal the big surprise in the movie.)

The audience has never met Luke’s father. Luke has been told by both Ben Kenobi and Yoda that his father was once a powerful Jedi knight. In fact in the earlier movie Ben Kenobi even went so far as to say, unmistakably, that it was Darth Vader who betrayed and murdered Luke’s father.

Vader fights Luke out to the edge of a precipice in the cloud

city. Luke is hurting and bleeding. He has just lost a hand in the sword fight.

"Obi-Wan never told you what happened to your father, did he?" asserts Vader. Luke yells, "He told me enough! He told me you killed him."

Then Vader delivers his masterstroke.

"No. I am your father." (The audience usually gasps at this point.)

Star Wars and *The Empire* fans will have to wait for the next movie to find out whether the scriptwriters will make Vader's assertion true or whether it was only a lie used by Vader to mentally overcome Luke. Just because Vader says it doesn't mean it's true. If Vader is anything like Satan, he is a liar (John 8:44). The only proof that Vader can show Luke of the assertion is Luke's *feelings* at the time, and feelings are never reliable.

Nevertheless, it is, as one magazine said, a "lulu of a twist," to have the movie's hero be the son of the villain!

The biblical parallel is that those who are part and parcel of this world—Satan's world—as Christ told His detractors—"are of *your father the devil*, and the lusts of your father ye will do." Elsewhere, the enemies of God are called the "children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2, 5:6; Colossians 3:6).

Vader's attempt to subvert Luke this way is, well, "satanic" is the best word for it. It is very subtle. (Genesis 3:1: "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field. . .") It strikes Luke right when he is weakest. It is also the way Satan operated with Eve. In the Garden of Eden, Satan *directly contradicted* what Eve had been *previously told* by God. Eve tells Satan that God said that eating the one particular tree in the garden would cause death. Satan directly contradicted her: "Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:3-4). In doing so, Satan planted the seeds of doubt in Eve's mind.

Likewise, Vader succeeds in getting Luke to *doubt* the things

that his teachers have previously told him.

The Temptation of Luke Skywalker

The scene at the precipice in the cloud city is important for another reason. It itself is a parallel to one of the most important parts of the Bible, albeit with an important difference.

When Christ was on earth, one of His tasks was to *qualify* to replace Satan as the ruler of the world. The key test was the temptation of Christ by Satan at the beginning of Christ's ministry.

Like Luke in *The Empire* who is weak and bleeding, Christ was physically weak at the point of His temptation, having "fasted forty days and forty nights" (Matthew 4:2).

As in *The Empire*, the temptation takes place in a high precipice above a city (Matthew 4:5: "Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple"). And, like Luke in *The Empire*, the means of the temptation is *rulership*. After Vader and Luke have battled out to the precipice and Vader has told Luke he is his father, Vader unveils the bait: "Join me and together we will be more powerful than the Emperor. Come, I will complete your training and we will rule the galaxy together."

The real thing was much the same. "The devil taketh [Christ] up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them and saith unto him, *all these things will I give thee*, if thou wilt fall down and worship me" (Matthew 4:8-9). *Rulership* is the bait in both the movie and the real event in the Bible.

The important difference is how Luke deals with the temptation. As did Christ, Luke *rejects* the offer of rulership. But—whereas Christ rejected Satan by *refusing* to throw Himself down from the high pinnacle (Matthew 4:6-7)—Luke rejects Vader's offer by letting go of his grip and falling off the precipice, into the air, away from Vader. In the Bible, Christ emerges triumphant

(verses 9-11) whereas Luke barely escapes with his life, falling into a porthole of a spacecraft that his friends, now escaped, use to fetch him.

Luke escapes, Vader has won the battle but not his objective, and it is clear that movie-goers will have to wait for the next movie in the series, *Revenge of the Jedi* for all the loose ends in the plot to be tied up.

The Whole Universe

The central theme of the *Star Wars* series is rule of the universe. This is *the* ultimate issue in the movie. It is also the ultimate issue in the Bible.

The plan of God is concerned with rulership. It is the ultimate aim of God's government to "[bring] many sons unto glory" (Hebrews 2:10), to enlarge the Family of God and thereby help Him *rule* the universe. True Christians yet to be born into God's Family will rule the universe in a father-son relationship. Fascinatingly, when Vader tempts Luke, Vader says, "We will rule the galaxy, father and son!" Well, God is in no way like Darth Vader, but this is exactly what God in His master plan offers as the aim of human destiny—rulership of galaxies as Father and sons! This is the glorious potential of man—laid out in more detail in Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The Incredible Human Potential*. As in the *Star Wars* movies, it is the *whole universe* that is the prize. Here, at least, the movie has made an exact parallel. Listen to what God will ultimately make available to man:

"Thou has put *all things* in subjection under his [man's] feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. . ." (Hebrews 7:8).

Perhaps the ultimate reason for the smashing popularity of the *Star Wars* movies is that they touch on the subject of the ultimate destiny of man, a subject that concerns the glorious and awesome potential of every human being. □

Voice Cries Out

(Continued from page 6)

reveal the truth. But through the generations and centuries even the true Church lost vital portions of that Message. One must remember printing was not to be invented for centuries. Written copies of all the Scriptures were being preserved. But these were not readily available to the brethren of the persecution, often hiding out, meeting secretly. Remember millions of the faithful were tortured and martyred. Copies of the Scriptures—all hand-written—were not available to them.

(Incidentally, it is paradoxical that the great, politically powerful false church "Mystery, Babylon the Great" (Revelation 17:5), which tried to obliterate the truth, was the very instrument God caused to *preserve* the New Testament scriptures that expose them! The Jews were caused by God to preserve the Hebrew Old Testament Scriptures.)

This will explain why, by 1927 the author found the true Church had lost so much original truth. By 1927, of course, all the Bible was readily available in many translations in print.

The Church of God was founded by Jesus Christ, A.D. 31. It was about A.D. 53 that Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians. A century of time cycles later, January, 1953, Jesus' very Gospel went out over all Europe over superpower Radio Luxembourg.

If a different Gospel has been foisted on a deceived world, *what* Message did God send to earth by His divine Messenger Jesus Christ?

The prophecy of this Messenger in Malachi 3 leads us directly to the very beginning of Jesus' proclaiming this Message in Mark 1:1; "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

The second verse quotes this prophecy from Malachi, showing how John the Baptist was the human messenger preparing the way before Jesus' first appearing on earth. Then, verses 14-15: "Now after that John was put in prison,

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching"—preaching *what* Gospel?—"preaching the gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the KINGDOM OF GOD is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Believe *what* Gospel? To be "saved" Jesus said we must believe the GOOD NEWS about the KINGDOM OF GOD! That is the GOOD NEWS Jesus brought from God.

But that GOOD NEWS had been SUPPRESSED! The KINGDOM OF GOD has been misrepresented, counterfeited, nullified. Some have represented it as "the Church." Just "join" the church—any church—and you are in "the Kingdom of God." Many teach that it is a kingdom in heaven—an expression that does not appear in the Bible. Some say it is an ethereal nothing "set up in men's hearts." There was even the teaching in England that the British Empire was to become the Kingdom of God.

The most universal belief has been that "heaven" is the Kingdom of God. That fallacy may be derived more or less from the fact that the New Testament book of Matthew uses the term "kingdom of heaven," whereas Mark, Luke, John and all other New Testament writings use the term "Kingdom of God."

Many believe that "salvation" means "going to heaven." A world-known evangelist, in a televised "crusade" before a huge crowd of many thousands, said that some in his audience might "die before tomorrow morning. If you don't receive Christ tonight it may be too late. If you do come forward and make that decision for Christ tonight you may be in heaven by tomorrow morning."

Apparently it is supposed that the Kingdom of heaven, to use Matthew's terminology, is supposed to say "Kingdom *IN* heaven." But nowhere does the Bible say that.

A minister who knew the biblical truth was speaking to a crowd one evening. He shocked the audience saying that no one ever did, or ever will go to the heaven of God's throne. He offered a cash sum to any in the audience who could show any scripture or statement in the Bible

saying that anyone ever did, or anyone ever would (except Christ) go to that heaven—or any promise in the Bible that anyone ever could go to heaven.

One woman raised her hand, "I'm just mercenary enough to take that cash offer," she said. "Did not Christ say, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven?'"

"True, Jesus said that," answered the speaker, "but two verses later, Jesus said, 'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.' Now how do you reconcile those two verses?"

"Well," said the woman, a little embarrassed, "I suppose the poor in spirit go to heaven when they die, but those who are meek stay on earth." Obviously she was a little confused.

"Are you not a schoolteacher here?" asked the speaker. She was. "And do you really think you are qualified?" pursued the speaker.

"And you do not know the difference between the two little two-letter words *of* and *in*? There was a bank in New York called the Bank of Morgan. Mr. J.P. Morgan was the principal owner. Was that giant bank in—inside of—Mr. Morgan? You surely know that the word *of* does not mean 'in' or 'inside of,' but it denotes ownership. Mr. Morgan owned (or was principal owner of) the Bank of Morgan. GOD owns the Kingdom of God—so it is called "the KINGDOM OF GOD." Since heaven is God's throne, or abode, Matthew used the term "Kingdom *of* heaven" denoting ownership.

"Further, Jesus said, 'NO MAN hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man' (John 3:13). Now do you think you earned the cash sum I offered?"

"No," she grinned.

The GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST is the MESSAGE God the Father sent to mankind *by* the divine Messenger Jesus Christ. That MESSAGE is the Gospel—the GOOD NEWS. It is FUTURE Good News!

It is NOT man's message *about* Jesus the divine Messenger. It is NOT a message about going to heaven. Just WHAT—and WHY,

then—is the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Already I have shown it is the Message of the now soon-to-come KINGDOM OF GOD. But what *is* the Kingdom of God—and *WHY*?

This Message was prophesied centuries before by God's prophets. Notice a few such prophecies.

In a prophecy written centuries before Christ came to Old Testament Israel, the prophet said: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the GOVERNMENT shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his GOVERNMENT and peace there shall be no end upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

This foretold clearly that Christ would come as a newborn baby, a son of Israel, to become KING over GOVERNMENT and sit on the earthly throne of DAVID, forever.

Another prophecy: "Therefore the LORD himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). Immanuel *means* "God with us."

The promise to Mary, mother of Jesus: "... thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his KINGDOM there shall be no end" (Luke 1:31-33).

Jesus was born to be a KING, ruling over a KINGDOM FOR EVER!

Again, the angel of God said to Joseph, betrothed husband of Mary: "... Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy [Spirit]. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-

21). This was in fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 above.

This revealed Jesus was coming to make eternal salvation possible. So now we have TWO purposes for which Jesus was to come: 1) to set up an eternal KINGDOM, and 2) to bring eternal salvation to those called who repent and believe.

Just what, then, *is* the Gospel MESSAGE that God the Father was sending to mankind by Jesus the divine Messenger?

It is the announcement of the GOOD NEWS (Gospel) of THE KINGDOM OF GOD. It is news IN ADVANCE—a PROPHECY—news for the FUTURE!

But, as we have seen, that news was SUPPRESSED—no longer proclaimed to the world, after the approximate middle of the first century. The apostle Paul, beside his letter to the churches in Galatia, quoted above, also wrote to the Church at Rome: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness SUPPRESS the truth" (Romans 1:18, Revised Standard Version).

Go back, for a moment, to the prophecy of Malachi 3:1. Jesus is called "the messenger of the covenant." Of *what* covenant?

In part 6 of this volume, it was explained how God made a covenant with the ancient nation Israel. In the New Testament that covenant is called "the old covenant." Moses was its mediator. That covenant was a MARRIAGE covenant. The people of ancient Israel were "married" to God (Jeremiah 3:14), yet more unfaithful than any harlot!

The old covenant also made the children of Israel one of the earth's NATIONS. They were ruled by theocratic government—by God's government as administered by a man whom God chose. In the days of the prophet Samuel they demanded a *human* king like the other nations of this world (I Samuel 8:1-7).

But Jesus Christ came from God as the Messenger of the NEW covenant (Jeremiah 31:31 and Hebrews 8:6-13). There it says the NEW covenant is also to be made with Israel and Judah—not with a

different basic law or constitution, but with *better promises*.

Jesus Christ is to be the Mediator of the new covenant. Old covenant Israel was given only national and material promises, with the same basic spiritual Law. But the New Testament Church is given better PROMISES—eternal life in the KINGDOM OF GOD!

The Israel of the old covenant consisted of the *human*-born children of the human Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. The Kingdom of God will be composed of the BORN (by a resurrection) children of GOD—immortal members of the divine Family of GOD.

Jesus was the Messenger of this new covenant, bringing the Message of the NEW COVENANT, which will make the born children of GOD the FAMILY OF GOD! And that Family shall be the KINGDOM OF GOD—as ancient Israel was BOTH a human FAMILY and a NATION, so the Kingdom of God shall be both the divine Family of God, and the earth-ruling KINGDOM OF GOD—eventually to rule the entire UNIVERSE!

Now Jesus came, at the very beginning of His Gospel ministry, proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand." WHY did He say that?

Remember, in earlier chapters of this volume we have seen the background. Angels had inhabited this earth prior to man. They at first were ruled by the government of GOD, with the archangel Lucifer on the throne. But Lucifer had rebelled and turned his angels (a third of all angels) into demons. He had abolished the Government of God, and his name was changed to Satan the devil.

The first man Adam had opportunity to reject Satan's WAY, accept God's WAY—the way of the LAW of God's government, and reestablish the government of God on earth. But Adam followed his wife into rebellion. It remained for the "second Adam," Jesus Christ, to come and QUALIFY to set up and rule the Kingdom of God by REJECTING SATAN'S WAY, overcoming Satan, GIVING Himself to GOD's way.

Jesus had done that (Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus Christ had QUALIFIED! Therefore THE TIME WAS FILLED! For the first time, the Kingdom of God could be ANNOUNCED! One had *qualified* to set up and rule that Kingdom! The TIME WAS AT HAND. Therefore Jesus called on hearers to repent and BELIEVE the advance GOOD NEWS!

Savior as Well as King

But Jesus came also as Savior of all mankind who, when called, will repent and believe.

Very early in His ministry a prominent Pharisee sneaked in by night to see Jesus.

"We know," he began (that is, "we Pharisees know"), "that thou art a teacher come from God."

Jesus did not waste words, but struck straight to the point. "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:1-3).

Nicodemus could not understand this.

He asked, "How can a man be born when he is old?" People today can't understand it. But at least Nicodemus knew what it means to be born. "Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" he asked.

Jesus answered plainly. "That which is born of the flesh *IS* FLESH; and that which is born of the Spirit *IS* SPIRIT," He explained. When one is born of the Spirit, he shall no longer BE flesh or matter—he shall then BE Spirit—composed of Spirit. No longer human!

Yet thousands and perhaps millions today who are still mortal FLESH, composed of MATTER, claim they have been "born again." That is a *twist* on Jesus' plain statement.

Jesus also said, verse 5, the Kingdom of God is something that may be *entered into*—but only after one *becomes Spirit*—*IS* Spirit—composed of Spirit—no longer flesh and blood!

In I Corinthians 15:50, 53: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. For this corruptible must PUT ON incorruption, and this MORTAL [as we now are] must put on IMMORTALITY."

Those who erroneously think they are already "born again" are still mortal—still flesh and blood—still corruptible. They are not yet composed of SPIRIT. They are not yet IMMORTAL. But what they ARE is "DECEIVED"!

The Word of God to man tells us that Satan has DECEIVED THE WHOLE WORLD!

How is the whole world deceived? The foundational LAW—the very Constitution—of the government of God is a WAY of life. It might be summed up in the one word LOVE. But God's LOVE is an OUT-flowing concern for the good

“

The Kingdom of God has been misrepresented, counterfeited, nullified. Some have represented it as 'the Church' . . .

There was even the teaching in England that the British Empire was to become the Kingdom of God.

”

of those loved! It is the way of "GIVE"—of serve, of cooperate, of share.

But this world—following Satan's WAY—is on the WAY of "GET." The way of "ME," of vanity, lust, coveting, greed—of envy and jealousy—of competition, strife and violence—of rebellion against authority.

The way of this world may be summed up in the three-letter word GET. That attitude—that motive—that approach—is the CAUSE of all this world's evils, sufferings and death.

It is THE WAY that nullified the government of God under angels. The GOSPEL of Jesus Christ is the GOOD NEWS of the WAY of "GIVE" that shall epitomize the KINGDOM of GOD.

The restoration of the Kingdom

of God was foretold by all the prophets. Notice an example in the book of Daniel.

Daniel was one of four outstandingly brilliant Jewish young men taken captive by the Chaldean forces in the captivity of the nation Judah. These four were placed in positions in the government of the Chaldean Empire—the very first WORLD empire.

The king, Nebuchadnezzar, was exceedingly troubled by a dream. In it he saw an enormously huge statue—of frightening size. It had a head of bright shining gold, breast and arms of polished silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, feet and toes of iron mixed with miry clay.

The prophet Daniel was called upon to tell the king what he had dreamed, and its meaning. Daniel prayed, asking God to reveal the dream and interpretation.

Daniel said before the king: "... there is a God in heaven that . . . maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar *what shall be in the latter days* . . ." (Daniel 2:28).

Daniel then told the king what he had dreamed, and gave the interpretation:

"Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. . . Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things . . . shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter's clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided. . . And as the toes were part of iron and part of clay, the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. . . And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall . . . break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (verses 37-42, 44).

Thus God revealed in brief the history of world governments from

the time of Judah's captivity until the KINGDOM OF GOD.

Where are we, now, in the panorama of that prophecy? The prophecies of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 and 17 speak of the same chain of gentile world governments until Christ's Second Coming to RULE in the Kingdom of God. We are now at the time of the toes—awaiting the restoration—or resurrection—of the “Holy Roman Empire” of 554-1804—a reunion of 10 nations in Europe. Already it has been started, economically, in the European Common Market.

Other prophecies foretell the coming Kingdom of God. Yet the world seems to know nothing of it!

Jesus taught His future apostles about the Kingdom of God. He sent them out on a special mission to proclaim the future Kingdom of God (Matthew 10:5-7; Luke 9:1-2). He also sent out another 70, two together, to proclaim the future Kingdom of God (Luke 10:1, 9).

Jesus Himself, in His ministry, “went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom” (Matthew 4:23). The parables of Jesus concerned the Kingdom of God. After His resurrection, Jesus was with His disciples “forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3). The apostle Paul proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the gentiles (Acts 28:23, 31). Paul pronounced a double curse on man or angel who preached any other gospel than the Kingdom of God (Galatians 1:8-9).

For the first preaching to gentiles, God sent Peter (Acts 10). How did Peter proclaim the first message to gentiles? He said, “The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) That word [or Gospel] I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached” (Acts 10:36-37).

Take time to notice that. WHO sent the Message—the Gospel? Peter said, “The word which GOD sent.” To whom first sent? “Unto the children of Israel.” Who was

the Messenger who brought it? “Jesus Christ.” Where was it proclaimed? “Throughout all Judaea,” Where did it begin? “From Galilee.” And WHEN? “After the baptism which John preached.”

Now that takes us immediately to Mark 1:1, 14-15. The “beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ. . . .” There is the Messenger who brought the Gospel Message. WHEN? “After that John was put in prison, Jesus came.” Where did it begin? “Into Galilee.” Preaching WHAT Gospel? “Preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God.”

That Gospel began in A.D. 27. By about A.D. 53 Paul wrote to the Galatians they were being turned by FALSE PROPHETS to another gospel—the Gospel of the Kingdom was being SUPPRESSED!

Paul wrote to the Romans, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men, who by their wickedness SUPPRESS the truth” (Romans 1:18, Revised Standard Version).

Jesus Foretold Suppression and Today's Proclaiming

The central key prophecy of the New Testament is Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24, also recorded by Mark in his chapter 13 and Luke in chapter 21. This, by the way, is Jesus' explanation of the very heart of the book of Revelation, which is chapter 6.

It is a prophecy entirely misunderstood, wrested and twisted by many ministers, theologians, evangelists and preachers today. It is very IMPORTANT!

Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, to the east of the Temple. His disciples came to Him privately. He had been speaking of the future destruction of the Temple and also of His later return to earth.

“Tell us,” asked the disciples, “when shall these things be, and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

Notice, they asked two questions: 1) “When shall *these things* be?” and 2) “What shall be the *sign* of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

First, *what things*? His disciples had just been showing Him the buildings of the Temple (verse 1). Jesus replied, “See ye not all these things?” Luke's account makes more clear what Jesus was saying: “And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he [Jesus] said, As for *these things* which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Luke 21:5-6).

So the disciples' first question was when the great buildings of the Temple would be destroyed. Actually that did happen in A.D. 70.

Most theologians assume falsely that all of Jesus' reply referred to the *sign* of His Second Coming to earth. But first He was explaining what would happen between then, A.D. 31, and the destruction of the Temple which did occur in A.D. 70.

Jesus answered as to things that would happen in *their* lifetime, prior to A.D. 70: “Take heed that no man deceive *you*”—meaning “you disciples,” in *your* lifetime. “For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:4-5).

Understand what Jesus was saying. He was NOT saying, as theologians erroneously interpret today, that “Many shall come in my name, saying that *they* are Christ.”

What Jesus meant was that many would come in *His* name—that is, representing to be Christ's ministers, and saying that *Jesus* is the Christ, and yet deceiving THE MANY. Jesus said “MANY” such false preachers and evangelists would come, and deceive the MANY!

Next Jesus said, “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye”—you disciples living in A.D. 31—“be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet”—*catch that!* Jesus was not answering their second question yet, about the end of the world. These things were not the *sign* that would signal that the end of this world—this age—and the coming of Christ—was near. He specifically said these things were *not* that sign. Yet most preachers today believe He was speaking of that sign. Not yet.

Jesus proceeded to warn them of how even they—His original apostles in the first century—would be delivered up to be afflicted and killed. **AND THAT ALL HAPPENED!**

In verse 13 Jesus said, "But he that shall endure unto the end"—of his lifetime—"shall be saved."

Then, verse 14, Jesus came to their *second* question about the **END** of this world and Christ's coming. Here it is. Read it twice:

"And this gospel"—the same Gospel JESUS proclaimed—"of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, and *then* shall the end come."

The Gospel of the KINGDOM, as shown above, was suppressed by mid-first century. It was not proclaimed again worldwide until this writer proclaimed it over the most powerful station on earth, Radio Luxembourg, first week in January, 1953—A CENTURY OF TIME CYCLES SINCE IT WAS SUPPRESSED! That was one time cycle *after* it had been proclaimed to all America!

But the *sign* Jesus gave by which it should be known that the **END** of this world (this AGE) and His coming in supreme POWER and GLORY is near is the proclamation of "this Gospel of the KINGDOM"!

That time is now NEAR! Many other prophecies describe world events now occurring or about to occur at the very **END** time!

But now, **WHAT** and **WHY** the CHURCH? People *assume* the existence of the Church as if churches had always existed. They take for granted that the "good" people go to church on Sunday mornings to hear beautiful music and a 12-to-15-minute pleasing sermon.

But why did Jesus Christ say, "I will build my Church?" **WHY**, and for what **PURPOSE**?

Just as no religion knows **WHO** or **WHAT** God is, **WHAT** and **WHY** man is, **WHY** the nation of ancient Israel or **WHAT** and **WHY** the Gospel is, so it would seem no one knows **WHAT** and **WHY** the CHURCH is!

The surprising, eye-opening TRUTH will appear in the following part 8. □

REFUGEE CRISIS

(Continued from page 21)

tween the two basic ways of life. Accordingly, God cut all succeeding generations of mankind off from Him for 6,000 years, except those whom He would call for an express purpose.

Adam chose the wrong government—Satan's government—because rational, sound government does not produce refugees as we see today! People stay where they are happy.

The basic government Adam chose is still with us today! A fascinating and true account of the nature of human government may be found in your library or bookstore in the book *The Incredible Human Potential* by Herbert W. Armstrong, published by Everest House.

Man's government is inherently unable to deal with the refugee problem effectively because the way of man is the cause of it! This is not to speak disparagingly of the efforts of thousands involved in relief agencies. It is to say that the problem will never be resolved fully until the world-ruling government of God takes over. The task is too big for man.

Coming—the Ultimate Solution

The only complete answer, then, is the restoration of God's government and His way of life on this earth. Only then will any resolution of the plight of 10 million homeless people come about.

The exciting prediction of this government can be found in the pages of your Bible: "But in the last days [the time we are in now] it shall come to pass, that the mountain [God's government, Daniel 2:44-45] of the house of the Lord shall be established . . . and He shall judge among *many* people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they [every nation] shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4:1, 3).

Ironically, part of this message is boldly inscribed on a marble slab by the United Nations' building! Side by side with the current ineffective world-coalition government of sorts, it mutely foretells of a time not now long in coming when the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will return to set up a government based on the laws of the living God. Once people have been restored to their own lands there won't be any refugees under this government.

Can we imagine what a changed world this will be? People will rejoice in this government—a world populated by happy men and women, with a future so positive it would take pages to describe it. In fact, pages have been written about it. For your free copy, write the nearest address on the inside cover for your copy of *Why Were You Born?*

Refugees from this world's troubles will be given a new chance, an opportunity to learn and have a fulfilling life. There simply won't be a need of countless foundations and relief agencies—there simply won't be any war-torn lands to send relief to. "Evil" will become a word used in past-tense!

See here the wonderful relief that will be provided refugees by God! "...when the favouring hour comes [after God's government is established], I [God] will answer you, and aid you when the day for rescue dawns, restoring the ruined land, repeopleing desolate places, bidding exiles leave their prison and come forth to the light..." (Isaiah 49:8-9, Moffatt).

And what will happen when the refugees are released?

"...On the road home, food shall never fail them, they shall find pasture even upon bare hills; they shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst, never shall sun or sirocco [a hot wind blowing from the deserts] plague them..." (Isaiah 49:9-10, Moffatt).

What an incredible future! And it is *sure*! □

Personal from...

(Continued from page 2)

[against it] shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered against it. . . . In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again. . . .

"In that day [now soon] shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them" (Zechariah 12:2-3, 6, 8).

I pause here to mention something that may or may not be significant—God knows and time will tell. I, personally, am of the house of David. I have my personal ancestry recorded every generation through my father, his father and so on back to King Edward I of England. And, through the royal ancestry of the British dynasty the ancestry is traced back to the ancient King David of Israel. Already God has given me close and warm favor in the eyes of many leaders in the State of Israel. A Message (Isaiah 40:9-10) is yet to go by a servant of God to THE CITIES OF JUDAH. In whatever way God wills, it shall go.

But now continue in Zechariah 12:9: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."

But at Christ's coming as KING of kings to rule ALL NATIONS—to usher in WORLD PEACE—He shall again choose Jerusalem as HIS CAPITAL—then to become the CAPITAL FROM WHICH THE WHOLE WORLD SHALL BE RULED FOR A THOUSAND YEARS!

I personally have come to love Jerusalem, as I know my friend Teddy Kollek loves it, and I expect to spend much time there in the future—if Christ so wills! □

RACE RIOTS

(Continued from page 5)

whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). Those who commit crimes should get what they deserve—not be able to go free by wrangling an immunity deal.

The Bible, on the other hand, recognizing man has such limited means of finding the facts of a case, requires that witnesses must be truthful (Exodus 20:16: "Thou shalt not bear false witness . . ."). The Old Testament makes perjury a severely punished crime: "... if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother . . ." (Deuteronomy 19:18-19).

And yet in the McDuffie case, the judge had to emphasize to the jury that the witnesses could be lying: "A witness who realizes he must procure his own freedom by incriminating others has a motive to falsify."

What Is Truth?

The ability of the natural (what the Bible calls carnal) human mind to know the whole truth of a situation is severely limited. It is often very difficult to be sure of what really happened. To overcome this limitation, human justice in countries having the Anglo-Saxon legal system have developed the jury system. The basic principle is that two heads are better than one. This is in agreement with the basic biblical principle: "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14).

And yet jurors are human, and are, unlike God (Acts 10:34), "respecters of persons." The jury which acquitted McDuffie's murderers was all white. Of course, they weren't supposed to let any racial factors affect their judgment. But many, including those who rioted afterwards, believe otherwise.

And yet while the idea of a jury is based on the multitude-of-counselors principle, the par-

ticular jury in the McDuffie case seemed to violate the principle. A jury normally consists of 12 persons—the same number as Christ chose as His original apostles. The McDuffie case jury had only six. Perhaps, if the jury had been larger, they might not have been so quick to return a not-guilty verdict. The jury was all white because the judge moved the trial away from Miami to an area where there are fewer black residents on the jury lists, and because the defense lawyers were able to challenge all potential black jurors who were available.

This last points up a growing problem in American justice. Because lawyers are able to challenge jurors, they are using that privilege to mold juries in ways that they believe will be favorable to their clients. They know certain kinds of people are biased certain ways.

The Bible, on the other hand, seeks to remove justice as much as possible from merely human factors. The Bible's system of justice seeks truth—unfiltered by human emotions and feelings: "Thou shalt not pervert the judgment of the stranger, nor of the fatherless . . ." (Deuteronomy 24:17). In God's system of justice, it makes no difference who the judge is or who the defendant is. Color, class, sex are all factors that the Bible says very clearly should never affect the outcome of a case: "... if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin . . ." (James 2:9).

Unfortunately, when justice is left in the hands of mortals, judges and juries *are* respecters of persons. Accordingly, juries should be made up of enough individuals to "dilute" their human tendency. Had the jury in the McDuffie case been larger, racial biases might have been easily overcome. Many people have a very hard time believing that a 12-person jury, including a number of blacks, would have returned the same verdict.

The Bungling Revenger

God lays on human rulers the duty to punish evildoers: "For he

[the human ruler] is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he [the human ruler] beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Romans 13:4). Because private citizens usually would punish out of proportion to the crime, the Bible declares that such revenge must be left to duly constituted authority: "... avenge not yourselves . . . , Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19). God repays, in part, using the human authorities as His ministers. Indeed, the bloody and senseless Miami riots themselves show what happens when private citizens seek to take vengeance into their own hands!

And yet human rulers do fail in their duty to punish evildoers—as happened in the McDuffie case. The prosecutors bungled. They should have protested the all-white jury more. They should have brought harsher charges against the defendants, so at least the jury would be more willing to return a guilty verdict on some charge, even if it was a lesser one. And they should have taken more time to investigate the case.

In this regard, God indicts the whole criminal justice system. This indictment applies especially to judges, who make the law that binds the prosecutors: "Thus saith the Lord God; Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel: remove violence and spoil, and execute judgment and justice, take away your exactions from my people, saith the Lord God" (Ezekiel 45:9).

This charge from God is confirmed by the statement of Benjamin Hooks, head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: "It's hard to describe the feelings of rage you have when men and women in uniform, who are agents of the state, beat or kill someone and you follow due process of law and the Constitution and they're let go."

Thus, because the American judicial system doesn't work as

God desires, the murderers of Arthur McDuffie went free and Miami burned in race riot. A Boston Human Rights Commission member says, "When there's an appearance of a perversion of the judicial process, people take to the streets." The prophet Ezekiel is even stronger in condemning such injustice: "... the land is full of blood, and the city full of injustice . . ." (Ezekiel 9:9, RSV).

Justice may be yet visited on the murderers of Arthur McDuffie. The United States attorney general, at this writing, is considering prosecuting them on federal charges. But no matter what happens it is sure to be a long process, drawn out over years. Even if a federal prosecution is successful, the biblical rule that sentence should be "speedily executed" against evildoers (Ecclesiastes 8:11) still will not have been followed.

Proclaim Equal Justice

The injustice done in the McDuffie case was in many ways the last straw for those who rioted. The citizens of Miami's black community had come to believe that the criminal justice system was biased against them. Thus, Miami prosecutors had gone out of their way by calling a rare Saturday session of a grand jury to indict a popular black school official of misuse of funds, but failed to secure an indictment against white plainclothes detectives who mistakenly burst into the home of a black school teacher and beat both him and his son. In another case, prosecutors let a white police officer who sexually molested an 11-year-old black girl off with psychiatric treatment rather than punish him by sending him to jail.

With the acquittal of McDuffie's killers, a pattern seemed to be forming. Whites who did harm to black people weren't getting the punishment they deserved.

In God's World, and under God's system, things will be different. God's principle is that factors that have nothing to do

with guilt—like race—should have nothing to do with the outcome of justice. God condemns such partiality—whether, for example, it is against the poor (Exodus 23:6) or in their favor (Exodus 23:3).

The Bible declares that it is an abomination when "innocent blood"—like Arthur McDuffie's—is shed (Deuteronomy 19:10). And in the coming World Tomorrow, such incidents as happened to McDuffie will be forever banned.

God will soon send Jesus Christ to establish His government to bring "justice from henceforth even forever" (Isaiah 9:7). Under that government, there will be equal justice for all regardless of race.

The Bible declares:

Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country . . . (Leviticus 24:22).

One "manner of law" for everyone! Because this principle was violated, Miami burned. But when Christ returns, it will be respected and put into practice. A just world is coming—one with equal justice for all. □

ELECTIONS

(Continued from page 4)

injected that spirit of animosity in competition. Mr. Kennedy is only human. God's Spirit of LOVE was not in evidence. Neither is it in evidence in ANY of this world's leaders.

HOW DIFFERENT in the WORLD TOMORROW.

Satan will be GONE! Jesus CHRIST will be RULING! Ruling with, but under Him, will be truly converted saints then made IMMORTAL—filled with GOD's Spirit of "LOVE"—immortal GOD BEINGS with no SELF-interest of coveting, but outflowing LOVE for the good, happiness, welfare and eternal salvation of all others!

Jesus taught us to pray, "THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!"

We'd better be PRAYING! □

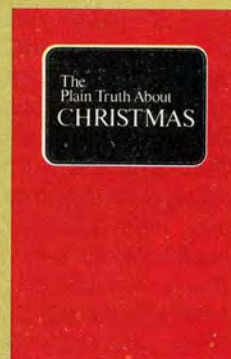


You've heard it said...

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