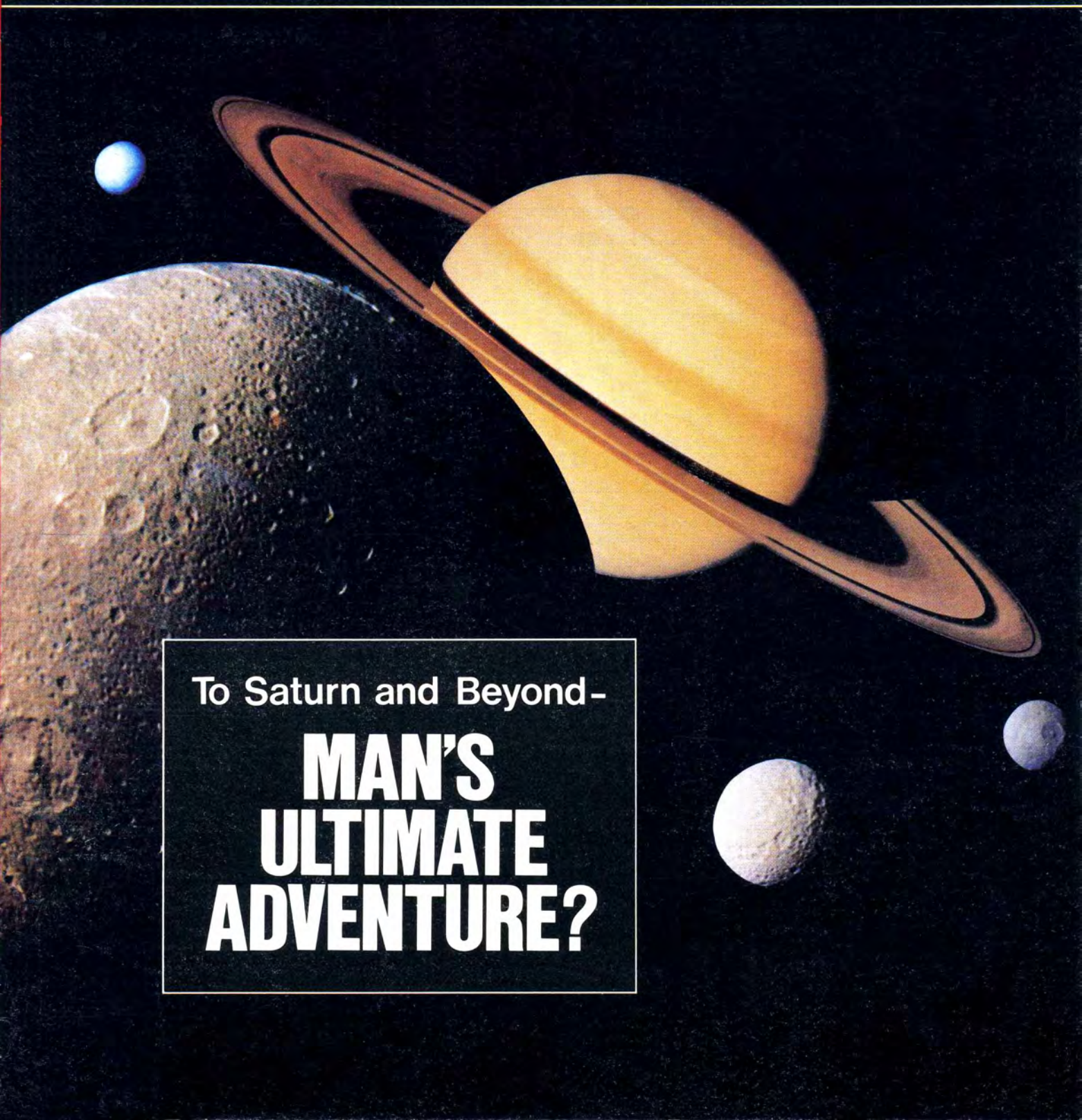
JANUARY 1981

# the PLAIN TRUTH

*a magazine of understanding*



To Saturn and Beyond–

## MAN'S ULTIMATE ADVENTURE?

# the PLAIN TRUTH

*a magazine of understanding*

Vol. 46, No. 1 ISSN 0032-0420 January 1981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## ABOUT OUR COVER

This montage of images of the Saturnian system was prepared from an assemblage of images taken by the Voyager 1 spacecraft during its Saturn encounter in November 1980. This artist's view shows Dione in the forefront, Saturn rising behind, Tethys and Mimas fading in the distance to the right and Enceladus off Saturn's rings to the left. The Voyager Project is managed for NASA by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, near Pasadena, California.

***Photo Courtesy NASA/JPL***


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# Personal from...

Herbert W. Armstrong

# When Knowledge Doubles, So Do Troubles. Why?

I am writing this "Personal" from the very shadow of the Great Pyramid in Egypt—on the outskirts of Cairo.

I was the principal speaker at a large banquet held in my honor in Cairo night before last. About 300 of the top-echelon people of Egypt were present, and I am waiting now for another private meeting, accompanied by Mr. Stanley R. Rader, as usual, with President Anwar el-Sadat.

At the speaker's table at the banquet, on my left was Dr. M. Abdel-Kader Hatem, chief assistant and adviser to President Sadat. Dr. Hatem was the prime minister when I first met him, some six years ago. He ranks higher than that now, and above cabinet members. It was nice to see him and his family again. We became quite well acquainted on former visits, and Mr. Rader and I visited Dr. and Mrs. Hatem in their seaside vacation home on the outskirts of Alexandria—where top officials from Cairo usually spend the summers. Mrs. Hatem sat on my right at the banquet, Mr. Rader on Dr. Hatem's left, and Mrs. Rader on Mrs. Hatem's right, with Mrs. Armstrong on Mr. Rader's left.

What I said to these leaders of this nation was timely, and I will try to relay it on to you now. I don't have the recorded version to give it verbatim, but I do have my notes before me, and this is approximately what I said after being introduced by Dr. Hatem and Mr. Rader:

"Ladies and gentlemen, good evening: Many events have happened in this fast-moving world since I last spoke in this same ballroom, some five or more years ago.

"Despite efforts for peace in the Middle East by your President Sadat, Prime Minister [Menachem] Begin and President Carter, there is a war on now between Iran and Iraq. In the past five years governments of many nations have been overthrown. The Soviet Union has made inroads in Africa, and more recently in Afghanistan. Poverty, illiteracy, crime are growing—not diminishing. World troubles and evils have escalated. Weapons of mass destruction exist by which MAN CAN BLAST MANKIND FROM OFF THIS EARTH! The whole world tonight stands on the brink of human extinction.

"But *WHY?* There has to be a CAUSE for every effect. While humanity has been supposing we have been ADVANCING—IMPROVING—we've been bringing more and more evils upon ourselves—more and more suffering and agony on PEOPLE!

"The whole world went along on a fairly even keel, with little agricultural, mechanical and industrial progress for almost 6,000 years. Transportation was by foot, mule, camel back, rowboat or sailboat. Communication was by written letter carried the same way.

"Then, just over 500 years ago, the printing press with movable type was invented. About 300 short years ago came the first beginnings of modern science. This advancement of modern science and technology is so recent that more than 90 percent of all the world's scientists WHO EVER LIVED are alive today! I have lived just a little longer than most of you, but I have seen most of the world's supposedly wonderful advancements. In the brief span of my lifetime, this world has passed with lightning speed past the age of invention, the machine age, the major developments in science and technology, the nuclear age and the space age!

"The world thinks of it as wonderful PROGRESS—ADVANCEMENT! The world's fund of KNOWLEDGE doubled in the decade of the '60s, and again in the '70s—but in each decade the world's troubles and evils doubled also!

"*WHY?* Even if the increased knowledge did not CAUSE the increased *(Continued on page 42)*

*With the astonishingly successful unmanned probe of Saturn and its satellites, man's fund of knowledge about his own solar system has expanded remarkably. Yet science has found few substantial clues about the origin of life on our unique planet—Earth. Is some source of information being overlooked by science?*

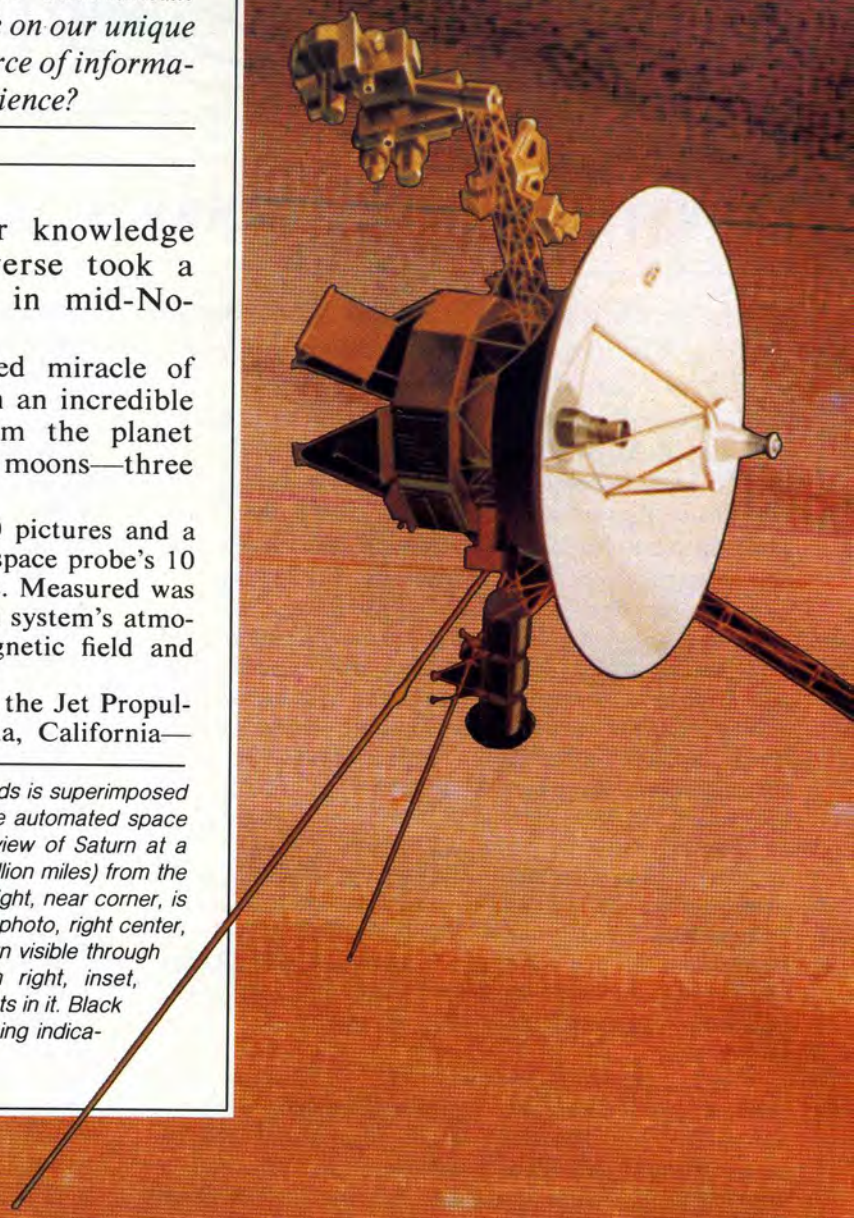
*by* Gene H. Hogberg

MAN'S QUEST for knowledge about the universe took a quantum jump in mid-November, 1980.

Voyager 1, an automated miracle of technology, relayed to earth an incredible stream of information from the planet Saturn and its cluster of 15 moons—three of them newly discovered.

Included were nearly 8,000 pictures and a flood of data recorded by the space probe's 10 different scientific instruments. Measured was everything from the Saturnian system's atmospheric conditions to its magnetic field and radio waves.

Mission control scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory near Pasadena, California—



***AGAINST AN IMAGE*** *of Saturn's clouds is superimposed a picture of Voyager 1, the remarkable automated space probe. Voyager-snapped upper right view of Saturn at a distance of 18 million kilometers (11 million miles) from the ringed planet. Off its ring plane to the right, near corner, is the moon Mimas. Computer-enhanced photo, right center, shows rings in detail, with limb of Saturn visible through the rings. Outermost F-ring, bottom right, inset, appears to be a braided band, with knots in it. Black dots in picture are reseau marks, spacing indicators on camera lens.*

*Photos Courtesy NASA/JPL*

# VOYAGER 1 TO SATURN-

# LATEST LEAP INTO SPACE

only 10 minutes away by automobile from the editorial offices of *The Plain Truth*—were ecstatic both over the wealth of data received and the incredible smoothness of the operation.

"I cannot recall ever being in such a state of euphoria," said Dr. Brad Smith, University of Arizona astronomer, leader of the Imaging Team, the unit responsible for analyzing the picture data.

So successful was the mission that Voyager Project Mission Director Richard Laeser told newsmen at one press briefing attended by this writer that the biggest concern throughout the Voyager's encounter with Saturn was not with the flurry of events occurring a billion miles away in space, but with problematic weather conditions at one of the receiving antenna locations on earth.

The timing of the mission approached pinpoint perfection. After a journey lasting more than three years, Voyager 1 was *less than a minute late* in its rendezvous with Titan, one of Saturn's outward orbiting moons—and then only because Titan was not quite where scientists thought it would be in its orbit. The space probe arrived at its destination at the solar system's second largest planet (after Jupiter, which it flew by in March, 1979) only 19 kilometers (12 miles) off course.

Astonishingly, Voyager 1—roughly the size of a compact-size automobile—was fully automated. It was commanded by its own onboard computers, preset before encounter to react explicitly in its many intended functions, as well as all imaginable emergencies. There was simply no time during the instrumentation period for the craft to react to commands from Pasadena—more than 85 minutes away by the speed of light.

### What Was Learned

As a result of the Voyager venture—10 years long in the planning and preparation stage—scientists gleaned more information about the mysterious ringed planet than observers had learned from some 370 years of study by telescope from the earth.

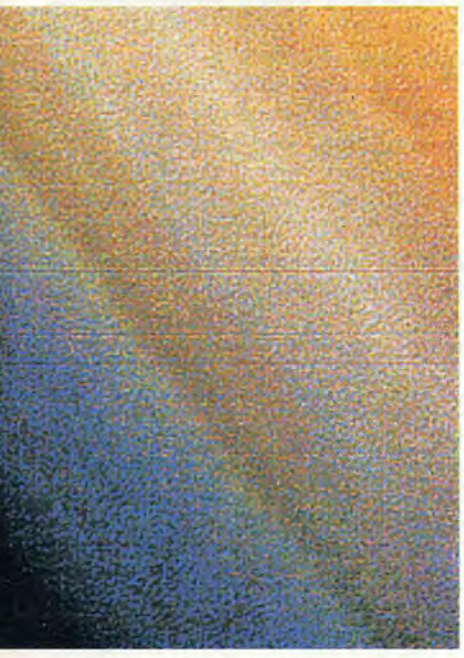
Perhaps the most interesting new facts about Saturn concerned the composition of its unique ring-plane system, which extends far from the gaseous planet's equator.

Before the Voyager's on-site inspection, astronomers knew of only six side-by-side rings, with gaps in between them. Now, it is estimated that there could be up to 1,000—or even more—distinct rings and ringlets. Wide bands such as the B-ring, upon close observation, appear to be composed of hundreds of rings, looking much like grooves on a phonograph record.

Scientists are baffled at the dynamics of some of the rings. The thin F-ring on the edge of the ring plane, for example, appears to be a "thread" composed of three or more braided strands, defying known laws controlling orbiting objects. Dr. Smith cautioned science writers, however, that the F-ring was no lawbreaker; it was just that the laws it obeyed were not fully understood as yet.

The enhanced complexity—even beauty, when one looks at the rings—of the Saturnian system was offset by new knowledge of its environment. It is without a doubt a world totally hostile to life forms on earth. Peering through Saturn's thick haze layer, Voyager detected swirls of giant storm systems, swept along at nearly 900 miles an hour. Worse yet, the major constituent of Saturn's atmosphere appears to be extremely frigid clouds of ammonia.

The atmospheric composition of Titan, Saturn's largest satellite, offers no relief. Scientists had anxiously anticipated analyzing Titan's atmosphere since it is the only moon in the solar system to possess an atmosphere. They did find plenty of nitrogen, the main component of earth's atmosphere. However, Titan is so unbelievably cold (-183° Celsius, -300° Fahrenheit) that its surface is believed to contain "murky swamps" of liquid nitrogen—a condition hardly conducive to what scientists term "life-building processes."



***FALSE COLOR IMAGE*** *of Saturn's southern hemisphere, in photo directly above, was taken by NASA's Voyager 1 November 6, 1980. It reveals unique red oval cloud feature. Saturn's ice-covered moons have personalities of their own. Satellite Dione has a peculiar split personality. In bottom left photo, its trailing hemisphere appears crisscrossed with wispy light streaks, while its leading hemisphere, bottom right photo, has relatively uniform surface with many impact craters. Moon Mimas, center left, looks like a navel orange, with huge, deep (9 kilometer) crater. Camera filters enhance image of jewel-like Rhea, top.*

---

Dr. Toby Owen of the State University of New York summarized Titan as being an "extremely alien world."

Saturn's other moons have even less to offer. Mostly they are frozen concoctions of what Dr. Eugene Shoemaker called "ice rubble." They appear to be composed of a rock center with a deep icy outer layer. Their surfaces, for the most part, are covered to the saturation point with craters.

All in all, the Saturnian system seems to be a nice place to "visit"—at armchair's length by way of interspace television. You certainly wouldn't want to live there.

#### Uranus, Neptune and Beyond

Voyager 1's mission, for all practical purposes, has ended. After exiting the solar system it will wander aimlessly through interstellar space. Its sister, Voyager 2, has yet to arrive at Saturn, and if its nuclear-powered electrical generator is still functioning afterward, should relay information about the next two little-known planets, Uranus (in 1986) and Neptune (in 1989). These two orbs lie so much farther out in the solar system, where there is so little sunlight, that the on-board cameras must take very long exposures. To eliminate "picture smear" the satellite is programmed to rotate in conjunction with the rotation of each planet. Clearly the limits of even unmanned satellite probes are being approached.

The future of space exploration hinges on the hoped-for launch into earth orbit—perhaps four years from now—of a "space telescope." Such a device is designed to eliminate the obstacle of earth's obscuring atmosphere.

Beyond pure advancement of knowledge of the heavens, a major objective of such a mission would be to try to pick out faint traces of planets orbiting other stars. It is part of what some space experts call "the ultimate adventure." This, *Time* magazine explains as "the search for planets and attempts to communicate with extraterrestrial life."

Even missions up until this point have had a major—though not always specifically stated—purpose: the attempt to find elsewhere in our solar system clues to the origin of life on earth. And always, the philosophical framework of that search is the theory of evolution.

#### Overlooking Truth

Men have looked to the created for answers to the riddles, as they perceive them, of the origin of intelligent life, as well as of matter itself. They have not sought out the *Creator* of all things, for "there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God" (Romans 3:11).

Harsh words? Not really.

One of the most famous astronomers of all time, Fred Hoyle, in his book *Frontiers of Astronomy*, admitted:

"There is an impulse to ask where originated material comes from. But such a question is entirely meaningless within the terms of reference of science. *Why* is there gravitation? *Why* do electric fields exist? *Why* is the Universe? These queries . . . are just as meaningless and unprofitable."

But there is another "why?" Why are men seemingly afraid to tackle such ultimate questions, dismissing them as "meaningless"? Might it be that in answering them, they would be forced to come face-to-face with their Creator? Could it be because the "carnal mind"—mean-

ing the normal human mind and reasoning process—"is enmity against God"? (Romans 8:7).

Noted evolutionist and paleontologist George Gaylord Simpson, in his book *This View of Life,* tells how he examined one particular evolutionary theory. Afterward, he said:

"It casts no light on the ultimate mystery—the origin of the universe and the source of the laws or physical properties of matter, energy, space and time." On a little further Simpson wrote:

"Nothing I then learned had any real bearing at all on the big and real questions. Who am I? What am I doing here? What is the world? What is my relationship to it? . . .

"I believe all adolescents, the bright equally with the dull, go through such a phase of incoherent self-questioning and disorientation. . . . They usually *simply bury the questions and try to forget them,* or they settle for answers that are palpably false."

What a pity that some of the greatest minds in the world have tossed aside as irrelevant the one source of information that would provide the framework to understand the "ultimate mystery."

#### The Creator Reveals Himself

The very first verse in the Bible—that most misunderstood and neglected of all books—plainly states: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The word *heaven* in the King James version should be translated "heavens," since the original Hebrew is in the plural.

(This phrase is repeated constantly throughout the Scriptures, as a brief glance at a Bible concordance will quickly reveal. The Bible also refers to heaven in a three-fold manner. Heaven can denote, in context, either the earth's atmosphere, the celestial universe or the abode of God's throne.)

Verse 16 of Genesis 1 specifically refers to God having "made the stars also." This great creator Being, by virtue of his creation, is spoken of as the "possessor of heaven and earth" (Genesis 14:19, 22).

God's ownership is more completely explained in Psalm 89:11: "The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them."

This great Being revealed through the prophet Jeremiah that "he hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion" (Jeremiah 10:12). In comparison with this awesome power and depth of purpose, "every man is brutish in his knowledge" (verse 14).

Exactly *how* God "stretched out the heavens"—in other words, which, if any, of the common theories about the origin of the universe might be more clearly correct—is not nearly as important as the truth that *God did do it,* and that he did so with a great purpose in mind.

To some degree a certain amount of faith is required to grasp this truth:

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:3).

There should be nothing strange in exercising faith—faith in God—as a condition to understanding the whys and wherefores of the origins of the universe and all life. Evolutionary science demands faith, though most people do not realize it.

Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize-holding chemist of the University of California at La Jolla, once explained that "all of us who study the origin of life find that the more we look into it, the more we feel it is too complex to have evolved anywhere." And yet, he added, *"We all believe as an article of faith* that life evolved from dead matter on this planet. It is just that its complexity is so great, it is hard for us to imagine it did" (*Christian Science Monitor,* January 4, 1962).

It all comes down to which faith is more plausible, more realistic.

#### Lawgiver and Preserver

In addition to being Creator, God is the supreme Lawgiver (James 4:12). God preserves, sustains, his creation through the laws, both physical and spiritual, he has set in motion.

"Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou *preservest them all. . .*" (Nehemiah 9:6).

Astronomers and other space scientists are most frustrated when they see objects—such as Saturn's mysterious F-Ring—seemingly, at first glance, disregard known laws. They are convinced, by their training, to expect to either find new laws, or a greater understanding of the laws they already know. (Humans may break laws but not the physical heavenly bodies.)

Dr. Edward W. Sinnot, Dean Emeritus of the Yale Graduate School, commented nearly 20 years ago, "If the universe were not an orderly and dependable place, science would be meaningless, for science is simply a persistent attempt to discover underlying regularities among the complex events in nature. The more we learn about these events, the more certain it becomes that they do not occur at random, but they follow definite laws."

But what is the source of the complex laws of the universe? Your Bible reveals that it is God. He has "appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth" (Jeremiah 33:25).

#### God's Glory Above the Heavens

God's power is greater than the sum of his awesome creation. In dedicating the temple—God's House on earth—in Jerusalem, King Solomon prayed: "Behold

*(Continued on page 43)*

# Part Nine:

# 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 later in bookstores.*

## Chapter 7

## Part Two: WHAT AND WHY THE CHURCH?

THE WESTERN WORLD has taken the existence of churches for granted. WHY was the institution of the church ever formed? WHAT is its purpose? Such questions seem never to have occurred to most.

In the average mind, a church is a building with a steeple atop, and a cross on its facade. Indeed Webster defines it thus. People—at least some—go to this building every Sunday morning to attend a "worship service."

But to many—and probably most—the church plays no part in their lives. Indeed God plays no part in their lives. God is not consciously in their world. Just people, material things and interests. Of course, far back in the subconscious recesses of many minds may lie dormant the supposition that God exists. But He does not seem REAL to them.

Yet the CHURCH, too, does exist. But WHY? WHAT is it, really? What PURPOSE does it serve?

We have seen that there is, indeed a PURPOSE being worked out here below. Winston Churchill stated that before the United States Congress. There is a REASON for the presence of humanity on the earth. And for the working out of that PURPOSE there is a MASTER PLAN. The CHURCH is an important part of that plan.

Never lose sight of the setting that led up to the raising up of the Church. Keep in mind WHO and WHAT God is—the Divine creating *Family*, now reproducing Himself in man.

Pertinent to the purpose of the Church is what happened upon creation of that first man, Adam.

Satan, the former cherub Lucifer, sitting on the throne of the earth, had made the Government of God inoperative. Yet, his rule not lessened, he remained still on that throne!

The first human followed the way of Satan, rejecting the Government of God for himself and for his posterity. The whole world was to spring from him. On cutting himself off from God, the Eternal made Adam's decision effective on Adam's human race UNTIL the restoration of God's Government over the earth. And that meant a duration of 6,000 years—until the Second Coming of Christ to restore that Government. This severance from God applied to all except the exceedingly few God would specially call to Him in preparation for the

Kingdom of God, to rule earth with the Government of God.

God did call and choose His nation, Israel, but His Spirit was unavailable to them, except for their prophets.

This brings us to the time of Jesus the Messiah and His founding of the CHURCH.

But bear constantly in mind God's PURPOSE is the reproduction of Himself through MAN. The physical creation of man began with Adam. But the spiritual re-creation of man *began with Jesus Christ.*

At this point bear in mind Satan is the most powerful being next to GOD. He is the archenemy of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD! *Yet to this day he still sits on earth's throne!* He could not be removed from that throne and from the earth *UNTIL* a successor had qualified and been actually inducted into power on that throne!

But WHY is that? Could not God, in His supreme limitless power, have simply removed Satan and sat "The WORD" (John 1:1-3) on that throne before He became the human Christ?

He could not for TWO vital reasons:

1) God's supreme PURPOSE is to reproduce Himself through MAN. And MAN the progenitor of the human race had sold out to Satan and like him rejected the Government of God. To reproduce Himself through humans, God had to SAVE humans from that rebellion and its penalty.

2) God had established HIS GOVERNMENT on earth. It is based on God's LAWS—and God will not compromise a millionth of an inch on His LAWS. God, for example, had power to forgive humanity automatically without requiring the PENALTY incurred through sin to be PAID. But, rather than that, God GAVE His only begotten Son to pay that penalty in our stead! And God's LAW of His Government required that the throne He had set on earth remain inviolate until a successor had qualified and had been inducted into power on that throne.

Bear in mind further: In order for Christ to RESTORE God's Government over the earth, He would need with and under Him a qualified and organized personnel of GOD-BEINGS—all having rejected Satan's false way, and proved loyalty to the Government and righteous ways of GOD!

God's CHURCH was designed in His supreme Master Plan to prepare that dedicated and organized personnel of GOD-BEINGS. The Church, then, became God's instrumentality for His over-all PURPOSE of REPRODUCING HIMSELF!

The CHURCH was planned to be God's instrumentality for calling human beings out of this world, and developing the begotten and finally born FAMILY OF GOD, which shall form the KINGDOM OF GOD.

All this necessitated certain vital steps—one at a time—in the procedure of God's supreme Master Plan!

In the time sequence of God's Master Plan, we have seen there are four important *"UNTILS."*

1) Mankind as a whole would remain CUT OFF from God *UNTIL* the Government of God is restored at the Second Coming of Christ. Satan will then be removed.

2) The Gospel message announcing the future Kingdom of God could not be proclaimed to the world *UNTIL* the second Adam had qualified to restore the Government of God.

3) God's CHURCH could not be founded, and endued with His Holy Spirit, *UNTIL* Jesus had ascended and been glorified in heaven.

4) Even then the Church could not be born of God *UNTIL* Christ's return as KING of kings.

And we might add a fifth "UNTIL." All who died—mankind as a whole—uncalled and therefore unjudged (neither "saved" nor "lost") prior to Christ's return to RULE shall not be resurrected for their time of judgment *UNTIL* after Christ's millennial reign. This will occur at the end of the 7,000 years of God's Master Plan.

There is a vital reason for these *"UNTILS."*

But now in this chapter we have come to the time of that second *"UNTIL."* Jesus had come and *qualified* to proclaim the prophetic GOOD NEWS of the future KINGDOM OF GOD.

So, once again, WHAT and WHY is the CHURCH? The Church is the called out (from this world) begotten children of God. It is the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:23). It is the organized spiritual organism that shall be the "Bride of Christ"—after its resurrection to immortality. Then it shall be married to Christ! It is the spiritual TEMPLE to which Christ shall come at His second appearing.

The Church could not be actually founded *UNTIL* Jesus had ascended and been glorified (John 7:37-39). But in a sense God began calling out some to form the foundation of the Church with Abraham and the prophets of the Old Testament—or even, perhaps with Abel, Enoch and Noah (Ephesians 2:20).

And Jesus, immediately after qualifying by overcoming Satan, began calling out His future apostles. They were to form, with the prophets, the very FOUNDATION of the Church, under Christ who Himself is the real foundation and HEAD of the Church (I Corinthians 3:11, Ephesians 5:23).

The average person has no conception whatever of the *tremendous, supreme* supernatural achievement Almighty God has undertaken in REPRODUCING HIMSELF—ultimately into billions of spiritual GOD BEINGS! Or of the many-faceted stages of development necessitated in this pinnacle of all divine accomplishments!

God could not hurry. It required a Master Plan, which must proceed a step at a time. It required PATIENCE and never-deviating determination on the part of the Divine Creator!

Few UNDERSTAND this!

From a child only 5 years old God put it in my mind and heart

*(Continued on page 39)*

# BEYOND TODAY'S BAD NEWS

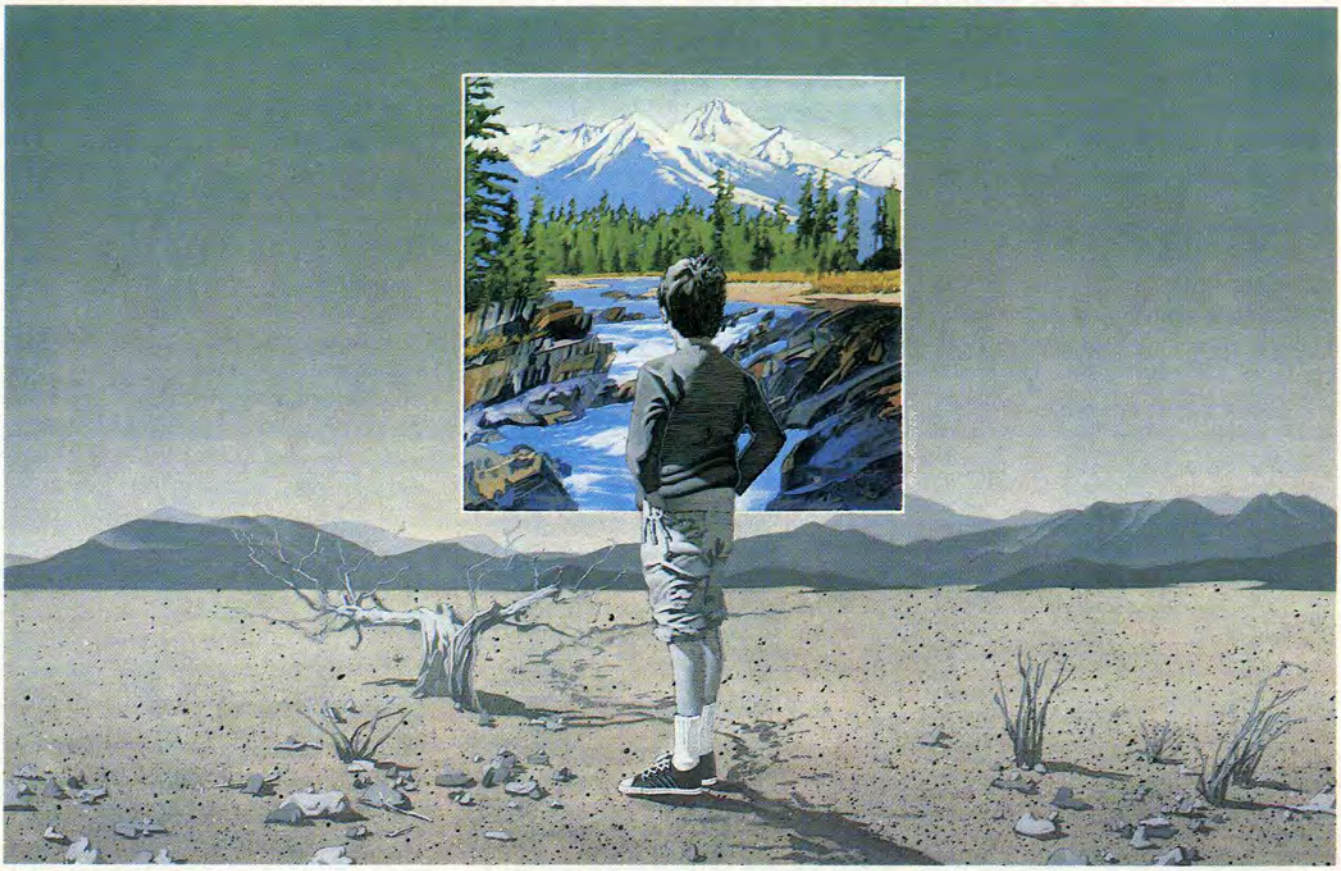


Illustration by Paul Kratter

# GOOD NEWS

*Most of today's news is dismal, foreboding. Just ahead, however, is thrilling news for everyone!*

*by* Clayton Steep

HAVE YOU NOTICED? Of late *The Plain Truth* magazine has been reporting some especially disturbing news. Increased natural disasters, social disintegration, economic chaos, international tensions, preparations to avoid nuclear war that in fact could trigger it. Bad news.

One concerned reader writes:

"I have been reluctant to keep *The Plain Truth* coming as the last issues were so frightening I could hardly cope with it. I didn't want to hear that there was no future for my grandchildren that have worked so hard for college degrees and that my coming great grandbaby would be burned and drenched in blood. *Don't* kill all our hope—it is all we have!!"

This person is concerned about the world. And rightly so! Nobody likes to contemplate masses of people dying in global catastrophes in our time.

Such thoughts are, as our reader phrased it, frightening, difficult to cope with. And we of *The Plain Truth* staff know it.

Just take a look at some recent article titles: "20-Year Forecast: An Inhospitable World;" "Global Outlook Extremely Bleak;" "Energy Catastrophe Facing the World;" "Toward a Troubled 21st Century;" "Real Danger to World Cited as Detente Fades;" "In the Pentagon's Halls: Visions of Apocalypse;" "Voices Prophesying War."

Articles from recent issues of *The Plain Truth?* No! These are titles of recent articles from major mass-circulation news magazines, newspapers and wire services. It was only a few years ago that *The Plain Truth* stood practically alone in warning of the trouble the world is now facing. Few people paid any serious

*We offer hope. The world's only genuine hope. We offer the reality of a bright and marvelous future for mankind on this good earth.*

attention. Now, however, the news media abound with statements by experts and reports by panels all coming to similar conclusions: the future of mankind is bleak—unless we change our whole way of life.

Even from high government levels grave concern is expressed. It took three years to gather together the findings, statistics and analyses of 13 U.S. government agencies to produce *The Global 2000 Report to the President*. As of July 1980 it is official. The government of the richest nation on earth is disturbed about the future! "For the first time, the U.S. government has added its full voice to the chorus of environmental Cassandras deeply distressed about the future. In an 800-page study issued last week, a presidential panel warns that time is fast running out for averting a global calamity" (*Time*, August 4, 1980).

This is grim news. We sympathize with the plea of our concerned reader: "Don't kill all our hope—it is all we have!" But who is killing hope? Worried scientists? Troubled government officials? Perturbed statesmen? Apprehensive news reporters and commentators?

Perhaps.

But certainly not *The Plain Truth* magazine!

We offer hope. The world's only genuine hope. In fact we offer more than hope. We offer the reality of a bright and marvelous future for mankind on this good earth. Peace is coming at last. Prosperity, happiness and well-being for all.

What we announce is *good* news. It is good news for our reader, for her grandchildren, for her great grandchild. It is good news for everybody. The Government of God is coming to this earth to solve all the problems human beings and their systems of government have been unable to solve. It sounds too good to be true. But it is true. And it is certain.

Here's what Isaiah foretold about the proclamation of this exciting news: "Look! 'tis the feet of a herald hastening over the hills, with glad, *good news*, with tidings of relief, calling aloud to Sion, 'Your God reigns!' " (Isaiah 52:7, Moffatt translation).

Notice what the glad message is, "Your God reigns!" It is a message of rulership, of government. It is the good news (or Gospel, because the word *gospel* means "good news") of the soon-coming Government or Kingdom of God.

That is the good news of the World Tomorrow.

### The Bad News Only for Today

The bad news of the world today, however, is that the Government of God is not yet ruling the world. Human beings, motivated by human nature, are still doing what seems right in their own eyes (see Proverbs 14:12).

Selfishness, greed, corruption, hatred, mistrust—these are cold facts of life determining so much of what now takes place. And the result is all the suffering, the sickness, the unhappiness we see around us. The same human nature that has caused all the wars down through history is still at work.

All that is bad news. Frightening news. Hard to cope with. But if we didn't warn of it in *The Plain Truth*, it wouldn't go away. It would still be there, closing in upon us.

We warn about the threat of war and other disasters man is bringing on himself because they wouldn't really have to happen. They could be avoided.

If enough people on earth would repent and turn to God and His laws, and allow Him to rule now in their lives, God's Government could be established on earth without all the bloodshed and tribulation that will otherwise surely take place. *The Plain Truth* must publish the facts about today's conditions and where this world is headed, even though the facts are frightening. In bearing witness to the truth we may wake some people up.

Could there be a repeat of what happened thousands of years ago at the ancient city of Nineveh? Nineveh was a great and mighty city. But because of its wickedness it was marked for destruction (Jonah 1:2; 3:3). God sent the prophet Jonah with a warning, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4).

Frightening? Yes. Hard to cope with? Yes. But "the people of Nineveh believed God, and . . . turned from their evil way . . ." (Jonah 3:5, 10). They repented. And the city was spared destruction for generations.

It would be exciting to see that happen today on a massive scale. There is still time.

However, we are realists. We recognize that what happened at Nineveh is the only case in all of recorded history where an entire people, warned of coming destruction unless they repented, actually did change their ways, at least temporarily, and turn to the true God. So frankly, the chances that many people will heed our warning now are not promising.

That is bad news for them.

Nevertheless, even if the world as a whole does refuse to hear and repent, even if it insists on learning the hard way—through suffering—that humans by themselves cannot find peace and happiness, individuals who do repent need not partake of that suffering. They can find protection from the trouble to come. And that is good news.

To those who surrender to Him, God promises refuge from

the tribulation soon to come. "A thousand may fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee" (Psalm 91:7). God says He will shelter His people—those who obey Him—in a "secret place" (verse 1), a place of safety (Revelation 12:6) "until these calamities be overpast" (Psalm 57:1; Isaiah 26:20-21).

What about the rest of humanity though—all those who do not turn to God at this time? Are they to be written off without hope? Are they all doomed? No, God is going to intervene and cut the suffering and bloodshed short before the point of total human annihilation is reached (Matthew 24:22). He will establish His Government on earth—a Government of peace and justice. The longed-for Millennium—1,000 years of God's righteous rule—will at last be a reality. Those who are still alive at the time will live on into that glorious age.

It is true that millions will have perished in the tumultuous events just preceding God's intervention. But for them also there is *good* news!

Their lives will not have been wasted. They will be resurrected—brought back to life—after the Millennium. Then they will have the opportunity to compare the past 6,000 years with 1,000 years of God's rule—and they will finally begin to live according to God's ways in a harmonious, tranquil and prosperous world. What wonderful news! They will remember the world the way it was when man ruled—under the sway of Satan. They will recall the heartache and suffering and emptiness. Suddenly they will find themselves seeing a glorious earth produced by 1,000 years of peace under God's Government. And they will recognize that God's ways and laws are right. (Read about it in our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like.* Also request "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?")

So while there may be some bad news on the immediate horizon, down the road there is good news for everyone who will heed.

The crisis at the close of this age may be compared to the pains suffered in childbirth. ". . . We have heard a cry of panic, of terror, and no peace. Ask now, and see, can a man bear a child? Why then do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor? Why has every face turned pale? Alas! that day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob . . ." (Jeremiah 30:5-7 Revised Standard Version).

This will be a time of trouble such as the world has never seen before.

A woman's birth pangs, however, do not last. They eventually give way to the thrill of birth. "When a woman is in travail she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she is delivered of the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a child is born into the world" (John 16:21, RSV).

Out of the worldwide convulsions at the end of this age of man's rule will be born a new world order—the rule of God and the wonderful World Tomorrow.

It is as David wrote, ". . . weeping may endure for a night [that's the bad news], but joy cometh in the morning [that's the *good* news!]" (Psalm 30:5).

God speed that morning! □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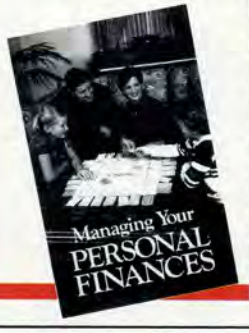


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# GETTING HIGH-
# Who Says: "It Doesn't Affect Me"?

*Why do people take drugs? Users range from executives with a $500,000-a-year income to your son or daughter. What's the motivating factor?*

*by* Michael A. Snyder

IT'S TIME for some straight talk.

We are in the midst of a social revolution that is virtually out of control. A recently released survey by the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) now discloses an "astounding" rise in the consumption of marijuana by young adults. The survey uncovered the fact that two out of three Americans between the ages of 18 and 25 have smoked the drug and fully *one third* of that figure have tried hallucinogens, cocaine or heroin.

We are not talking about tens or hundreds. This survey shows that multiple millions of young adults, the people that used to be referred to as "the leaders of tomorrow," have extensively sampled substances classified by the U.S. government as narcotic—dangerous material.

According to secretary Patricia Harris of Health and Human Services (HHS), concern and fear over the tremendous rise in illegal (and dangerous) drug use are "well-founded." Grotesquely, officials in the NIDA say "the survey probably underestimates drug use to some extent."

Chances are, even though you may not have realized it, you probably are somewhat familiar with drug users. Ever watch professional basketball? Recent investigative action has shown that cocaine is a mainstay in the hotel rooms and homes of several professional basketball players. The players assert they "need" the substance to relax from high-paced schedules.

To some, this is no big matter. The basketball players are simply joining a long list of historic cocaine users that includes Sigmund Freud, Pope Leo XIII, President William McKinley and Thomas Edison. Not to mention executives of large corporations, movie and music celebrities and others of material wealth adequate to afford the white flaky substance.

### The "It Doesn't Affect Me" Syndrome

If you're one of the increasingly diminishing uninitiated insofar as drugs are concerned, this may seem distant and unrelated to your life. But if you think about it, drugs probably strike closer to you than you realize.

You're driving home on the freeway. As you casually glance at the small sports car passing you, your gaze is suddenly frozen at the sight of a well-dressed woman "toking" on a short, colorful hash pipe. Ever walk through a park and see a group of teenage kids with blaring radios making a general, but seemingly harmless, nuisance of themselves. That smell of burning leaves wafting through the air is probably the remnant of charred weed expelled through teenage lungs.

Yes, the drug culture, once generally thought to be confined to a small group of people labeled "hippies," has now grown to massive proportions in our society. The movement toward drug abuse has grown to the point where recently a judge and lawyer husband-wife team were implicated for growing marijuana on their property, and an adviser to the President of the United States had to step down from his official capacity for prescribing a powerful tranquilizer in an illegal fashion.

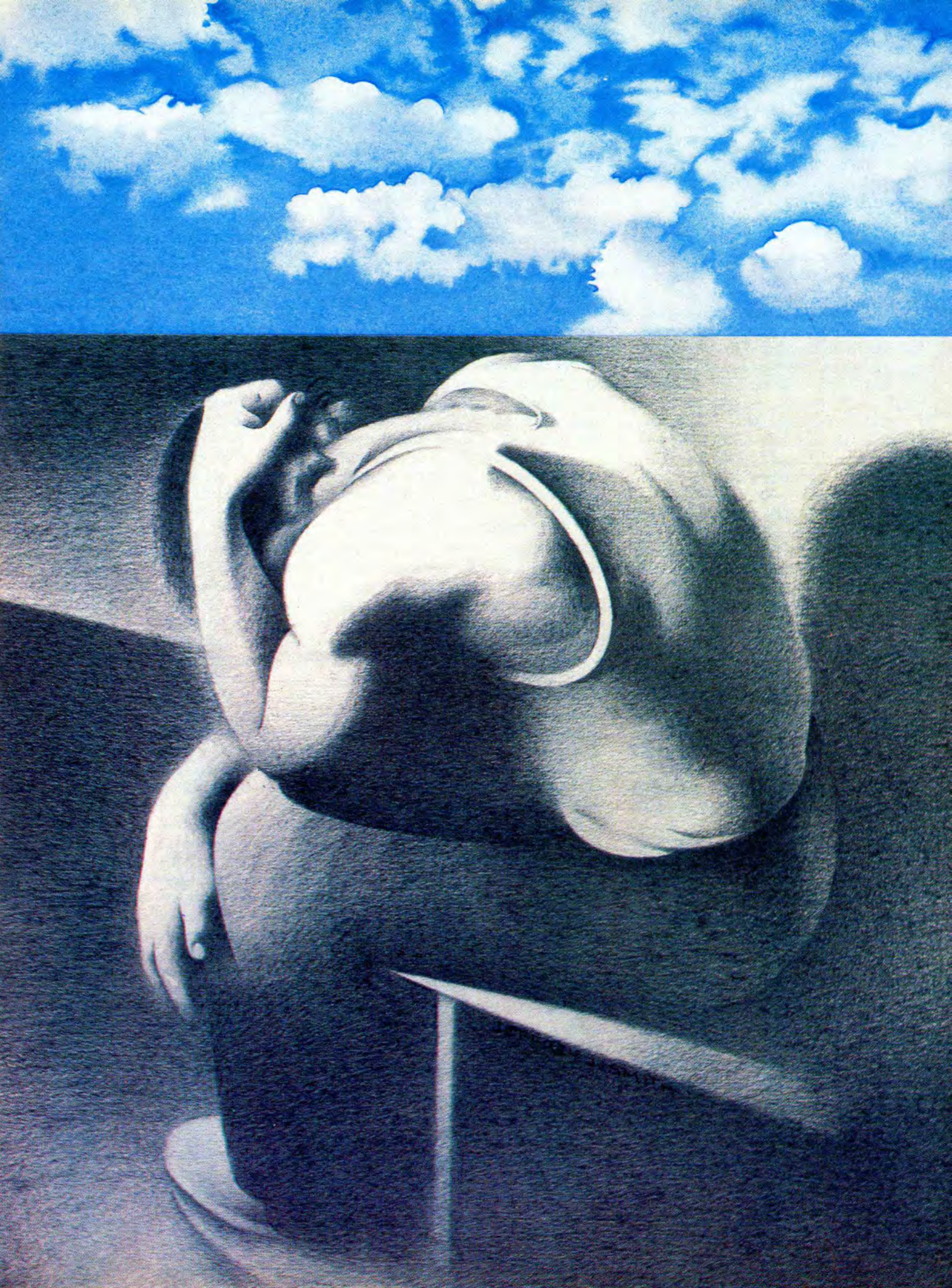
As this all serves to illustrate, we are a society nearly gone mad.

However, if you are one that embraces the illicit use of drugs, current trends may be rather pleasing.

Richard Ashley, the author of a highly respected book on cocaine, urges that "illicit drugs should be legalized and controlled in the way alcohol is regulated." Officials of the U.S. National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) echo these sentiments: "[The NIDA] survey is just another in a long line that shows marijuana is here to stay in our society . . . sales [of marijuana] could be regulated just like liquor and tobacco."

Despite appeals and stepped-up government programs against abuse, increasing numbers of

*Illustration by Jeffrey Smith*



people are turning to drugs. There is a reason! In spite of the unknown—of high risks, financial rip-offs and a whole host of other unpleasantries—we continue to see drug abuse rise.

We ask, why the need for drugs?

### 3,000-year-old Facts

An extremely wise man who lived almost 3,000 years ago experienced some of the things that encourage people to use drugs. Performing a classic experiment where he toyed and experimented with every pleasure known to man, Solomon—the king of Israel—found himself up against a pitiless, impassable brick wall. "Nothing," he wrote in conclusion of his experiment, "in this world is worthwhile" (Ecclesiastes 2:11-12, Moffatt translation).

Probably one of the richest men on earth at the time, Solomon spared no expense in testing all the material items of this world: he built incredible mansions, developed farms and orchards that exceed the imagination; he surrounded himself with playthings, beautiful women, and slaves for every purpose; he put together large orchestras to play at his command; he continued on saying: "Nothing I coveted did I deny myself" (Ecclesiastes 2:10, Moffatt).

The conclusion? "But when I turned to look at all I had achieved and at my toil and trouble, then it was all vain and futile" (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

The result? "So I hated life; for all that goes on under the sun seemed evil to me, all of it vain and futile" (Ecclesiastes 2:17-18).

An incredible statement by a man God says was the wisest who ever lived! Unfortunately, many of us never learn this lesson: artificial props like materialism, illicit drug use and efforts turned inward produce emptiness, frustration and unhappiness. If you go back through the cases of drug abuse you will see in many instances seemingly normal people who, for some reason or another, tried to fill a vacuum in their lives artificially.

The fact is that drugs do succeed somewhat in numbing the pain of emptiness! If you have no goal, no purpose—or worse yet, your goals and purposes have been frustrated—the natural emotional reaction is to become depressed or anxious.

Psychiatrists like Dr. Victor Frankel recognize the desire and hunger for meaning in life as man's basic motivation. When this desire is frustrated or crushed, the person finds himself in a crisis. He comes up against the same wall of uncompromising truth that Solomon did. Now this void of emptiness may not of itself push the individual over into his first joint of marijuana. But it creates a fertile bed that is very accommodating when tempted by peer pressure or other elements of society.

### The Real Reason

So the basic underlying cause of drug abuse can be seen—society itself creates the situation. Our society does not teach people how to cope positively with crisis. It does provide the means by which anybody can obtain short term relief from the emotions and feelings that accompany futility.

Do you enjoy a glass of wine or a couple of bottles of beer? Moreover—be honest—do you enjoy the feeling of lightheadedness that a few ounces of alcohol bring? Or how about the relaxing feeling brought about by a couple of cigarettes? Chances are—you would enjoy taking certain drugs.

The truth is, freed from inhibitions, you would probably like the warm, euphoric sensations resulting from a couple of "tokes" on some marijuana. Plus, you might enjoy the "pleasure" of performing an illegal act. Striking back at "big brother" who says you can't have your fun—you can take authority to yourself—propping up a sagging ego. Author Richard Ashley claims that instead of curtailing the use of illicit drugs, statutes against use actually "actively promote it."

What a tragedy!

Further, trying to "scare" teenagers and young adults into abstaining from drugs is not proving fruitful. As a result of the NIDA's findings, Secretary Harris has ordered government programs against drugs to increase their intensity.

Most teenagers know the line of educators, "Drugs will kill you!"

Unfortunately, drug abuse is so widespread that sooner or later, the teenager (or young adult) will come under peer pressure to sample marijuana. You may know the feeling—the uneasy knot of fear as you succumb to taunts and inhale smoke from your first joint—hoping against hope that the educators are wrong and you won't be harmed.

After a few puffs you are amazed that your heart is still pumping, you still have control over your body—but better yet, you now have this great feeling of drug-induced happiness. And the credibility of the educators drops to zero. Next time, you hear the same educators speaking about the dangers of PCP, a drug that has caused documented cases of permanent psychosis. You compare notes with your friends and dismiss the warnings as more propaganda—possibly with fatal consequences to you.

And this scenario is repeated hundreds of times every day!

Clearly then, man can't treat drug abuse by passing stricter laws or paying educators to preach about its evils. That's treating the effect—not the cause.

The fact is that several people who preach against drugs actually use them! One consultant in a state educational agency told me about widespread use—to the point where roughly 25 percent of the paid professional staff smoked pot regularly!

"How can you cope without drugs?" she asked seriously. "Nobody cares—who can offer me anything better?"

And there you have it. Always looking promising, drugs are a classic temptress. But in the end come the feelings of loneliness, cheapness, terrible emptiness, depression. Artificial props, drugs

*(Continued on page 38)*

# How Specific Does God Have to Be?

*A letter from a* Plain Truth *reader brings up this basic question: How clearly must God speak on a subject before we obey Him?*

*by* Clayton Steep

MOST CHURCHGOERS refer to God as "the Lord." Did you ever wonder why? Even people who are not religious talk about the "Lord," if only when some major crisis arises in their lives.

But have you ever wondered what the title *Lord* means when applied to God?

Any dictionary will supply you the answer. A lord is "one who has dominion over others; a master, chief or ruler; one who has authority." A lord has the authority to tell others what to do. That's what Jesus understood the word to mean. He asked: "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not *do* what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46, Revised Standard Version).

God is the supreme Lord. He has the authority to tell us all what to do. Yet how many who claim to believe the Bible understand that? And further: Just how clearly and specifically must God tell us what to do before we are expected to do it?

To illustrate, consider a challenging letter from K.R., a reader of *The Plain Truth* magazine. He wrote in response to an article on the subject of Easter.

"The reason for Easter's celebration appears to be the same reason why Christians celebrate Advent, Christmas and birthdays. The issue concerning the celebration of Easter in the article and otherwise is why we *shouldn't* celebrate.

"Several Bible verses were quoted, supposedly supporting the view on why we shouldn't celebrate Easter. The first was Deuteronomy 12:30-32 telling us not to worship 'God in their [pagan] way . . .' Easter is indeed of pagan origin. . . .

"Easter being taken from a pagan tradition is of no concern to me or other Christians. . . . I or any other living Christians haven't stolen Easter from any pagans that we know of.

"My question still is, 'why *not* celebrate Easter?' "

As K.R. admitted in his letter, "Easter is indeed of pagan origin." So we agree on that point.

Where we disagree is on what God's view is of pagan religious customs. "Easter being taken from a pagan tradition is of no concern to me . . ." K.R. asserts.

Yes, but *should* it be a concern?

K.R. did not see that these verses apply to him. The gist of his argument is that he must have definite, specific, pointed commandments from God or else he is going to do exactly what he wants to do. So K.R. closed his letter with: "My question still is, 'why not observe Easter?' "

How specific does God have to be?

Let's examine that question.

The voice of God thundered 10 specific, direct commandments from Mount Sinai. They were uttered in simple, unmistakable language. All the people of Israel heard. Then the commandments were engraved on tables of stone so they could not be erased or altered in any way. There was to be no room for the least doubt on the part of anybody as to what God meant. And yet from the days of those who stood on the foot of the mountain and saw the lightning and smoke and heard the thunder and received the tables of stone until this day, most people have managed to find reasons for not obeying the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are memorized, they are featured in religious publications, they appear on wall plaques and on jewelry. A spectacular movie was made about them. Still, how many people do you know who obey the very specific Fourth Commandment "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" or the clear Ninth Commandment against lying? Or the direct Tenth Commandment against coveting? Human beings are quite able to reason around them all to their spiritual hurt! How

specific does God have to be before it is no longer possible to reason around what He says?

Actually, it never has been God's purpose to be specific and emphatic about every detail He wants us to know! In fact, the Bible says those who do only what they have been specifically commanded to do are "unprofitable servants" (Luke 10:17), fit to be cast into outer darkness (Matthew 25:30).

Let's understand this vital point.

#### What Is the Bible?

The Bible is God's instruction book for human beings. It is a revelation of the knowledge we need to fulfill the purpose for which we were created. In the pages of the Bible God reveals what His will is for us—how we should live, how we should conduct ourselves in relation to our neighbors and especially in relation to God Himself, how to be happy, successful, healthy, how to receive eternal life. In short, how to choose the right and avoid the wrong in every situation.

How can one book contain all that information?

God is practical. If He had to spell out in precise, descriptive words every single decision every human being who ever lived ought to make in every possible circumstance and condition of life, the Bible would be so enormous in size that it would be unusable. It would have to contain hundreds, even thousands of volumes.

Then the sheer size of the Bible would serve as an excuse for not obeying what is in it!

But God has made it easy. The entirety of His will and law is summed up in one word: *Love*. He knew we'd need more information than that to direct our lives, though. Therefore He elaborated by stating the two great overall laws: Love God above all and love your neighbor as yourself, "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

To help us understand more clearly yet what is expected of us, God divided up the two great laws into ten commandments. The first four in general show how to love God and the other six show how to love neighbor. Still, God knew that even this would not be enough to show us what is right in every circumstance of life.

So He inspired the preservation of one volume—the Bible—full of examples and principles to illustrate the applications of His Law. That one single volume is all that is needed to know how to please God. He did not intend, nor does He intend to be, explicit and specific about every facet of our lives.

The burden is upon us to study the biblical examples and principles to see what they reveal about God's way of thinking and looking at problems. It boils down to a question of how greatly we desire to learn God's will. It's a matter of how open and receptive we are to what the Bible commands, to what it implies, yes, to what it suggests and hints at. Our character is revealed by our actions—whether we respond positively to the Bible or try to reason around it.

#### "By Every Word"

Jesus was very aware of how to use the Scriptures. Just before starting His public ministry He had to overcome Satan in the most significant spiritual battle that has ever taken place. It was a struggle for rulership of this whole world. Jesus had to decide, under great stress, whether He was going to obey God and thus qualify to be King over this earth, or whether He was going to do the easy thing and compromise with Satan, thus making Satan the king.

Preparing for this monumental encounter, Jesus had "fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry" (Matthew 4:2, Revised Standard Version). The original Greek means "extremely hungry."

"And the tempter [Satan] came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread' " (verse 3). Satan appealed directly to Jesus' greatest physical need at the time—something to put in His stomach. Jesus could have reasoned as follows: "Of course I'm the Son of God. I'll show you I can turn stones into bread. Watch me!"

But Jesus did not do it. Why?

The answer is this: Jesus was familiar with *examples* in the Scriptures that speak against vanity. Satan was appealing, by the word *IF*, to Jesus' vanity to prove He was the Son of God. To have yielded to temptation was equivalent to obeying Satan.

Jesus could have rationalized His actions like so many humans do. He could have said, to borrow a phrase from K.R.'s letter, "My question still is, 'why not . . . ?' "

Notice, however, Jesus' answer and what it reveals about how we should heed the Bible: "But he answered: It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but *by every word* that proceeds from the mouth of God" (verse 4). And Jesus was particularly referring to the Old Testament because the New Testament wasn't even written yet!

The apostle Paul declared—when speaking of examples recorded in the Old Testament, rather than specific commands!—"Now these things are warnings *for us* . . . they were written down for *our* instruction . . ." (I Corinthians 10:6, 11, Revised Standard Version).

Christians are to heed what is written in the Old Testament. That means when God told Israel not to adopt pagan customs (Deuteronomy 12:20-32) and not to eat unclean meats (Leviticus 11), we ought to pay attention to His judgment on those subjects, and not try to reason around it. The same holds true for the Sabbath, the Holy Days, tithing and all the other laws ordained for the good of mankind.

One of the incidents in the Old

*(Continued on page 26)*

# IN BRIEF

## "...THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S"

*by* Stanley R. Rader

In the course of being interviewed on various radio and TV talk shows, I have noticed that some people—usually some self-styled "village atheist"—cannot think straight about religious freedom because they are obsessed with the fact that churches are granted property tax exemption. Another Spanish Inquisition could be going full blast—but all they would care about is whether churches paid property taxes.

Somehow many have got it into their minds that because churches enjoy tax-exempt status, the state has granted them some special privilege. From some people's point of view, the cost of this "privilege" ought to be regulation and control by the state.

Other people have a slightly different, but equally erroneous idea in their heads. Churches enjoy tax exemption, they say, because they do good works and relieve the government of some of its welfare burden. Of course, the idea boomerangs: if the government ceases to think that churches serve its purposes, or if a church has a different idea of how it should spend its money than merely duplicating the local welfare office, then no tax exemption could be granted.

So it should come as a surprise to them to find out that church property-tax exemption is not some handout from an overly generous Legislature, but is something which flows from the very Constitution of the United States.

Unlike freedom of the press, or assembly or speech, religious freedom is protected *twice* in the First Amendment of the Constitution. One part of the First Amendment forbids the government to interfere with your "free exercise" of your religion, another part forbids the government to "establish" its own religion.

There's nothing that says the government can't "establish" its own *press*—witness all the official government publications—or its own right of free speech—government officials speak out all the time—but *religion* is special. It is, as I heard Dean Kelley of the National Council of Churches say once (we were guests on the same talk show), "unique and different from everything else that government applies."

> *"The point of the Supreme Court's ruling is that if the choice is between taxing church property or not taxing it, the most 'neutral' course is not to tax. Any other result . . . would 'entangle' government in church affairs."*

Some people think a church's tax exemption is just the same as a government subsidy. One Supreme Court justice, fortunately in the minority, just came out and said it once, "A tax exemption is a subsidy." The mentality behind that idea is a little frightening—by the same reasoning, everything that is *not taxed* is like being on the government payroll!

Fortunately, about a decade ago, the Supreme Court considered this argument and rejected it. A property owner in New York sued to force the New York City Tax Commission to tax church property. He said that not taxing was like granting a subsidy. It was as if the city were funding churches out of tax dollars, which, of course, would violate the separation of church and state.

But the Supreme Court said that it would violate the separation of church and state *not* to grant churches tax exemption! The Court said:

"Elimination of exemption would tend to expand the involvement of government by giving rise to tax valuation of church property, tax liens, tax foreclosures, and the direct confrontations and conflicts that follow in the train of those legal processes."

The point of the Supreme Court's ruling is that if the choice is between taxing church property or not taxing it, the most "neutral" course is not to tax. Any other result would itself violate the principle of separation of church and state because it would "entangle" government in church affairs.

Now here is a suprise: the Worldwide Church of God is the second largest property-tax payer in Pasadena, California! While we have a constitutional right not to be taxed, Herbert W. Armstrong long ago set a policy that we would not seek exemption from all property taxes. We believe in being good neighbors and haven't tried to grasp every last bit of advantage that is rightfully ours.

Nevertheless, an important principle—at the core of preserving the liberty of God's Government to operate freely within His Church—is that just because our property is tax exempt does not mean we are owned by the state. Churches are not, in one dissenting justice's curmudgeonly phrase, "feeding at the public trough," because their property cannot be taxed away from them. □

# In Search of Love...

*Something is wrong with today's ideas about love. Many "loves" lead to great human tragedy. Why? This article explains what true love is and how it can be achieved!*

*by* Donald D. Schroeder

AT NO TIME in history has so large a proportion of humanity rated the concept of love so highly. Love in human history has not always been as greatly valued, nor desired as it is today.

### The Search for Love

Never before has L-O-V-E—particularly romantic love—been so sought after, spoken of, sung and written about. Movies, television, books and magazines portray love in many forms. Romanticized concepts of love are often represented as panaceas for feelings of inferiority, for loneliness and for achieving lasting happiness.

Love is, according to some modern popular conceptions: sexual passion . . . affection . . . admiration . . . adoration . . . worship . . . respect . . . caring . . . warm feelings . . . a fever . . . blind . . . incomprehensible . . . a mystery.

### Most Have Never Known

You may have different definitions or concepts of love. You may be confused about what love is. Perhaps you have experienced, or thought you experienced, real love.

The shocking fact is, the vast majority of humans living today, and throughout history, have never fully comprehended what true love is or upon what it is based! The love of which I'm speaking passes human or natural understanding.

Every heartache, suffering and torment in human lives today—as throughout history—is because of wrong concepts of love. "Perfect love casts out fear," reveals the Bible (I John 4:18).

True love is a spiritual attitude and way of dealing with life and others. It is a totally constructive, building, sharing and helping way of life. This love originates from God and reflects His character. "He who does not love does not know God; for *God is love"* (I John 4:8, Revised Standard Version).

True love has direction, boundaries and power. The direction is perfecting God's purposes in life. The boundaries are God's laws. And the power is the spiritual immutability of these laws to produce good when obeyed and to produce suffering and penalties when disobeyed.

True love, according to the Bible, the revelation of the Creator to mankind, "is kind,"

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and "worketh no ill to his neighbour." True love "never fails" (I Corinthians 13:4, 8; Romans 13:10, King James translation).

Lack of this kind of love is what is causing so many friendships, dates, courtships and marriages to turn into relationships of exploitation and sexual abuse.

Because true spiritual love is missing in so many lives, many marriages—originally thought to be based on "true love"—collapse after a few months or years in bitter disillusionment, strife, divorce or violence. Perhaps love once existed, but it was allowed to die.

Marriages without true love often become, as one cynic put it, "A long, dull meal with the dessert first."

It is not true love that produces ill-advised, forced or unwanted marriages. True love does not produce illegitimate children, venereal disease epidemics or abortion. Sexual emotions uncontrolled by true love often create the illusion or feelings of love when none really exists. Many tragedies result.

Wrong love produces damaging ideas of what maturity means. It produces antagonisms among individuals and between the sexes. True love will not grow in a battle-of-the-sexes environment.

The Bible reveals the laws upon which true love is built. It reveals the awesome purpose of human life. It reveals the proper relationships between the sexes.

And also very importantly, your Bible reveals the source and nature of human nature and its impact on human motivation and human sexual energy.

Without this knowledge from your Bible, you will not be able to discern all the false "loves" of this world.

#### Intended Love Between Sexes

In Genesis 1:26, the Creator said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." God created the sexes—"male and female created he them" (verse 27). Man and woman were given dominion over the earth. Adam and Eve—the first humans—had the opportunity to live and rule by God's laws and ways (verse 26).

This first couple (and their progeny ever since) had minds capable of free choice. Physically, they had eyes, ears, hands, body and feet—after God's own likeness. But there were differences in sexual function, in emotions and talents.

Note the proper marital relationships God intended in the beginning.

In Genesis 2:18, God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone: I will make him an help meet [or fitting] for him." God created woman out of rib—next to Adam's heart. She was to be close to him. "[She] is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh," recognized Adam.

> *"The vast majority of humans living today, and throughout history, have never fully comprehended what true love is . . ."*

The woman was to be loved and cherished by the man, as he loved himself. She was not an inferior person. She was not intended to be treated as a slave or a doormat, to be trodden underfoot, deprecated or devalued. She was created to complement the man and society with her special talents and abilities—first and foremost, the encouragement, support and inspiration of her husband, then the proper care and education of her children. And the man was to be equally respected for his position and abilities.

God ordained marriage for the perfecting of love and for the proper use of sex. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). "Becoming one flesh" is not just a sexual union—it is also becoming "one" mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It is growing in mutual respect and love—for an awesome purpose!

God revealed later in scripture, ". . . husbands, dwell with them [wives] according to knowledge, giving *honour* unto the wife . . . as being heirs together of the grace of [eternal] life . . ." (I Peter 3:7). And wives are to "revere" their husbands (Ephesians 5:33).

Note their equal opportunity for spiritual salvation and reward before God. There is no human or spiritual inequality of worth. But God did give the man greater responsibility to take the leadership of the family, especially leadership in showing love (Ephesians 5:25). That is because, in any functioning unit, as the family, God establishes government and a line of responsibility.

But many other human relationships exist. They also must be based on true love. God revealed His Ten Commandments—and applications of this law—to cover these additional situations.

#### The Two-fold Law of Love

The first four of the Ten Commandments reveals that true love is first expressed in respect, worship and obedience to God. It means not creating false gods, making or serving idols or misusing God's name and office. It includes keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, the only day ever sanctified or made holy by God.

The last six commandments show how to love others: Honor your father and mother, do not murder, or commit adultery, or steal, or bear false witness or covet.

When asked which was the greatest commandment, Jesus answered: ". . . Thou shalt love the Lord your God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second

[summarizing the last six commandments] is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself . . ." (Mark 12:30-31).

Few realize that Jesus was here quoting out of Leviticus (chapter 19, verse 18). On another occasion He restated this law in what is now called the famous "golden rule" of living (in short, do unto others as you would have them do unto you)—Matthew 7:12.

When God called Israel out from Egypt to be a holy people, He gave them definitive laws in right and wrong human relationships.

Love toward neighbor was not being a tale bearer, bearing grudges or hate, or dealing deceptively or falsely, to name just a few (see Leviticus 19).

God also enumerated wrong sexual passions and perverted "loves" to be kept out of their lives: adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, bestiality, incest and other sex abuses (Leviticus, chapters 18 and 20). These acts were an "abomination" in God's eyes. It did not matter how surrounding cultures or nations labeled or justified them.

### First Parents Rejected Knowledge

God taught Adam and Eve the essential laws of love. He taught them the ultimate purpose of human life—to "be as gods," eternal rulers with God.

But Adam and Eve chose to believe Satan's lies (Genesis 3). Satan said they could "be as gods" right then and there. God was holding back knowledge selfishly for himself, Satan intimated. All they had to do was eat of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil," of which God forbade them to eat. Then, he said, they would be gods and decide for themselves what was good and evil.

As a result of their disobedience, God cast them from the Garden of Eden, and from the opportunity to take of the "tree of life," which symbolized God's Holy Spirit and eternal life.

God said, in effect: You have rejected my way of living, my way of love. You have stolen what was not yours. You believe Satan. Go, then. Be under Satan's sway. Form your own governments, laws and mores under his influence. Develop your own ideas of what is good and evil, your own idea of love. I give you 6,000 years to experiment with your own ideas under Satan's sway and experience the results.

From the days of Cain until today, all humanity cut off from God have fulfilled the scriptures: ". . . ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof. . . . For . . . they hated [God's] knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord. . . . Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices" (Proverbs 1:25, 29, 31).

> *"It is not possible to express true spiritual love without understanding and appreciating the awesome potential of every human being."*

The Bible reveals the major impulse behind human selfishness and lust, of getting for oneself at the hurt and expense of others: These attitudes and motivations are beamed into human minds by Satan, the god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4).

Satan works to implant his own wrong ideas and to generate antagonisms between and among the sexes. He injects selfish attitudes that generate various lusts. Humans unwittingly inculcate those attitudes from Satan's spiritual bombardment through the air and from his influence within human cultures (see Ephesians 2:2-3).

The apostle Paul described in Romans, chapter one, the horrible consequences that have arisen from human ideas of good, of evil and of "love" throughout history. These tragedies afflict all societies in one way or another.

### Ultimate Objective of Love

It is not possible to express true spiritual love without understanding and appreciating the awesome potential of every human being.

That potential is the potential of becoming a literal son of God, with the character and mind of God. Yes, that is the potential even of your enemy who may not yet know God or His ways. But God will call him in His own time and plan.

(Write for free reprint, "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?")

True love, then, is helping others, as well as yourself, achieve the incredible potential!

Here is the *agape*—the Greek word for spiritual love—that the ancient philosophers, poets through the ages and modern theologians have talked about, but never really fully understood!

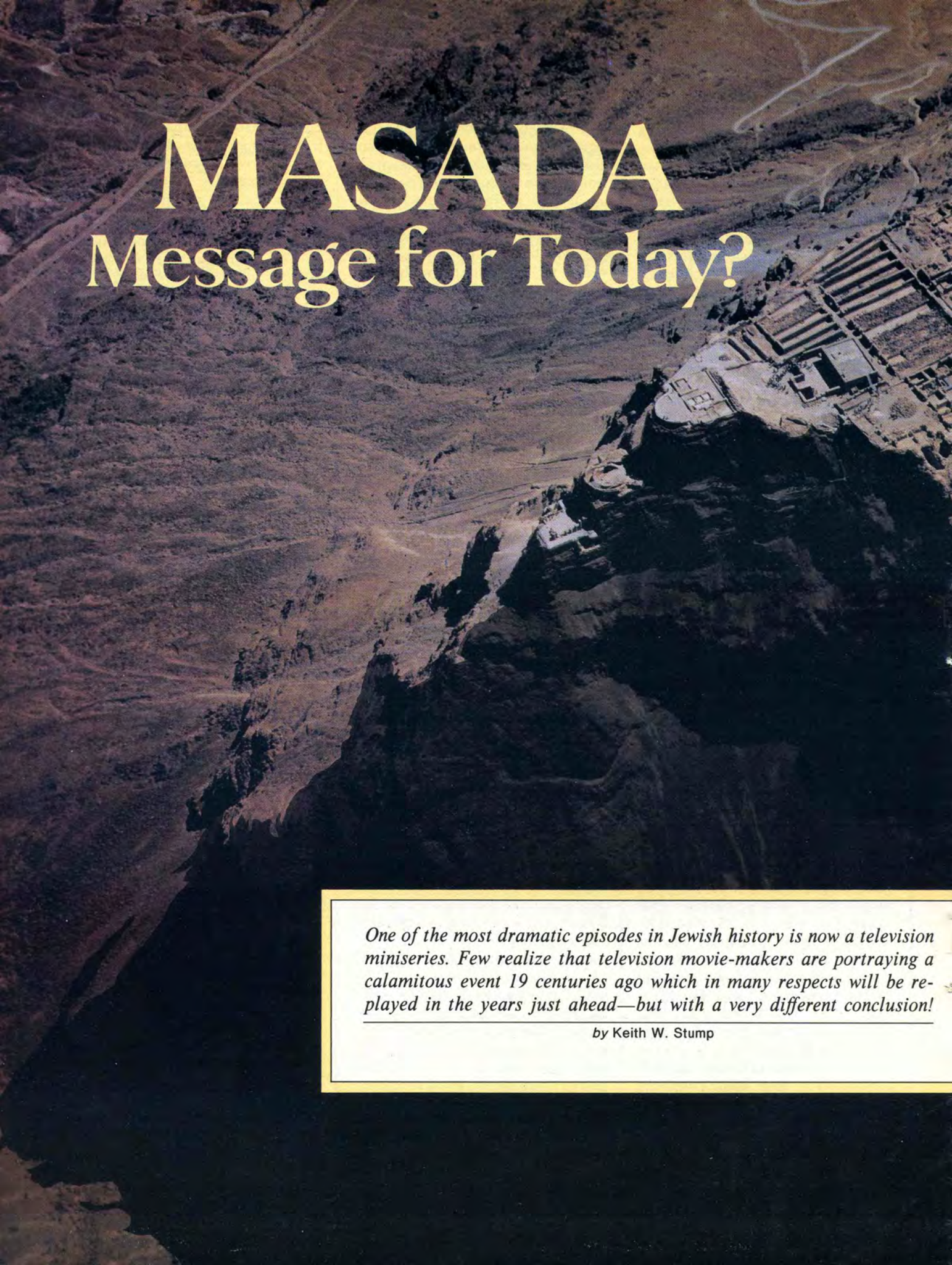
This stupendous knowledge means that other men and women, and your own body and mind also, are *not yours* to do with as you feel. They are not yours to take, possess, abuse, degrade or harm. *All life belongs to God!*

"Behold, all souls are mine . . ." (Ezekiel 18:4). ". . . for the world is mine and the fulness thereof" (Psalms 50:12).

Worldly or deceptive love (biblically, lust) says: "If you really love me, you'll show me by having sex [premarital or extramarital] with me."

True spiritual love answers: "If you really loved me, you wouldn't ask. You'd prepare yourself in the fear of God, who will bring every thought and act into judgment, to be a right husband (or wife). You will desire to be a right example for others and your children."

*(Continued on page 30)*



# MASADA
## Message for Today?

*One of the most dramatic episodes in Jewish history is now a television miniseries. Few realize that television movie-makers are portraying a calamitous event 19 centuries ago which in many respects will be replayed in the years just ahead—but with a very different conclusion!*

*by* Keith W. Stump

YEAR AFTER YEAR the Romans had tightened their grip on Judea. One restrictive decree after another had pushed the Jews of Judea closer and closer toward the brink of rebellion.

Events finally came to a head in the spring of A.D. 66. The Roman imperial procurator, Gessius Florus, seized the vestments of the Jewish High Priest during the annual Passover celebration and demanded payments from the temple fund!

That was the last straw. The Jews erupted into general revolt—defying the military might of the entire Roman Empire!

In response, the Roman general Titus, son of Emperor Vespasian, finally swept into Judea with his legions. In A.D. 70 he conquered Jerusalem, burning the Temple to the ground, laying waste to the city and slaughtering an estimated 600,000 Jews. Thousands of others were sold into slavery.

Some few Jews managed to escape. Evading capture, they made their way across the barren Judean wilderness. Their objective: to join a group of Jewish Zealots that had earlier taken refuge in an ancient mountaintop fortress near the Dead Sea—the fortress of *Masada*.

The stage was now set for one of the most dramatic episodes in all of Jewish history!

### Jews' Last Stand

The events which followed have often been retold. Now a major multimillion-dollar motion picture spectacle made for television brings the story into the homes of millions worldwide.

But few realize the amazing parallels with prophesied events soon to shake the world from the Holy Land! For the Jews are destined to *yet again* confront the power of the final revival of the Roman Empire!

But first, let us look briefly at the outcome of that earlier drama as it unfolded 19 centuries ago.

Following lengthy preparations, Flavius Silva, the Roman governor, marched on Masada with his Tenth Legion. His objective was to capture this last fortress of Jewish resistance. The seige against Masada began early in A.D.72.

The ancient mountaintop fortress stands in the eastern Judean Desert on the west coast of the Dead Sea. Originally a Hasmonean (Maccabean) stronghold, it had later been rebuilt and considerably enlarged by Herod the Great, King of Judea under the Romans.

Perched on a mountaintop more than 1,400 feet above the level of the Dead Sea, Masada—with its combination of natural and man-made fortifications—was considered virtually impregnable.

At the start of the Jewish Revolt in A.D. 66, an unsuspecting Roman garrison stationed at Masada was massacred by Jewish Zealots. The Zealots were a sect noted for their uncompromising opposition to Rome and its pagan polytheism. Their leader through the period of Jewish revolt was Eleazar ben Jair (Yair).

By the time of Silva's siege, the

Zealot defending force at Masada numbered 960, including women and children. The besieging Roman army, encamped at the foot of the mountain, stood at a strength of 15,000.

Month after month the siege wore on. Finally the Romans, using siege machines and fire, succeeded in making a breach in the wall. The end was at last in sight.

No hope of victory or escape remained for the Zealots. Only two alternatives stood before the defenders—surrender or death.

At the base of the giant rock fortress the Tenth Roman Legion prepared to overrun the stronghold and capture the Zealots at the first sight of dawn. But atop the mountain, plans were being made that were to result in a much different conclusion to the drama.

Eleazar ben Jair called the people together. "It is very plain that we shall be taken within a day's time," he observed. In a heart-felt, impassioned speech, he declared that "it is by the will of God, and by necessity, that we are to die: for it now appears that God hath made such a decree against the whole Jewish nation. . . ."

Eleazar's plan was then laid out: "Let our wives die before they are abused and our children before they have tasted of slavery; and after we have slain them, let us bestow that glorious benefit upon one another mutually and preserve ourselves in freedom as an excellent funeral monument for us."

So on that fateful night in the spring of A.D. 73 (15 Nisan 3833 on the Hebrew calendar) the defenders of Masada carried out their plan to "die bravely, and in a state of freedom." After killing their families, the men of Masada chose 10 from among themselves to execute the others. The 10 then cast lots to determine who would kill the other nine, and after that himself. This final man set fire to the palace and then drove a sword through his body.

The bloody story of the last day of Masada is known from the accounts of two surviving women and five children who had hid in a water conduit during the mass suicides. It was recorded at the time by the first century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus in his monumental work, *Wars of the Jews*.

"Now for the Romans," Josephus concluded, "they expected that they should be fought in the morning, when accordingly they put on their armor . . . to make an assault upon the fortress, which they did; but saw nobody as an enemy, but a terrible solitude on every side . . . as well as a perfect silence."

In the centuries since the mass-suicide at Masada, the fortress has become a symbol of Jewish national heroism. Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin, who excavated the site in 1963-65, noted:

"Masada represents for all of us in Israel . . . a symbol of courage, a monument to our great national figures, heroes who chose death over a life of physical and moral serfdom."

Many Israelis today see their nation as a *large-scale Masada*, a nation under siege, threatened by hostile neighbors and other foreign powers.

As we shall see, this analogy may prove to be more accurate than many today realize!

#### Modern-day "House of Judah"

Consider, first, the current Jewish state in Palestine.

In 1948, the present-day state of Israel was forged as a Jewish national homeland. This end-time physical restoration of the Jews as a nation was prophesied anciently—and came to pass just as foretold.

But understand this: the present Jewish state in Palestine is *not* the triumphant final return of the *entire* 12-tribed nation of Israel in peace and security, mentioned so often by the Old Testament prophets! Today's state of Israel is a *human* effort, born of strife and war. Moreover, the vast majority even of the House of Judah *have not yet returned* to the Holy Land!

The Israelis in Palestine today are only a *part* of the "House of Judah"—modern descendants of the ancient tribe of Judah, along with elements of the tribes of Benjamin and Levi.

The 10 remaining tribes of Israel—the "House of Israel," often referred to as the "Ten Lost Tribes"—are still dispersed in various parts of the world! Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* reveals that among the modern descendants of these "lost" tribes are the United States and the British peoples!

Only *after* the return of the Messiah will *all* Israel be regathered and brought back to the Promised Land.

But what is to become of the present-day state of Israel? Bible prophecy reveals the answer!

#### Revived Roman Empire

As we examine these prophecies, notice the amazing parallels between the episode at Masada and events that lie just ahead.

From the standpoint of the present time and the present world, the tangled Arab-Israeli situation appears increasingly to be an *unsolvable* problem. Though compromise has played and may continue to play a role in resolving certain aspects of the dilemma, the gulf between the two sides on *basic root issues* remains wide and deep.

There will continue to be outbreaks of strife between Israel and her Arab neighbors. However, the Bible reveals that the *major* military threat to the region will come from a different source altogether!

Bible prophecy reveals that the years just ahead will see a *rebirth* of the ancient Roman Empire in Europe! An end-time confederation of 10 nations or groups of nations will emerge in Europe, headed by a superdictator known in Bible language as the "Beast" (Revelation 17).

Many prophecies foretell that

this revived Roman Empire will become involved militarily *in the Middle East!* Israeli and Arab alike will feel the impact of this great military power.

Despite genuine and sincere efforts towards peace in the region, a great crisis is yet to occur throughout the Middle East!

In the prophecies of Daniel, the Beast is known as the "king of the north" (for details, request our free article, "The Middle East in Prophecy" by Herbert W. Armstrong). At the "time of the end," Daniel reveals, many nations and peoples of the Middle East are to be overthrown by the Beast's military intervention in the region (Daniel 11:40-41).

Among these occupied areas will be the Holy Land. The Beast, says Daniel, "shall enter also into the glorious land [the Holy Land]" (11:41). The present-day state of Israel will be occupied—*just as Judea had been occupied more than 19 centuries earlier by the ancient Roman Empire!*

Foreign troops will yet stand on Israeli soil!

The invasion of the state of Israel—and Arab countries as well—by the restored Roman Empire is foretold in both the Old and New Testaments. Now notice some of these prophecies.

#### Jerusalem to Be Trodden Down

Jesus Christ prophesied that at the end of this present age Jerusalem would be "compassed with armies" (Luke 21:20), and that "there shall be great distress in the land" (v. 23). The people would be "led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (v. 24).

Daniel calls this period "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time . . . (12:1). This corresponds to the "Great Tribulation," a time of unparalleled global chaos and turmoil, spoken of by Jesus (Matthew 24:21; Luke 21:22).

Numerous prophecies reveal the length of this occupation of Jerusalem. An angel disclosed to Daniel that "it shall be for a time, times, and an half" (Daniel 12:7), or 3½ years.

Revelation 11:2 corroborates this, stating that "the holy city shall they [the armies of the religious-political end-time revival of the Roman Empire] tread under foot forty and two months"—equivalent to 1,260 days or 3½ years.

Prophecy clearly indicates that the children of Judah—along with their "brother" nations, the United States, Britain and other modern descendants of the House of Israel—will have to learn the bitter lesson of their sins through utter humiliation and crushing national defeat at the hands of their enemies!

#### Jerusalem the Focal Point

Jerusalem will become the focal point of an all-out struggle for world supremacy.

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh," declares the prophet Zechariah, " . . . For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken . . . " (14:1-2).

As the conflict escalates, mankind will stand on the very threshold of total annihilation! But God will suddenly intervene mightily in world affairs! Jesus Christ will return from heaven with a vast army. Unlike at Masada 19 centuries ago, the Messiah *will* intercede this time to save His people.

Instead of fighting each other, the world's armies will turn their attack against *Him.* The result will be the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:12-16; Joel 3:1-2, 9-17), often erroneously referred to as the "Battle of Armageddon." The returning Christ will destroy the Beast, the supportive kings of the earth and their armies gathered at Jerusalem (Revelation 19:19-20).

With the coming of the Messiah, the "times of the Gentiles" will come to an end. Christ will deliver Jerusalem from the gentile forces. *All* 12 tribes of Israel will be gathered from captivity and be brought back to the Promised Land (Jeremiah 23:3-8; 50:4-5, 19-20; Ezekiel 20:34-43; 36:24-28; 39:25-29).

God's Government will then be established over the entire earth (Daniel 2:44; Revelation 11:15). Jerusalem will become His world headquarters (Jeremiah 3:17). The "Messianic Age" so long awaited by the Jews will at last be realized!

As the Jews were among the first to receive corrective punishment, they will be among the first to be delivered and resettled, along with the other tribes of Israel (Jeremiah 3:18). But Christ will not return as the Messiah of Israel only, but of the *entire world!* The prophet Zechariah reveals that ultimately *"many people* and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord" (8:22).

"In those days," Zechariah continues, "it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you" (8:23). How different this outcome than the tragic conclusion to the events of Masada 19 centuries ago.

Following the tumultuous crisis of the Great Tribulation, the Jews will *not* have to say, as they did on that calamitous last day at Masada: "The same God, who had of old taken the Jewish nation into his favor, has now condemned them to destruction."

But rather they will joyfully declare, along with all of Israel, to the gentiles: "The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land" (Jeremiah 23:8). □

# How Specific

*(Continued from page 16)*

Testament Paul described as being recorded and preserved for our instruction illustrates the very question of how specific God has to be. It is the little understood story of Balaam.

### See What Balaam Did

Balaam was a prophet who lived at the time the children of Israel were preparing to enter the Promised Land. Balak, a local king of Moab, didn't want Israel as his neighbor. So he sent some messengers to try to hire Balaam to come and cast a curse on the Israelites.

Balaam dearly wanted to accept the reward from Balak and curse Israel. There was only one problem: God specifically forbade him to do it. "Thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed" (Numbers 22:12).

That should have been that. Balaam should have refused to hear any more from Balak's messengers. Now knowing God's will in the matter, he should have gone out of his way to support God's decision. He should have stayed as far as possible from the edge of the cliff.

But no, Balaam coveted the reward in the same way most moderns do what they very well want to do. Balaam reluctantly told Balak's messengers "The Lord refuseth to give me leave to go with you" (verse 13). "But I surely would like to" is to be understood.

Well, Balak sent messengers of greater importance to try to convince Balaam. Notice Balaam's attitude in verse 18: "If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more." In other words, he asserted that he would only do what God specifically, explicitly commanded him, nothing more, nothing less. And God had specifically commanded him not to curse Israel. Nevertheless, as verse 19 shows, he tried to talk God into changing even His specific command.

The story goes on for the next two chapters, Balaam grudgingly doing only what God specifically and directly commanded and yet trying all the while to get around having to limit himself and lose a financial reward. "All that the Lord speaketh [clear, precise commands], that I *must* do" (chapter 23:26). "I cannot go beyond the commandment of the Lord, to do either good or bad" (chapter 24:13).

In spite of even God's plain, directly spoken commands, Balaam's attitude was "My question still is, 'why not . . .?' "

Why not take the coveted reward? Why not do what I want to do instead whenever God does not tell me what to do in specific terms? I'll do what God says only if expressed in language legally air tight and free of all possible loopholes, and impossible to reason around?

> *"God inspired the preservation of one volume—the Bible. . . . That one single volume is all that is needed to know how to please God."*

Why not observe Easter? Why not eat ham?

The Bible condemns Balaam's method of carnal reasoning (Jude 11).

### The Right Approach

How should we use the Scriptures to choose the right course of action in any given situation?

First decide what the question is. Then, look into the Bible for direct commands—also for examples, indications, implications, clues—anything that reflects God's thoughts on the subject.

Instead of only asking, "Why not?," also ask "Why?" Our lives should not be guided by apparent absence of instructions. We should have a sound reason for doing what we do (I Peter 3:15).

Attitude is very important. One must have a fear of doing wrong. Such a fear is essential to the ability to make right decisions. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10).

Earnestly desire to do what God commands—and also what He suggests and even hints should be done. After all, He is Lord of heaven and earth, the Supreme Ruler.

If you are not able to come to a clear conclusion as to what the Bible says on a matter, always give God the benefit of a doubt. Better safe than sorry. It cannot be overly emphasized that true Christianity is a way of life, a way of thinking—a matter of being open and receptive to the way God looks at things, the way He thinks about things.

In the World Tomorrow David will be made king over all the tribes of Israel (Ezekiel 37:24). What attitude did he have that he can be entrusted with such an exalted and powerful position?

David never argued with the Almighty. He loved and respected God's specific laws, commandments, statutes and judgments (Psalm 19:7-10). But more than that, he loved *all* God's precepts, His testimonies and His words (Psalm 119:99, 103, 128). Yes, he exclaimed, "How precious also are thy *thoughts* unto me, O God!" (Psalm 139:17.)

David's attitude showed where his heart was. He was not seeking loopholes. He did not try to rationalize and find excuses. His mind was open to the faintest suggestion or hint of what God wanted. Listen to the confident testimony of God Himself: "I have found David . . . a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil *all* my will" (Acts 13:22).

How specific does God have to be to you? □

# Dramatic Fall in Living Standards

*One year ago,* Plain Truth *Editor Herbert W. Armstrong wrote "Prepare to Greatly Reduce Your Standard of Living!" The prediction was right on target—1980 has seen an incredible fall in living standards. What was behind such an accurate prediction?*

*by* Jeff Calkins

NINETEEN EIGHTY—the 50th anniversary of the first full year of the Great Depression—was an incredible—an incredibly bad—year!

The economic world went crazy. Gold approached U.S. $900 an ounce before receding. Silver came near U.S. $50 an ounce—and then the bubble burst, wiping out billions in paper profits. Inflation reached unheard-of levels in the United States—18 percent—and remains in a disastrous 10 percent range. Interest rates hit 20 percent—another sign of economic madness.

The outcome: 1980 saw a dramatic fall in the real income of the average person, just as *Plain Truth* Editor Herbert W. Armstrong predicted in the January, 1980, U.S. issue.

### Statistics Confirm

The raw figures show that living standards have plummeted.

According to the U.S. Labor Department, the average (median) income of families in the United States rose in the neighborhood of 8 percent. But the cost of living for the same period, March, 1979, to March, 1980, went up to 13.3 percent. For the period June, 1979, to June, 1980, the statistics were even worse. Average nonfarm workers pay rose only 6.4 percent—but inflation in the same period was a whopping 14.3 percent. In other words, almost an 8 percent drop in living standards.

The drop in living standards is best illustrated in housing costs. Skyrocketing interest rates have made monthly housing payments of U.S. $700 to $1,000 a month not uncommon. Over the last decade, the percent of disposable income spent on housing by the average worker has doubled.

### Bare Stats and Real Pain

But the statistics don't tell the personal side of the story. Living standards have dropped in *real,* tangible ways.

A CBS News-New York *Times* poll reveals just how much the average family cut back their standards recently:

- 80 percent of those polled have cut back on the amount of gasoline they use.
- 86 percent lowered the heat in their homes last winter.
- 54 percent have cut back on the quality of food they buy.
- 66 percent have cut back on vacations.
- 44 percent have someone in the family who is supplementing the family income by working longer hours or getting a second job.

But the inflation of the past year has taken a devastating toll on the poor. The National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity estimates that households in the lowest 10 percent income tax bracket are spending nearly a fifth more of their after-tax income *than they have*—actually going into the hole—to pay for food, shelter, energy and health.

The current inflation has hit the poor hard because it is the price of necessities that have gone up the most. The worst inflated areas are heat, medical care, gasoline and food.

### Worst of All Possible Worlds

The best indicator of how the economy is doing in the present is the "misery index." The misery index is the inflation rate plus the unemployment rate. In 1980, the misery index hit 20. Four years earlier, it had been 12.5.

In 1980, as unemployment approached 8 percent, inflation settled to a *base* of 10 percent, often going much higher.

Of course, economic conditions were getting worse before 1980. In 1979, the average weekly earnings of the average worker—his real standard of living—also declined by more than 8 percent.

And because of a combination of inflation—pushing workers into higher tax brackets—and higher social security taxes, the typical married worker with two children and a nonsupervisory nongovernment job had seen his real standard of living go down by 6 percent over the past decade. In the past three years, there has been no gain at all in living standards for the average worker.

### Prophesied for the U.S.A.

A survey this year by the University of Michigan Survey Research Center revealed that consumer attitudes toward their economic future hit the lowest on record since 1946. Such gloom reflected the atrocious state of affairs in the economy.

But why? Are mere economic factors the only reason for all the bad news?

Listen to what Herbert W. Armstrong wrote *before* the beginning of this incredible year:

"And now, FOR OUR OWN GOOD, an all-wise and all-loving God is about to PUNISH our nations, in order finally to bring us to HIM!"

More than mere economic factors were at work in making 1980 a disastrous year economically! Divine punishment must be included.

The special reasons for this punishment are laid bare in our handsome soft-cover book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy.* Its price hasn't inflated one bit in all the years we've been publishing it—it is still *free.* Write for your copy. □

L E T T E R S

# What Our Readers Say

**America the Beautiful—America the Condemned!**

My daughter, age 11, ordered a trial subscription of your magazine because she thought I would enjoy it. Your June-July issue contained so many important articles that I read it from cover to cover—something I have rarely done with any publication. Oddly enough, yesterday the pastor of our local church thought Herbert W. Armstrong's article "America the Beautiful—America the Condemned!" important enough to have it read from the pulpit in its entirety to the local body.

James McNally
Wilson, North Carolina

I just read your most timely art. "America the Beautiful: America the Condemned" which is a reverberation of Isaiah's 'Great Arraignment' in essence . . . headed for collapse! May I add another and most appropriate Bible quote to those you have already so aptly mentioned, namely Luke 12:19, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." And when in all history have a people "sat down to eat and drink and rise up to play" (I Corinthians 10:7) as in America?

Paul Brinkman, Jr.
Cannon Beach, Oregon

**American Bias?**

As editor in chief for the magazine *The Plain Truth,* I hope you can clarify some misunderstanding that arose from my reading the June/July issue.

I detect a definite pro-American bias in the articles and a slight surprise that God may not necessarily support all American activities!

In the Tesla article all blame seems to be pointed to U.S.S.R. as causing weather disturbances. Seek out Environment Protection agency sources and others for documentation proving (Western) involvement in Extremely Low Frequency research. If you want to print *The Plain Truth* research both sides of the coin. Canadian and American countries have got their own Tesla magnifying transmitters.

Another article, on chemical warfare, again had a severe "America the Virginal Lamb" tone. The extent to which all participants used Vietnam as an experimental zone for all inhuman warfare had never been seen 'till then. You have a very good source of statistical information on all these bad "communist" countries, but please, you should not try to whitewash American involvement in these very same areas. To me, *The Plain Truth* should carry a totally objective tone as to what is really happening in the world.

I would appreciate receiving *The Plain Truth* on a regular basis.

Pierre D.
Tweed, Ontario

• *Our response is, read the letter that follows, below.*

**Weather Upset**

As one trained in science, I have been most interested in the *accurate reporting* of the scientific side of the present desperate world situation by *Plain Truth.* I was particularly surprised when you pointed out that Tesla's early work has not been ignored by the Russians and that they may be even now seeking to use it as a weapon—an event Tesla feared to the extent that he tried to destroy all record of this work when one of his experiments nearly destroyed his own laboratory!

N.O. Klaner
Harper Woods, Michigan

**TV and Evolution**

I enjoy your TV broadcast immensely with its biblical message. I am a high school teacher who sees the dilemma youth faces in their everyday life. I personally like the message you give to us over the TV media. We are taught evolution in our colleges as an accepted fact. But we are never given one alternative story. I'd appreciate any literature you might have to offer so that I can help myself and others in need of seeing the "other side." *Please* send me *any* literature you have of help regarding one refutation of the false theory of evolution.

Jeane M.S.
Kitchener, Ontario

**Natural Childbirth**

I would like to thank you so much for your article "Unmasking a Conspiracy Against the Newborn." The knowledge in this article is so badly needed in the world and church alike. If we're to fulfill Malachi 4:6, one way is to begin at the very beginning.

As our daughter was born at home in January, we had the marvelous experience of enjoying birth, bonding and nurturing the way our loving Creator meant it to be, and the way I know it will be in the World Tomorrow. Our fourth child is such a joy to all of us because of this experience.

Thank you again and keep up the good work.

Leanne T.
Calgary, Alberta

**To Heal a Nation**

We wish to express our appreciation for the inspiring article, "To Heal a Nation," which appeared in the October-November issue of *The Plain Truth* magazine.

Although the article described the many complex problems facing this tiny nation, the sense of hope the author was attempting to convey

shone through. It was an article written with grace and understanding.

Keep up the good work!

Glen and Toni Laman
Atlanta, Georgia

The article in the October-November, 1980, *Plain Truth*, "To Heal a Nation," has affected me deeply.

I am an American citizen. I am not black, and so far as I know my ancestors were never enslaved, but we have been far from wealthy; I have never lived outside the county where I was born.

Your description of Haiti and its people helps me to realize how much I have and how seldom it occurs to me to really appreciate it. Oh, I am grateful, and I thank God sometimes just for the roof over my head and a bed to sleep in, but not often enough!

Thank you for the perceptive article. Thank you for reminding me of how busy we will be when the Kingdom finally comes. Thank you for helping me to reinforce my commitment to God and His Kingdom. I want very much to help heal a nation!

Margaret Jernigan
Milan, Michigan

**Inflation**

I have been receiving *The Plain Truth* for over a year now, and I am very pleased with the articles that you write. Furthermore, I truly believe every word.

Your recent article on inflation has inspired me to give one tenth of my weekly salary to God. Please distribute it where you think it will do the most good. I look forward to reading more of your stimulating writings. I feel that *The Plain Truth* has brought me closer to God.

Josephine Charzewski
Staten Island, New York

The article in the June-July issue "Despite Inflation—You Can Solve Your Financial Worries" revealed to me how God's law regulates our income. As your article correctly pointed out, I too was among those who didn't know that what you earn is not yours, but God's. I now earnestly ask that you accept my enclosed check as my tithe to God. Because I'm a full-time college student, the income I earn is derived from working only during the summer vacation months. So whatever I earn, I will gladly give God His rightful 10 percent and use the remainder to sustain myself the rest of the year.

Bob Mucha
Birmingham, Michigan

Just read your article of "You Can Solve Your Financial Worries Despite Inflation" in the June-July, 1980, issue of *The Plain Truth*.

You're right about giving God's one tenth. I haven't been doing so for so many years and everything is going wrong, but I do remember being happier and healthier back in those days when I was giving to God!

My check is enclosed for my tithes. May God bless the use of this money to reach someone with His word!

S.K. Roberts
Osteen, Florida

**Tithing**

I have just started reading your publications during the past few months, my father introduced me to them.

The articles on the tithes was very mind opening. It has come at a very trying time in my life, and I hope that by obtaining a better understanding of God and His Church and by paying God's money back, I receive the guidance I need to understand what is happening to me and my family.

Enclosed please find a cheque to start paying my tithes. Thank you for making it possible for this insight.

Cheryl B.
Hamilton, Ontario

**Women's Movement**

My boss would not insult a man by offering what he pays me to manage this entire office. Also, if all women were paid a decent salary (I realize *some* are) we could possibly do away with the child support system in this country—which is barely working anyway.

Carol McCue
Port Huron, Michigan

Your article in the August issue on the women's movement was excellent. Your comment that "no one really knows what impact the ERA would have on families and individuals until the courts start interpreting it in specific cases (were it passed)" was a most profound statement.

Jerry Shuster
Gheen, Minnesota

Regarding the article on "The Women's Movement": Women should receive equal pay for equal work and have an equal opportunity to enter the professions. Women should not be treated as sexual playthings to be discarded after use. But the line must be drawn when women contend they should have the right to kill their unborn babies.

Your September article on abortion rightly describes the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion on demand as "legally wrong." One popular argument favoring the ruling is that "we cannot legislate morality." Yet that ruling in effect imposed the moral views of proabortionists on those who think abortion is the killing of unborn babies.

True, antiabortion laws legislate morality, but only in the same sense that we legislate morality when we outlaw incest, rape, child prostitution, stealing, extortion and murder. When we make these activities illegal, we "impose moral, ethical and religious values" on those who find nothing wrong with these acts.

Haven Bradford Gow
Arlington Heights, Illinois

**Thank You from Uganda**

I was real gratified to receive, once again, my copy of *The Plain Truth*. Please thank you.

To us in Uganda, who had been denied the privilege of receiving and reading informative magazines like *The Plain Truth* by the authorities, the copy you have just sent, shows that the Almighty God loves our country.

We pray that the freedom recently granted, persists, so that we continue to receive *The Plain Truth*, let alone tranquility, development and social and economic progress of our country. Again, thank you.

D.W.K.
Uganda

**Sodom and Gomorrah**

I wanted to write, although belatedly, to compliment Donald Schroeder on the article on Sodom and Gomorrah.

The fundamental point of the article was very powerful—"If they had gone on, it would have been improbable they could ever achieve God's great purpose for them in a future resurrection." As a Church member, I feel that this is the kind of work which sets *The Plain Truth* apart.

George Slivinsky
Winnipeg, Manitoba

## *In Search of Love*

*(Continued from page 21)*

True love answers the advocates of permissive morality: "[It] is the will of God . . . that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel [wife] in sanctification and *honour,* not in the lust of concupiscence [wrong sexual passions and abuses], even as the Gentiles [or anyone else] which *know not God"* (I Thessalonians 4:3-5).

### More Than Human Strength Required

True love is, first, love toward God, the Creator, the author of every good gift. He offers human beings the fantastic opportunity to enter the Family of God. True love is then toward others.

Love is respecting your own potential—and others' potential—as sons of God. Love is striving with God's mighty spiritual help to grow in maturity and wisdom. It is wanting to glorify God in your mind and body (I Corinthians 6:20).

Love is helping and encouraging others, with a special emphasis on those called by God at this time (Galatians 6:10). Love is not casting stumblingblocks or aspersions before the weak in faith or the ignorant (Romans 14:13).

The fulfillment of that kind of love is not possible by human strength alone. It requires God's Spirit flowing in human minds. But God's Spirit is given only to those willing to obey God (Acts 5:32). The receiving of God's Holy Spirit only comes after real repentance of one's sins, faith toward God, and water baptism (immersion) as a sign of one's burial of the old sinful ways.

Then comes the lifelong process of growing spiritually and testing one's character and love.

There will be many trials and difficulties in changing from your old selfish habits and ways (Acts 14:22). But by daily throwing yourself on God's mercy and power, the fruits of God's Spirit will increase: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23 RSV).

True love is not, as so many believe today, "freedom to do your own thing." "[True] love is the fulfilling of the law"—God's immutable laws and great purpose for human life (Romans 13:10).

### The Search Ends

Where is the love that will last after all the material riches, suffering and heartaches of this world perish? Here is perfect love:

"If I speak with the eloquence of men and of angels, but have no [godly] love, I become no more than blaring brass or crashing cymbal. If I have the gift of foretelling the future and hold in my mind not only all human knowledge, but the very secrets of God, and if I also have that absolute faith which can move mountains, but have no love [that is, do not express love to others in lawful serving, helping and sharing], I amount to nothing at all. If I dispose of all that I possess, yes, even if I give my own body to be burned, but have no love, I achieve precisely nothing.

"This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience—*it* looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

"Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not compile statistics of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when Truth prevails.

"Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust [in God], no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen. . . .

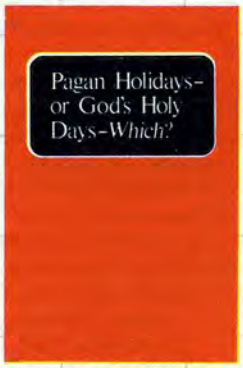
"In this life we [true Christians] have three great lasting qualities—faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love" (I Corinthians 13, J. B. Phillips translation). □


# What day is it?

***Different religions observe different holidays but . . .***

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

DOES IT MATTER to God Almighty which days we observe as "holy"? The Bible is very specific about the subject. Did you know that God's plan for every individual—including *you*—is revealed in HIS annual holy days? Discover the surprising truth for yourself.

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Roland Rees—PT

# New Truth About Smoking

*by* Jeff Calkins

*Everybody now knows that smoking hurts the smoker. One government official has called it "slow motion suicide." Now new facts have come to light. Smoking does more harm than people suppose!*

IS THERE a smoker anywhere who doesn't know smoking causes him terrible physical harm? Widespread health warnings about smoking have caused the proportion of smokers in the population to go down. Smokers in the U.S. now number around 35 percent. And yet these 35 percent remain smokers even after all the warnings!

It seems that some people just don't care about their health. The temporary pleasure they get from smoking is worth more to them than the risk of heart attack, lung cancer, bladder cancer or emphysema.

Smoking is wrong because of what it does to the smoker. It hurts him—and it reinforces wrong traits of character. Years ago, editor Herbert W. Armstrong squarely confronted the problem of smoking from the standpoint of God's law:

"I then asked myself: '*Why* do I smoke? Is it to express outgoing love to God?' Most assuredly not! 'Am I smoking to express outgoing love and concern for the welfare of other humans?' I had to answer in the negative." Thus he concluded that smoking was "a form of *self*-desire, breaking—at least in some measure— the Tenth Commandment!"

*Now* it comes to light that smoking breaks *not only* the Tenth Commandment against lust—it also breaks the Sixth Commandment against harming your neighbor!

Scientific studies have now revealed that smoking in the presence of others is an aggressive, hostile, poisonous act! It is literally *poisoning* someone else.

The apostle Paul said that "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour" (Romans 13:10). As we shall now see, smoking works *grievous ill* to its neighbor!

Nicotine, one of the more harmful substances in tobacco smoke, is used commercially as a weed killer. Smokers have voluntarily chosen to expose their own bodies to this poison. And yet, according to the British medical journal *Lancet*, when 27 nonsmokers were shut in an unventilated room with a group of heavy smokers for a little more than an hour, the nonsmokers picked up significant amounts of nicotine in their blood and urine.

A nonsmoker does not smoke for a reason—he wants to remain healthy. And yet when a nonsmoker has to breathe the cast-off smoke of someone else's burning cigarette, it is just the same as smoking.

According to the World Health Organization, a nonsmoker who spends one hour in a smoke-filled room inhales so much nicotine and carbon monoxide (which prevents the blood from receiving oxygen) that it is just as if he had

smoked one cigarette! Perhaps many smokers do not fully realize that their cast-off smoke is actually harming others.

One prosmoking newspaper columnist, Jeffrey Hart, surveying recent no-smoking-in-public-places laws asked: "What's going on? I think we can forget about the health aspect."

Oh no we can't! Heart disease, lung cancer, emphysema and birth defects are all caused by smoking and those who smoke in the presence of others are subjecting them to these deadly risks.

How many smokers realize that smoke from a burning cigarette contains ingredients which sound as if they were taken from a chemical warfare arsenal?*

#### Causes Illness

The tobacco companies would have you believe that cast-off (or sidestream as it is sometimes called) smoke is just an annoyance, like bad breath or barking dogs. Ridiculous. Twice as much respiratory illness occurs in children of smoking parents as nonsmoking parents.

Studies on animals show that rabbits exposed to cast-off smoke from 20 cigarettes a day for two to five years developed emphysema. Rats exposed to cast-off smoke for 45 minutes a day for two to six months developed twice the number of tumors as nonexposed rats.

According to Dr. Raymond Slavin of St. Louis University and the American Academy of Allergy, "There is no question that nonsmokers can develop toxic levels of carbon monoxide in smoke-filled rooms."

According to a recent study by researchers at the University of California at San Diego, cast-off smoke damages the small airways or alveolar sacs of the lung. These sacs are responsible for putting oxygen into the bloodstream. The researchers found that pollutants in cast-off smoke irritate and cut these sacs' delicate membranes.

Some people, of course, don't need scientific studies to know that cast-off smoke makes them ill. A former accounting clerk at an Air Force base in Texas, for example, had to quit her job because cigarette smoke gave her sore throat, laryngitis, hearing problems, nosebleeds and sinus infections.

#### Nonsmokers Get It Worse

Smokers not only subject others to the same health risks they subject themselves to, but they actually subject those around them to *worse* risks.

Cast-off smoke contains twice as much tar and nicotine, three times as much of a certain kind of benozopyrene (a suspected cancer agent), five times as much carbon monoxide (which robs the blood of life-giving oxygen), and 46 times as much ammonia as the smoke the smoker inhales! (according to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare).

Then there's cadmium. No matter how little you inhale, cadmium stays in your lungs *forever*! It accumulates in the lungs, liver and kidneys. Emphysema victims have excess levels of cadmium. According to the Lung Association, some "research has shown that there is even more cadmium in the smoke that drifts off the burning end of the cigarette than in the drag the smoker inhales."

And a recent study conducted by the British government shows that a nonsmoker receives a larger dose of tar and nicotine than the smoker himself.

#### Nonsmokers Strike Back

Many countries have adopted antismoking laws over the past decade. Most of these laws merely require health warnings on cigarette packs and place restrictions on advertising. In some places, however, the right of the nonsmoker to breathe noncigarette-polluted air is being respected:

In West Germany two states try to separate smoking from nonsmoking public employees.

In Argentina, there are smoking bans in public transportation, as there are in Great Britain. In Canada, nonsmokers' rights groups are lobbying for nonsmoking areas in public transportation, restaurants, public meeting places and food stores.

In the United States, Arizona became the first state to ban smoking in public areas, specifically elevators, indoor theaters, libraries, art museums, concert halls and buses. The ban also includes school buildings, waiting rooms, restrooms, lobbies and hallways of health care facilities.

Later Minnesota enacted its own clean-air act, which requires a smoke-free area in all public places. At last count, 33 states and 225 cities in the United States have passed some kind of law restricting smoking to separate areas.

The courts have also, albeit reluctantly and slowly, begun to realize that smoking in the presence of a nonsmoker is a kind of assault and battery. A New Jersey Superior Court has ordered one public utility to prohibit smoking in an office where one of the employees suffers nausea, vomiting and eye irritation from prolonged daily exposure. In Los Angeles, a school district employee was able to collect unemployment insurance after he quit his job because he had to sit between two smokers, aggravating a bronchial condition.

Such laws and court actions are hardly extreme, nor do they stem, as some smokers claim, because nonsmokers can't stand to see smokers enjoying themselves. By God's civil law given to ancient Israel, assault and battery—which is what smoking in the presence of others really is—was severely condemned. "Cursed be he that smiteth his

* Cast-off smoke contains: hydroquinone, methacrolein, methyl alcohol, methylamine, nickel compounds, pyridine, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, crotonomitrile, dimethylamine, endrin, ethylamine, furfural, cadmium, methyl nitrite, ammonia, formaldehyde, hydrogen sulfide, benzo(a)pyrene, nicotine, DDT, ethane, acetylene, methanol, nitrogen dioxide, acetone, methyl chloride, phenol, cresol, methane, isoprene, propane, acrolein, acetaldehyde, ethylene, methyl ethyl ketone, "tar," hydrogen cyanide, hydrocyanic acid, nitric oxide, acetonitrile, benzene 2, 3, butadione and butylamine.

neighbour secretly" (Deuteronomy 27:24). Just because you don't physically hit someone doesn't mean you can't "smite" them another way.

### What Is a Nonsmoker to Do?

Most of those who will read this article will be nonsmokers who are, in a sense, the victims of hostile, aggressive acts. What to do?

Surprisingly, many smokers do not realize just how offensive—how harmful—smoking is. Smokers develop a tolerance for carbon monoxide—so they don't suffer the same discomfort that nonsmokers do. But as a rule of thumb, about 50 percent of smokers, if you ask them politely, will douse their burning weed as a matter of common courtesy.

Then there are the difficult situations. A request not to smoke at work in the office or shop is a request not just to give up smoking for the moment—but for an indefinite period. It probably won't be honored.

The best solution in such situations is to go to the one in authority and ask him or her to enforce a no-smoking rule. This may not exactly endear you to your smoking co-workers, but then the crucial choice is between your health and their filthy habit.

The Bible, of course, has much to say about not returning evil for evil. But this does not mean you have to sit idly by while somebody is in the process of poisoning you. If the person in charge won't come to your aid, you might want to purchase a fan that could blow the smoke away. In places that you visit frequently, you may want to encourage the management to set aside a nonsmoking section.

Of course, many smokers, who don't care much for their own health, can hardly be expected to care much for yours.

Small battery-operated fans are useful, if you can obtain one.

Spraying an aerosol air freshener in the direction of the foul stench also helps—though it's not as practical.

The easiest and most efficient method of self-defense is . . . chew garlic. The garlic itself will help protect your lungs against pollution, and the smoker near you may get the point that he's being profoundly offensive.

### A Clean Air World

Unfortunately, none of the above suggestions (the more aggressive ways of coping with smokers were omitted) will always work, and almost all of them seem of dubious practicality. Particularly in a shop or factory situation, there isn't much a nonsmoker is going to be able to do short of convincing management of his plight or quitting.

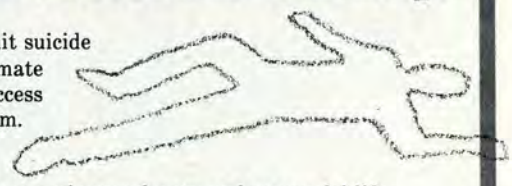
While cast-off smoke is not one of the absolute worst of the evils in this present evil world (yet consider lung cancer!), it is still an evil.

It may seem at the moment a comparatively insignificant matter, but one of the attractions of God's soon coming World Tomorrow is that it will be a world free of cigarette smoke! No longer will hapless nonsmokers have to have their lung tissue destroyed by some person who couldn't care less about what he does to his own or anyone else's health. It may be a small thing, but it is one of the best contrasts between God's way of give and the devil's way of get.

Smoking around others is a perfect example of why the world's way of "get" leads to dire, terrible results. Both the smoker and those around him have to suffer a high risk of lung disease—including cancer—just so the smoker can continue his self-indulgence, without thought for the welfare of others.

In the World Tomorrow, when God intervenes in world affairs to reestablish His Government over the earth, people will learn a different attitude. They will be concerned for their neighbor's air just as much as they will be concerned for their own desires. It will be a time when people will breathe free. God speed that day! □


# Someone near you committed suicide today.



In fact, over 1,000 people commit suicide every day worldwide. These ultimate failures gave up their pursuit of success and accepted defeat in its final form.

Yet there are laws governing success they could have discovered and put into practice. You can experience a happy and successful life. Today and tomorrow.

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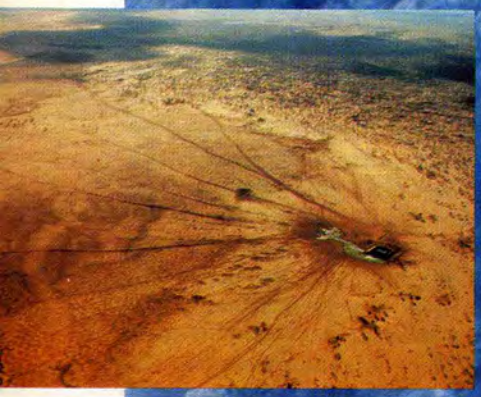


WHERE IS THE GOD who spoke these words?—"Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall you be in the fruit of your body, and the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your beasts, and the increase of your cattle, and the young of your flock. . . . Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out" (Deuteronomy 28:3-4, 6, Revised Standard Version).

"Blessedness" does not describe what has occurred over vast areas of many nations during the past year. Just the opposite! Has God forgotten? Why?

This past year saw multimillion-dollar losses from droughts, floods, hail, hurricanes and other adverse weather plaguing nations around the world. The immense suffering to human and animal life and losses to crops can only be called, if one were to use

***DEVASTATED LANDSCAPE**—Tons of ash towering into the atmosphere from Mount St. Helens in Washington State sparked meteorologists' speculation of adverse impact on weather patterns. Failing rains in Australia (above left), and both failing and deluging monsoons in India (lower right) were only a few of many areas staggered by weather disasters in 1980.*

*Roger Werth—Woodfin Camp; Top Left: David Moore—Black Star; Bottom Right: Santosh Basak—Gamma*

# 1980

# DROUGHTS, FLOODS, WEATHER DISASTERS

# WHY?

by Donald D. Schroeder

*The Bible reveals the almost totally forgotten reasons for calamitous weather and disasters in food production!*

biblical terminology—a *curse*, not a blessing!

### A Harvest of Drought and Despair

Prolonged drought and searing heat slashed grain production in many areas of North America—the world's most important breadbasket of exportable food. Crops in some local areas of the United States and Canada were cut as much as 65 percent. Many older farmers in both countries felt 1980 was "the worst drought year since the 1930s."

High winds and erosion damaged soils in many states. More than 1,200 persons died in oppressive heat waves in the American Southwest and Midwest. Hundreds of millions of dollars in crops and livestock were lost.

At the same time, Europe suffered just the opposite extreme in weather. Record cold and deluges of rain caused miserable living conditions and widespread crop damage.

Mexico's worst drought in a general 30-year dry period intensified during the year. The nation now has a serious water shortage and crippled food production just when more water and food is needed to feed soaring population growth.

In Brazil, a drought that in 1979 destroyed two thirds of crops in the poverty-stricken northeast part of the country, returned in 1980 with even greater ferocity.

The whole of East Africa has shriveled under great drought. This devastation has been exacerbated by widespread warfare and political unrest. "From the Red Sea south . . . is a disaster area," says a United Nations official in Nairobi. "No matter what we do," he says, "millions will die."

The worst drought in 100 years crippled portions of South Africa's rich agricultural Natal Province. Thousands of black tribesmen face starvation. Zululand may become a dust bowl. South African officials are worried about the impact. South Africa is southern Africa's breadbasket; it exports much food, especially maize, to nearby food-short nations.

During 1979, the monsoon failed in India. Falling crop production in 1980 nearly wiped out 20 million tons of food reserves. Then the 1980 monsoon came like a deluge in many areas, producing rampaging floods and death.

Australia suffered extensive drought, with sizable crop and livestock losses in some areas. But the most critical agricultural areas were delivered by rains in mid-year. Other areas around the world were also mercifully relieved from devastating weather.

Why did these disasters happen? Why were some areas relieved? Most humans don't know.

### Weathermens' Explanations

Meteorologists—men and women trained in weather science—offer different reasons for weather calamities.

The meteorological forces causing much of the miserable weather in the northern hemisphere during the year can be described. It was the result of a series of prevailing strong high pressure systems over a quarter of the globe.

For weeks on end these high pressure systems locked huge air masses in holding zones, compressing them, causing them to heat up to scorching temperatures. This heated air absorbed moisture within locked-in zones that otherwise should have been converted into clouds and rainfall. The high pressure zones also blocked and shunted aside any moisture-bearing air that normally would have moved in.

Over North America, this sinking super-heated air fanned out and burned much of the American southwest and northern Great Plains. Similar problems plagued the great wheat provinces of Can-

ada—Manitoba and Saskatchewan in particular.

As these huge air masses gradually moved out over the North Atlantic during the summer and fall months in the northern hemisphere, they picked up heavy loads of moisture and dumped them over Europe, then a low pressure zone. Europeans and Russians suffered under massive rains, floods, unseasonable cool weather and crop damage.

A variety of explanations for such mixed-up weather have been offered.

Some weathermen blamed a dry winter and spring in North America for fueling the ferocity of summer and fall heat, since dry soil warms faster than damp soil. Others blamed sunspot activity. Some feel pollution of the atmosphere from industrial or man-made sources is involved.

Still others blamed antihurricane or other rain-inducing cloud-seeding experiments. There is some evidence that the Russians are experimenting with super, high-powered electromagnetic waves in the atmosphere. These waves could be altering the earth's magnetic field, which, in turn, affects weather patterns.

A few meterologists blamed the eruption of Mount St. Helens in the state of Washington in May. There is, as yet, only limited evidence to substantiate this theory. Yet, it is possible that the fine layer of ash spewed into the atmosphere from the eruption aggravated adverse weather conditions.

### Much That Weathermen Don't Know

Weathermen admit there is much about weather they don't understand.

"Meteorology is a science which understands how but not why," says a European weatherman. "It is a discipline that breeds conflicting theories and always will until the secrets of the forces of the atmosphere are finally known to us."

Using up-to-date weather instruments and charts, meteorologists can explain major changes in high or low pressure areas, or shifts in powerful high altitude jet streams of air. "We understand how the jet stream locks into place for weeks or months, but not *why,*" says Dr. Jean Palutikov at the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia in England.

Weather science has discovered that the earth's weather patterns are chiefly governed by an intricate interplay of forces involving the sun's radiant energy upon the atmosphere, the revolving earth, the continental masses, the oceans and shapes and elevations of various land structures.

They have also discovered that human activities on earth can change weather and rainfall patterns to a certain extent. Weather in or shortly downwind of some huge metropolitan areas has been demonstrated to be slightly warmer and wetter than areas farther away.

In some areas of the earth, massive overgrazing, deforestation and vast areas exposed by harmful farming practices have altered weather and rainfall patterns. Over the centuries, these harmful practices turned fertile areas into great deserts. Notable examples are North Africa and parts of the Middle East. Once these were major food granaries.

David Houghton, head of the long-range forecasting and climate studies of England's Meteorological Office says: "Man's activities inevitably are doing things to the local climate. He upsets the water balance, overgrazes, allows the rain to wash the top soil away. . . . Now that the population of Africa is rising rapidly, slash and burn agriculture is having far more serious effect on weather than ever in the past."

Mr. Houghton adds, "The fact that the Amazonian forest is being chopped down is likely to have an effect on the local climate, if not a small effect on global climate."

### Spiritual Forces in the Weather

What a tragedy that modern man and science have ignored or rejected the Source that reveals a very critical dimension in world weather.

The Bible reveals God—the Creator of the heavens and earth—is the one who set weather-making forces in motion. The power of God sustains all of the forces of the earth and universe (Hebrews 1:2-3).

Weather-making forces, for the most part, operate by themselves, without God's constant interference. Nations of mankind, largely living their own ways of ignorance or defiance of God's laws or presence, reap the bulk of their weather benefits or problems from the natural physical forces and laws governing weather.

But God does intervene in weather more than many realize. Few seem to understand that catastrophic weather conditions are the inevitable consequences of not only broken physical laws influencing weather, but broken divine, or spiritual, laws!

God has an awesome purpose for mankind. He has a purpose for the different races and nations of mankind. In His mercy, the Creator has seen to it that unjust nations are at times blessed with enough essential rainfall and good weather to survive (Matthew 5:45).

If God didn't see to this blessing, few nations or peoples could survive for long. They would not live to experience the full results of their own selfish ways under Satan's sway (II Corinthians 4:4). Nor could they experience the blessings of God's goodness in His creation, or His mercy and long-suffering despite their perpetual sins (Exodus 34:6, Romans 1:20, 2:4).

God is the Creator. He is greater than natural weather patterns or cycles. The Bible reveals He intervenes in weather to work out His purposes here on earth.

Weather is but one tool—and a *major tool*—at God's disposal to bless or punish nations for the way they live. Many times during history God has used adverse weather to change the balance of

power among nations and alter the course of history. God intervenes in weather to fulfill His prophecies.

"Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word," reveals scripture (Psalm 148:8).

Meteorologists don't tell you that! They don't tell you that calamitous weather means a nation or people are not being blessed by God. That disastrous weather is the result of grievous national sins and idolatry.

Virtually nonexistent is the meteorologist who will stand up and say continuous bad weather is a warning from God that a people are not living right and need to repent. Few understand that calamitous weather—whatever the cause—means God has withdrawn His hand of blessing and intervention in weather patterns on their behalf!

Wrong education about the Bible has blinded the minds of many to this clear biblical understanding. Many ministers or teachers of the Bible don't believe or teach such knowledge.

### "Blessings Shall Overtake You"

Here is what the Bible reveals!

Fantastic physical and material promises were made to the 12 tribes of the Old Testament nation Israel—if they would obey God. They were chosen to be an example to the world of the great blessings that could be poured out upon an obedient nation. These promises would apply to nations today if they obeyed God's instructions, for God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

"And if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do *all* his commandments . . . the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and *overtake you,* if you obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, Revised Standard Version).

Deuteronomy, chapter 28, has a parallel in content and thrust in Leviticus, chapter 26.

Together these two dramatic chapters of blessings and cursings show how every human and national good could be guaranteed. They describe precisely, or in principle, every type of problem that could curse, plague or afflict a nation or people—because of disobedience to God's laws and statutes.

What wonderful blessings were promised for obedience: many and healthy children; strong and healthy cattle; abundant crops and food stocks; defeated enemies; prosperity and safety throughout the land.

Nor are these all the blessings. In addition to these God promised: "The Lord will open to you his good treasury the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands . . ." (Deuteronomy 28:12, RSV).

Note how the blessing of rain "in its season" would bless and prosper everything a nation does!

But these fantastic blessings were guaranteed only, "if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day, *being careful to do them,* and if you do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you . . . to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them" (verses 13 and 14).

### The Book of Curses

Then, in Deuteronomy 28, God reveals a jarring list of curses for disobedience.

"But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes . . . then all these curses shall come upon you and *overtake* you" (verses 15). In other words, they would be inescapable!

"Cursed shall you be in the city; and cursed shall you be in the field" (verse 16).

Where doesn't that apply? Do you know of any major cities that are not plagued with crime, violence, filth, pollution, poverty, unrest and sickness? Even many agricultural areas (reachable by car from major metropolitan areas) are plagued with these problems—plus drought, soil infertility, poor land and sick crops.

The curses mentioned in Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26 are not all the result of God's direct intervention to produce them. Many curses are the natural consequences of breaking the physical and spiritual laws set in motion by the Creator.

But the Bible also reveals there is a time when God personally chooses to intervene in the course of nations to cause specific penalties. His purpose is to punish or awake nations to their grievous sins, to warn them to repent.

But if they persist in sin: "The Lord shall smite you with . . . fiery heat, and with drought, and with blasting [destructive high winds], and with mildew [excessive moisture and rot]. . . . And the heavens over your head shall be brass, and the earth under you shall be iron. The Lord will make the rain of your land powder and dust . . ." (Deuteronomy 28:22-24).

The concluding verses of Deuteronomy 28, and its parallel chapter, Leviticus 26, reveal that persistence in rebellion and disobedience will lead to total agricultural and social collapse, and finally, national captivity by enemies.

### God Does Intervene!

"Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction," we are taught in Romans 15:4, RSV.

Listen to these remarkable prophecies about weather and sin. They apply to events many are experiencing today!

"And also I [God] have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city; one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied; yet have ye not returned unto me,

saith the Lord" (Amos 4:7-8, King James Version).

Prolonged drought is the RESULT OF SIN! "Yet have ye not returned unto me!"

King Solomon understood this fact of life when he prayed at the consecration of God's Temple. How many national leaders today know and believe this?

"When the *heaven is shut up,* and there is no rain, *because they* [the people of the land] *have sinned against thee;* yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and *turn from their sin,* when thou dost afflict them; then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou has taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and *send rain upon thy land,* which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance" (II Chronicles 6:26-27).

#### Reaping What We Have Sown

The Creator allows nations to reap the natural consequences on weather caused by wrong agricultural practices, warmaking or abuse of the environment.

He allows governments of every ideology to make foolish political or environmental decisions that lead to unnecessary famine or agricultural disruption. He allows nations to experience the consequences on weather of huge paved-over metropolitan complexes, cloud seeding and experiments to turn weather into a powerful weapon of war.

But God also intervenes in the weather to punish nations for such sins.

There is also another factor in weather, however. The Bible reveals a powerful spirit being who is the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). The account in the first chapter of Job indicates that, when God permits it to work out some purpose, this powerful spirit—Satan—can use atmospheric phenomena to wreak havoc.

Freak weather will most certainly be part of the "great wrath" with which Satan will afflict the inhabitants of the earth before the return of Jesus Christ (see Revelation 12:12).

#### A Chance to Repent

During the past year, some areas afflicted by serious drought were mercifully relieved by abundant rains or more normal weather. Australia and parts of North America are examples, among others.

But do the peoples in these nations appreciate the period of grace given to them? Do they understand why this grace period has been given?

How many understand the grace period is not a chance to go on living as they did before, but a chance to repent of their idolatry and sins?

The Bible defines sin as the transgression of God's laws (I John 3:4). Idolatry is serving or worshipping anything above the true God and His laws.

Our modern nations are full of material goods and gadgets that millions literally worship and crave in the place of God and His ways. Around the world, immorality, crime, family breakdown, and racial hatreds are increasing rapidly. God is warning nations through adverse weather because of what is in their hearts!

But there is another reason for grace in the weather. It is necessary to allow God's Work—through His true Church—to carry Christ's Gospel to all nations as a witness before the end of this age. That Gospel is the announcement of the soon-coming rule of God's Government on earth.

In that day when God sends Jesus Christ to rule the world in peace, weather patterns will be made a blessing for all obedient nations.

But today you can expect more and growing-worse weather disasters. Few humans, and no nations, are repenting of their mounting sins.

Few, today, grasp the most important causes, revealed in the Bible, for humanity's curses in the weather.

Now, hopefully, you do! □

## GETTING HIGH

*(Continued from page 14)*

are the milestones of a society collapsing on itself.

Instead of new programs, what's really needed is a *change in the society itself!* We need an order that gives people the tools to positively deal with crises. A society that offers a life so fulfilling and exciting as to make drug abuse a weak, unwanted alternative.

As you have seen, our present societies foster and promote the use of illicit drugs. To bring about a solution to the problem of drug abuse, the elements that cause it must be eradicated!

#### "Something Better"

Man will not bring about the environment that eclipses depression and loneliness—but God will! The Bible is literally full of the prediction of a new society, a new government that will offer an alternative to drugs. Even hard-core addicts will find this society a healing one!

Listen to God's solution! After God sets up His society, this is what you'll see: ". . . the ransomed [released from bondage] of the Lord shall return . . . with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).

Can you imagine it? These people—you and I—will rejoice because the source of despondency—the root of depression—will be removed! The new society will be one that teaches people to be fruitful and happy.

People will practice a "give" way of life that will make drugs unnecessary and unwanted. The "get" way that makes man turn inward, toward a selfish means, will be completely replaced, through the Spirit of God, by the "give" way.

Would you like to know more about man's potential and the new society? Write for our free booklets *Why Were You Born* and *The Wonderful World Tomorrow.* They will show you what lies just ahead for man! □

# Voice Cries Out

*(Continued from page 8)*

to desire—to literally crave—UNDERSTANDING! Solomon desired wisdom and God gave him wisdom above all who ever lived.

What, then, is the necessary prerequisite to receiving UNDERSTANDING? "A good understanding have all they that do his commandments" (Psalm 111:10). The one *test commandment* is the fourth—keeping God's Sabbath. My conversion resulted from a struggle to resist that commandment! But when a merciful God conquered me—brought me to surrender to Him *on that point,* He revealed also the necessity of observing His ANNUAL Sabbaths and festivals. These picture the seven major spiritual steps in the great Master Plan. Through this and other revealed knowledge of the Holy Bible, God gave me UNDERSTANDING of the working out of His great PURPOSE! And also the necessary part of His CHURCH in fulfillment of that glorious purpose!

After Adam's rebellion, with Satan still on earth's throne, only God could have known how gradually, cautiously, a step at a time, must be the procedure.

Such righteous men as Abel, Enoch and Noah undoubtedly were used to play some part in the ultimate creation of the KINGDOM OF GOD. But the Eternal began laying the actual foundation of that ultimate GOD FAMILY through the patriarch Abraham. Isaac, Jacob and Joseph formed part of that prefoundation.

Then through Moses, God raised up the nation Israel—God's first Congregation or Church. That Old Covenant Church was given God's Government, but NOT His Holy Spirit! Israelites were not begotten to become future GOD BEINGS. Yet ancient Israel fulfilled a necessary part in God's supreme program.

Nevertheless, during those years, God continued to call and prepare individual PROPHETS to become part of the FOUNDATION for His CHURCH.

And *WHAT,* then, was to be the *CHURCH*? As pictured by the third of God's annual Holy Days (festivals) it was to provide the FIRST ACTUAL HARVEST of mortal humans being translated into Spirit-composed GOD BEINGS! However, the CHURCH is the BEGOTTEN (not yet born) children of GOD. But the CHURCH shall be the firstBORN harvest (Christ being the foregoing Pioneer) at Christ's coming in POWER and GLORY!

Through the years from Abraham until Christ, God had called out of Satan's world begotten and prepared PROPHETS, as the preliminary co-foundation of God's CHURCH! Jesus Himself is the main Foundation.

During Jesus' 3½ year earthly ministry, He called out, chose and trained, to begin with, the second co-foundation, His original 12 apostles.

During His human earthly ministry, Jesus announced publicly the future KINGDOM OF GOD. He taught and trained His apostles as He proceeded.

But He DID NOT CALL to salvation the public to whom He preached. He spoke to them frequently in parables. And WHY in parables? To cloud, to hide from them the meaning (Matthew 13:10-16) which was given to His chosen apostles to understand.

By the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus had completed preparations for founding His Church. He had finished the Work He, as a human had come to do. Then He gave His life on the cross. He took on Himself our human guilt for our sins.

Understand, however, Christ did NOT take on Himself Satan's primary share in all human sins. Satan will continue to pay his own penalty throughout all eternity!

The FOUNDATION for the Church of God had been laid. Christ Himself is the Head and chief cornerstone—the main foundation. His apostles, with the prophets, formed the remainder of the foundation.

The apostles were chafing at the bit to GET STARTED—to go forth proclaiming the Gospel Message. But God has wisely used restraint, with patience, taking a proper step at a time. So Jesus cautioned His apostles to WAIT! "Tarry ye," He commanded (Luke 24:49), "in the city of Jerusalem, *UNTIL* ye be endued with power from on high."

Ten days later came the annual Day of Pentecost, originally named the Feast of First Fruits (Numbers 28:26).

On that day the Holy Spirit came! On that day THE CHURCH WAS FOUNDED!

That day symbolized the very firstfruits for God's Kingdom. God's feast days picture God's spiritual harvest. The very first portion of God's spiritual harvest of humans finally to be born of God—made GOD BEINGS—is THE CHURCH! That's why even those who shall be born into the Kingdom of God at Christ's return starting with ancient prophets are part of the CHURCH OF GOD. Even prophets of Old Testament times are part of the FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH (Ephesians 2:19-21).

All—prophets, apostles and Church brethren in whom resides the Holy Spirit—shall be resurrected and/or changed to immortality at Christ's coming in GLORY and POWER!

Thus the WHOLE CHURCH constitutes the very *FIRST* of all humans who shall be finally BORN AGAIN into the Kingdom of GOD. They shall be GOD BEINGS!

How DECEIVED (Revelation 12:9) have been all those who think they already have been "born again." The reader should request our free booklet *Just What Do You Mean—Born Again?*

Now before proceeding further, UNDERSTAND WHY only the minute FEW have so far been called to salvation—WHY the world as a whole has been CUT OFF from God—WHY the world has not been yet judged—WHY neither "saved" nor "lost"!

The first Adam fell before Satan—cut himself and the world off from God. Satan was still ON

EARTH'S THRONE! He was disqualified; he had rebelled—GOD'S GOVERNMENT no longer was operative. Yet Satan had NOT BEEN REMOVED FROM THE POWER OF THAT THRONE! He was ruling with his satanic attitude of *"GET"* instead of God's law of *"GIVE."*

Adam made the choice for himself and his children who were to constitute the world (for this world was destined to spring from him). Adam had rebelled against the Government of GOD—cut the world off from God's impregnative GOD-LIFE through God's Holy Spirit—sold out the world to SATAN!

Unless or *UNTIL* a son of Adam could qualify where Adam failed—could overcome and conquer SATAN—none could restore GOD'S GOVERNMENT—none could be given eternal GOD-life!

The Supreme Master Plan for working out GOD'S PURPOSE—reproducing Himself—called for the self-existing "WORD" to be born of human flesh as a son of Adam. But *ALSO* that plan called for Him to be born as the only begotten Son of GOD!

The Messiah, and He alone, would be able to overcome and conquer Satan—to QUALIFY to replace Satan ON THE THRONE OF THE EARTH! Only through Him could the sons of Adam be reconciled to GOD, receive God's Spirit, become GOD'S sons—become the GOD BEINGS by whom God should have finally reproduced Himself!

What a superb incredible Master Plan for such a SUPREME PURPOSE! HOW GREAT IS THE ETERNAL GOD WHO DESIGNED IT!

This wonderful plan of God therefore of necessity called for the sons of Adam in general to be NOT YET JUDGED! God left them to their own devices—knowing full well they would willingly and willfully follow automatically Satan's *"GET"* way.

But meanwhile they would not be finally judged, but "reaping what they sowed." They would live this sinful life, die, and God would RESURRECT them in a special resurrection to JUDGMENT in the end of the 7,000 years of the Master Plan. Christ already having atoned for their sins—Satan having been removed—Christ and the Kingdom of God having restored the Government of God over the earth—then they could be CALLED to repentance, to reconciliation to GOD, to becoming, on their then free choice, GOD BEINGS!

And THAT'S WHY God has kept the world as a whole CUT OFF from Him even as their progenitor Adam had cut off himself and his human family.

As the apostle Paul was inspired to write, "I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery" (and it is a mystery to the world) "that blindness" to these mysteries has happened to this world—even to its "Christian theologians"—*UNTIL* the Kingdom of God has been established in rule of the earth!

"For," continues Paul, "as ye [Christians] in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they may also obtain mercy. For GOD hath concluded all in unbelief, that He may have mercy UPON ALL!"

And at this point Paul shouted out in writing, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:25, 30-32.)

True, the apostle wrote the above concerning ISRAEL, and I have applied it to all uncalled humanity—but it is truly applicable.

God called and prepared the Old Testament prophets. He has called and still calls and prepares the CHURCH to overcome Satan—whereas those now blinded, uncalled and cut off from God have NOT had to overcome Satan. WHY?

*WHY* the CHURCH?

That we may QUALIFY to rule WITH and UNDER CHRIST in the Kingdom of God—that *we* may prepare the way for the ULTIMATE CALL AND SALVATION OF THE WORLD!

At this point let me quote two passages from the direct word of Jesus, which apply ONLY to the CHURCH:

To the CHURCH of this 20th century Jesus says, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my father in His throne" (Revelation 3:21).

Then again to the CHURCH Jesus says, "He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron . . ." (Revelation 2:26-27).

This explains the *WHY* of the Church—its great PURPOSE.

But *WHAT* is the CHURCH—HOW ORGANIZED—HOW does it function?

God explains in I Corinthians 12 functions, offices, administrations and their officers as GOD set them in His Church.

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. . . . Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. . . . But all these worketh that one and selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, ARE ONE BODY: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free . . ." (I Corinthians 12:1, 4-6, 11-13).

Notice especially, there is only the ONE CHURCH. Not MANY churches. The CHURCH is not divided. Divisions splintering off are NOT STILL IN THE CHURCH. It is the CHURCH that is to marry Christ in the resurrection at His coming—not disagreeing churches—not groups who have broken off! That will become more obvious as we continue.

So notice, too, the Church con-

ducts VARIOUS OPERATIONS. For these in the ONE Church there are also various ADMINISTRATIONS or executive departments, with an executive manager over each department or operation (verses 4-6). Remember an executive administrator DOES NOT SET POLICY OR PROCEDURES OR DOCTRINES. He administers—he carries out and directs—what has been already set from above.

The President of the United States does NOT MAKE THE LAWS. He administers the policies as functions authorized by Congress—enforces the laws made by Congress. Administrators are set in the Church merely to supervise, direct, execute the policies, procedures, doctrines assigned to them from above.

The ONE Church, undivided, is emphasized again in verse 20: "But now are they many members, yet BUT ONE BODY"—ONE UNDIVIDED CHURCH! Even GOD is composed of more than one Personage, yet but the ONE GOD! GOD, remember is the Divine GOD FAMILY. Those in the Church are already begotten sons—begotten members of that GOD FAMILY. But not yet BORN as GOD BEINGS!

Notice verse 25, "there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another."

To administer these many operations, God—not a vote of the members—"hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers." Or, as stated in more detail in Ephesians 4:11 (Revised Standard Version): "And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers."

An apostle is "one sent forth" with Christ's Gospel message, including the supervision of proclaiming that message to the world by means and persons other than himself. Also an apostle was given supervision over all the local congregations or churches (I Corinthians 16:1, II Corinthians 11:28).

The prophets set in the foundation of the Church are those of the Old Testament, whose writings were used to form a considerable part of New Testament and Gospel teaching and functioning. The word *prophesy* is often used in the sense of "to preach, or proclaim." So some of the preachers might well be termed "prophets"—but no prophets are mentioned as having either administrative, executive or preaching functions in the New Testament Church.

Evangelists were leading ministers, proclaiming the Gospel to the public, even raising up local churches and having supervision over some churches under the apostle. Therefore an evangelist may hold executive functions under the apostle in the Church headquarters or Work today. An evangelist is not necessarily stationary. Pastors are stationary pastors over a local church or contingent group of local churches. Then there were placed in the Church teachers—not necessarily preachers. Yet all ministers and teachers are called elders in other New Testament texts. Therefore, in God's Church today there are both preaching and nonpreaching elders. Preaching elders pastor local churches. Then some elders, not preaching, are called local elders in the Church today.

> *"The Church is the spiritual Body of Christ—not a secular or worldly organization, club or institution."*

Now further about CHURCH ORGANIZATION.

The CHURCH is the spiritual Body of Christ—not a secular or worldly organization, club or institution. Yet it is HIGHLY ORGANIZED.

Notice how thoroughly organized: "Now, therefore, ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God." Notice the Church is a FAMILY, even as GOD is a Divine FAMILY—"the household of God."

Continue, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone, in whom all the building"—the Church is a building "fitly framed together" (WELL ORGANIZED—all parts joined and functioning together in harmony and teamwork)—"groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:19-22).

The Church also is to grow into a HOLY TEMPLE—the spiritual TEMPLE to which Christ shall come—even as He came to a material temple of stone and metals and wood the first time.

Notice further: ". . . the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body fitly joined together"—ORGANIZED—"and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body . . ." (Ephesians 4:15-16). Compacted means knit together, compressed together, as closely together as if welded together. This shows ORGANIZED UNITY, HARMONY!

Old Testament Israel, the Church of the Old Testament, was also a nation in the world—though not OF the world as God organized it. Its GOVERNMENT was HIERARCHICAL. It was Theocratic Government—government from the top down—the very opposite of "democracy."

The CHURCH is organized under Theocratic Government, hierarchical in form. The members do not set officials in the Church. God sets EVEN THE LAY MEMBERS in the Church (I Corinthians 12:18).

Jesus said explicitly, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44). The world, except for the specially called, is CUT OFF from God!

We have just covered the truth that GOD set officials to serve on the human level under Christ, in

the Church. Members do not elect them. Yet in the churches of this world some believe in government by the entire congregation—"democracy"—and call themselves "Congregational." Others have organized themselves into government by ministers or presbytery and call themselves "Presbyterian." Some follow Luther and call themselves "Lutheran." Some follow Wesley, who was strong on "method," and call themselves "Methodist." Some learned God's truth about baptizing and call their church after the name of that one doctrine, "Baptist." One wanted complete universal world dominion, and called itself "Catholic," which means "universal." A number, mostly smaller or "pentecostal," saw God's Church named "the Church of God" 12 times in the New Testament, and used that as their church name.

Yet none is truly the Church OF GOD, unless it is GOD'S CHURCH, continuing in doctrine, practice, organization, in all ways on the original biblical pattern, headed by Jesus Christ, yet belonging to God the Father, empowered by the Holy Spirit, having GOD'S TRUTH, fulfilling Christ's commission of proclaiming His GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD to the world as a whole.

And there is only ONE such Church!

And it CANNOT BE DIVIDED. It remains ONE.

In I Corinthians 1, the apostle Paul was inspired to command that all in the Church "SPEAK THE SAME THING." There must be no division in what is believed, taught or preached.

But what about all the many organized churches labelled under the category "Christianity"—some with millions of members? They are all described in Revelation 17:5: "Mystery, Babylon the Great the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth."

Are they, then, evil?

Not consciously or knowingly, necessarily. The world of humanity has been CUT OFF from God. Satan is still on earth's throne, next in power to GOD Himself! And the whole world is DECEIVED by Satan (Revelation 12:9). Those deceived are not aware that they are deceived. If so they would not *be* deceived! They may be ever so sincere in believing they are right!

Are they condemned? By no means! They are simply NOT YET JUDGED—neither "lost" nor "saved." Few indeed realize the magnitude of Satan's power and the extent of his DECEPTION!

It is SATAN who is evil and diabolical. But he is an INVISIBLE being and force—unseen and unrecognized by mortal humans.

Satan is a great COUNTERFEITER! He appears as "an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:13-15). And he has his counterfeit CHURCHES! His ministers are deceived by him into believing they are "ministers of righteousness" and of Christ (II Corinthians 11:15, Matthew 24:5). Yet they have neither known nor preached Jesus' true Gospel of THE KINGDOM OF GOD (Matthew 24:14). Nor do they comprehend what is written in this book about the CHURCH OF GOD! □

# Personal from...

*(Continued from page 1)*

evils, neither did it solve the world's problems or rid the world of evils!

"What the world does not know, and refuses to learn, is that peace, happiness, contentment, joy, abundant and universal well-being are *spiritual values*—the ONLY *TRUE VALUES* IN LIFE.

"People have been seeking only MATERIAL GAIN!

"There is a SPIRITUAL *LAW*—a law of out-flowing LOVE—the way of life of helping, serving, cooperating, sharing. I simplify it by calling it the way of 'give'. Its transgression is the way of 'GET'—of vanity, coveting, envy and jealousy, hostile competition, strife, violence.

"That basic spiritual LAW is as ACTIVELY in motion as the law of gravity—as inexorable, as relentless, as certain! Its punishment for transgression is the suffering and anguish humanity is suffering now—for every trouble, every evil, has been caused by the way of 'GET.'

"For 6,000 years the world has lived the way of 'GET.' We measure SUCCESS in life by the amount one has been able to 'GET'—to accumulate—to TAKE from others—to HAVE and POSSESS!

"The way of life of 'GIVE' is the basic spiritual LAW set in motion by our Maker. But our first parents spurned it and turned to 'GET.' For 6,000 years the world has continued on the way of 'GET'—of material possession!

"The world's religions have tried to set up religions justifying the materialistic way of 'GET.' Yet that way of 'GET' is the CAUSE of all of mankind's troubles.

"If we all lived the way of outflowing LOVE—toward our Maker and toward each other, in helping, serving, sharing, GIVING!—we would have world UTOPIA! There can never be SALVATION, peace, contentment, happiness, joy, universal well-being and eternal salvation from trouble and evils until we TURN FROM the philosophy of 'GET'—repent of that way—turn to our Maker and His way of out-flowing love. Yet 6,000 years have PROVED MANKIND SIMPLY *WON'T!*

"And so now, just before MAN utterly DESTROYS mankind, that 'Unseen Strong Hand from Someplace' is going to intervene dynamically in human world affairs and save mankind from itself! I am merely a voice crying out in the spiritual wilderness of this 20th century, calling on people to repent of their false ways, and turn to the God who gives us the breath we breathe, and saying, that whether you believe it or not, that 'Strong Hand' will intervene to prevent man from utterly destroying mankind and usher in a world living the way of outflowing LOVE—a soon-coming world of PEACE, contentment, happiness, joy, universal well-being, and eternal salvation offered to ALL!"

# VOYAGER 1

*(Continued from page 6)*

the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" (I Kings 8:27).

The 148th Psalm is a call for the entire creation—even the inanimate celestial bodies—"sun and moon . . . all ye stars of light" to "praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven" (Psalms 148:3, 13).

Man's knowledge of the universe, though growing at a rapid pace, is infinitesimal. In its report on the Voyager 1 mission, the editors of *Newsweek* properly admitted that "we have made a start, at least, on knowing just how little we really know."

God revealed as much thousands of years ago to Jeremiah: "If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 31:37).

God, on several occasions (see also Jeremiah 33:25-26) made his promises to men and nations contingent upon his power to control his vast celestial realm—or his unsurpassed knowledge of it.

Man cannot number the "host of heaven" (Jeremiah 33:22). But God can—and more.

"Lift up your eyes on high," he says, "and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number. . . ." Not only this, but God "calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth" (Isaiah 40:26).

King David, a man after God's own heart, proclaimed that "the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1).

### Earth Is Unique

Men are naturally inquisitive as to whether intelligent life exists outside our solar system. The Bible does not encourage this speculation. Rather, it indicates the uniqueness of Earth.

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men" (Psalm 115:16).

Even men of science have commented on how our planet has been carefully constructed and positioned for the flourishing of organic life. A number of years ago, Dr. A. Cressy Morrison, former president of the New York Academy of Sciences, said:

"It is possible to demonstrate mathematically that the universe could not have just happened or evolved. The work of creation shows such definite design and purpose that it demands a 'Master mind' to account for its many perfections.

"The earth rotates on its axis at 1,000 miles an hour. If it rotated at only 100 miles an hour, our days and nights would be 10 times as long as they are now, and the earth would alternately burn and freeze. In such circumstances vegetation could not live."

Our sun, remarked Dr. Morrison, "has a surface temperature of 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and our earth is at the exact distance necessary to get just enough heat and yet not too much. This earth is tilted at an angle of 23 degrees, and this enables us to have four seasons. If it were not tilted at this angle, vapors from the ocean would move north and south, piling up continents of ice."

If the earth's moon (called in Genesis 1:16, "the lesser light to rule the night") were not at the exact distance it is from the earth, the ocean tides, said Dr. Morrison, "would inundate the land mass completely twice a day. If the earth's atmosphere were just a little thinner, many of the meteors which are now burned out in space would bombard us, setting great fires everywhere."

And they would also produce, he might have added, the crater-

***LAYERS OF HAZE*** *cover Saturn's satellite Titan, top photo. Colors are false and are used to show details of the aerosol haze. True color of Titan, only moon in solar system to have an atmosphere, is seen in inset picture.*

# The Atheist Left Speechless

Perhaps one can say modern astronomy began in 1610 when Galileo peered at the heavens through his 8-power telescope. In amazement his eyes beheld clearly for the first time some of the major features of the solar system: the mountains of the moon, the phases of Venus, sunspots, the colored bands of Jupiter. As he looked at Saturn, Galileo saw what seemed to be handles. Actually, he was seeing Saturn's rings, but he thought he must be looking at moons such as Jupiter has. When he looked again some time later, Saturn was at a different angle and the rings were not visible through his little spyglass. Expressing his astonishment that the "moons" had disappeared, he asked "Has Saturn, perhaps, devoured his own children?"

As telescopes improved, and knowledge of the heavens increased, man's ancient dreams of reaching out into space were stimulated. Vivid imaginations suggested devices such as Jules Verne's concept of a powerful cannon that could blast three men and animals on a voyage around the moon.

Now, a decade or so after human beings actually walked—yes, cavorted—on the moon, and drove a vehicle over its whitish-gray surface as hundreds of millions of earthlings watched on their television sets, it still is hard to realize that it *really* happened. (Indeed, some few who cannot believe man is capable of such spectacular feats still insist that the whole Apollo program took place in some hidden television studio here on earth!)

Not satisfied with the moon, man has been reaching beyond. He has launched small but sophisticated devices equipped with complex detection and transmitting instruments to probe the secrets of the planets. A machine designed by humans lands on Mars and sends back pictures of its barren surface, including shots of a little mechanical shovel digging into the crust of the red planet and holding the dirt up to the camera lens. A close fly-by produces color pictures of a volcano erupting on one of Jupiter's moons. Some 950 million miles from earth, a tiny craft made by man now has examined Saturn's rings and sent the information back to its human masters.

And what of the future? Plans are on the drawing board for huge space stations to orbit the earth. They would fulfill numerous functions. They could serve as observatories where telescopes could study the heavens more effectively, being unhindered by the pollution and turbulence in the earth's atmosphere. Such stations could be used for launching missions to further explore outer space.

The information that man's instruments and inventions are now revealing and compiling about the universe is awesome. The capabilities of the instruments themselves are awesome. And just as awesome is what the instruments reveal about the marvelous mind of man. How is it that human beings can do such things, that they have mental abilities so far above all other living creatures?

There may still be some animals that look up into the night skies and acknowledge the full moon with a grunt or a howl. But none of them ponders the whys and hows of the universe. None of them calculates the movements of planets or the distance of the nebulae invisible to the naked eye. No animal has ever made or has even thought of a telescope or a vehicle to be launched out past the earth's gravitational field. No animal can design a computer that enhances a photograph taken hundreds of millions of miles out in space.

How is it that man has such a mind? This is a question no atheist can satisfactorily answer. Before the awesome significance of man's mind they stand speechless. Evolutionary science cut off from the knowledge of God cannot account for it. While some species of animals have brains that look very similar to the human brain, the similarity is physical only. In mental capacity and genius no other creature comes close. Why?

The truth is that the human mind is a special creation of God, far more complex than the astounding features now revealed in the solar system. As the Bible reveals, "there is a spirit in man" (Job 32:8). The verse goes on to explain that the Almighty gives to man the power of understanding and intellect through that spirit.

God has given to human beings a spark of his mind power. That man's thoughts are able to soar above his earthly surroundings, that he is able to wonder about the universe and send spacecraft out to explore the limits of our solar system reflects but a portion of the human potential revealed in Scripture.

Notice how some of that potential is referred to in Genesis 11, where man's first attempt to reach into the heavens is described. Human beings gathered themselves together and said: " 'Come on, let us make a name for ourselves by building a city and a tower whose top reaches to heaven; it will keep us from being scattered all over the wide earth.' Down came the Eternal to see the city and the tower that human beings had built. 'They are one people,' said the Eternal, 'and they have one language; if this is what they do, to start with, *nothing that they ever undertake will prove too hard for them*' " (Genesis 11:4-7, Moffatt version).

The testimony of God himself about the potential of man's mind is that whatever man sets out to do, he can accomplish. Fortunately God is going to require that the vast potential of the human mind be used for good purposes only.

Why not read about the mind God has created in man by obtaining a copy of *The Incredible Human Potential* by Herbert W. Armstrong. Ask for it at your local bookstore. It is published by Everest House.

*—Clayton Steep*

pocked surfaces so indicative of our moon and those of Saturn.

Sir John C. Eccles, a 1963 Nobel Prize winner for physiology and medicine, came face-to-face with the problem of whether intelligent life could arise, without a Creator, spontaneously on earth. And whether it could be doing so in the same manner elsewhere in the universe.

He said in 1967 that it was a "fantastic improbability that we could ever get intelligent life on earth" and he placed the odds against it happening in the first place at 400,000 trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion to 1! As a result, he said, one can hardly imagine it happening twice in the universe.

How much easier should it be to believe in an all-intelligent, all-powerful, supreme Creator.

#### Man's Destiny and the Universe

King David gazed at the heavens—God's handiwork—and mused over man's destiny in relation to it:

"O, Lord . . . how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. . . . When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? . . ." (Psalms 8:1, 3-4.)

David, in verses 5-9, limits man's dominion *for now* to this earth, the planet designed for him to inhabit. But as Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong has explained continually in the pages of *The Plain Truth,* the New Testament reveals a far more awesome "dominion" for man. Says Mr. Armstrong:

"This revealed knowledge of God's purpose for mankind—of man's incredible awesome potential—staggers the imagination. Science knows nothing of it—no religion reveals it, so far as I know—and certainly higher education is in utter ignorance of it."

Even to those who have come to understand God's purpose for mankind, this incredible future is

perceived "through a glass darkly"—much as earth-bound telescopes strain through the translucency of earth's atmosphere.

Scripture reveals, however, a time in the future that will be so stupendous that it defies human comprehension. The great Creator will make "new heavens and a new earth" on a plane so glorious that the "former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind" (Isaiah 65:17).

The present "heavens being on fire shall be dissolved" (II Peter 3:12). Imagine! Countless billions of stars and innumerable galaxies dissolving—with their place taken by something far more awesome. Countless and innumerable to man, but not to God!

"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed"—made immortal—"and your name remain" (Isaiah 66:22).

No wonder the apostle Paul exclaimed, referring to a passage in Isaiah: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Corinthians 2:9).

#### Most Thrilling Knowledge

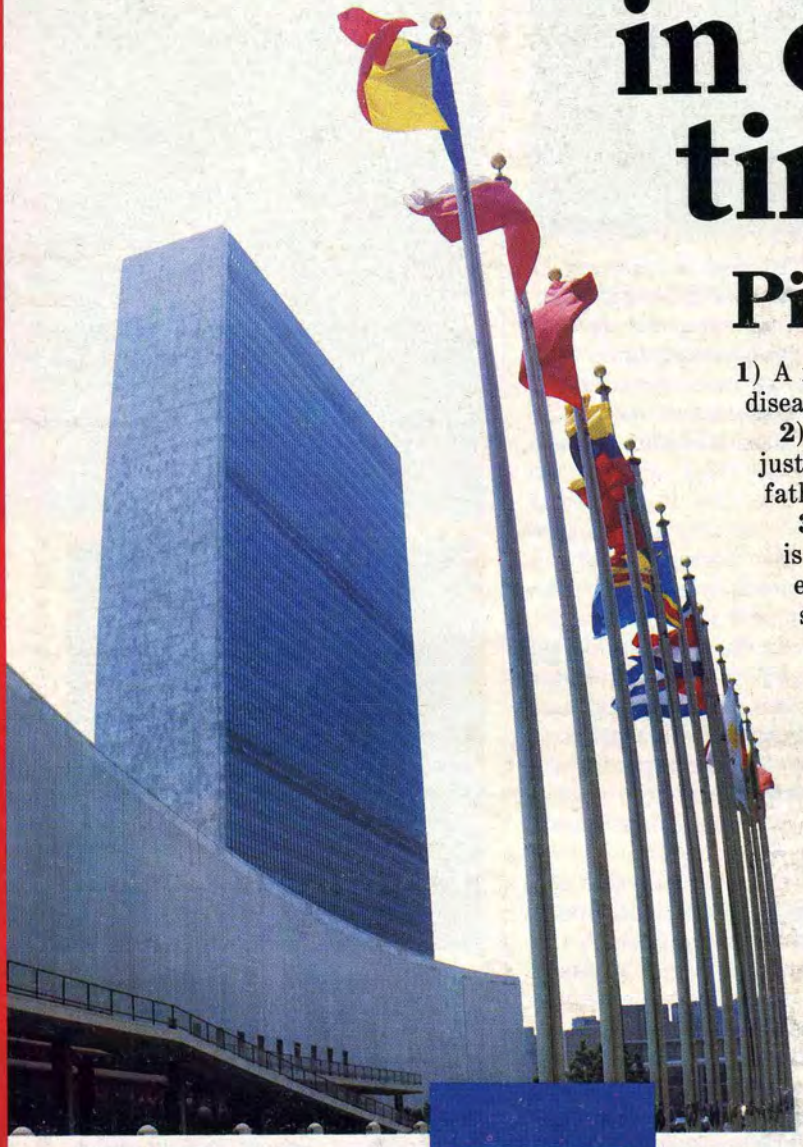
Looking at the television pictures streaming across a billion miles of space from the planet Saturn was a thrilling experience. New knowledge of God's far-off creation through such fantastic space probes is exciting, and should be.

How much more thrilling, however, should be the knowledge of the Creator derived thereby? How much more exciting should be the privilege of probing the depths of the mind and purpose of God in His revealed Word? As the apostle Paul exclaimed:

"Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God." □

***NEW FINDINGS:*** *Saturnian moon Tethys, top left, reveals large fracture of unknown origin, while the newly discovered irregular 11th moon, immediately above, is probably a remnant of a larger body. Saturn's ring structure was found to be much more complex than originally thought. Inside narrow F-ring, top of picture, is Saturn's 14th moon, discovered by Voyager 1.*

# Perfect government in our time?



## Picture this:

**1)** A nation where crime, divorce, civil strife and disease are rare exceptions rather than the rule.

**2)** A government that administers perfect justice on behalf of the poor, the widow, the fatherless.

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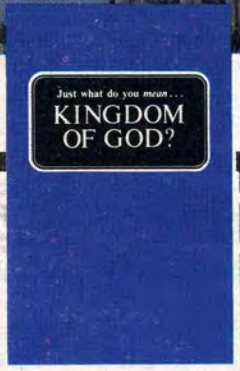


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