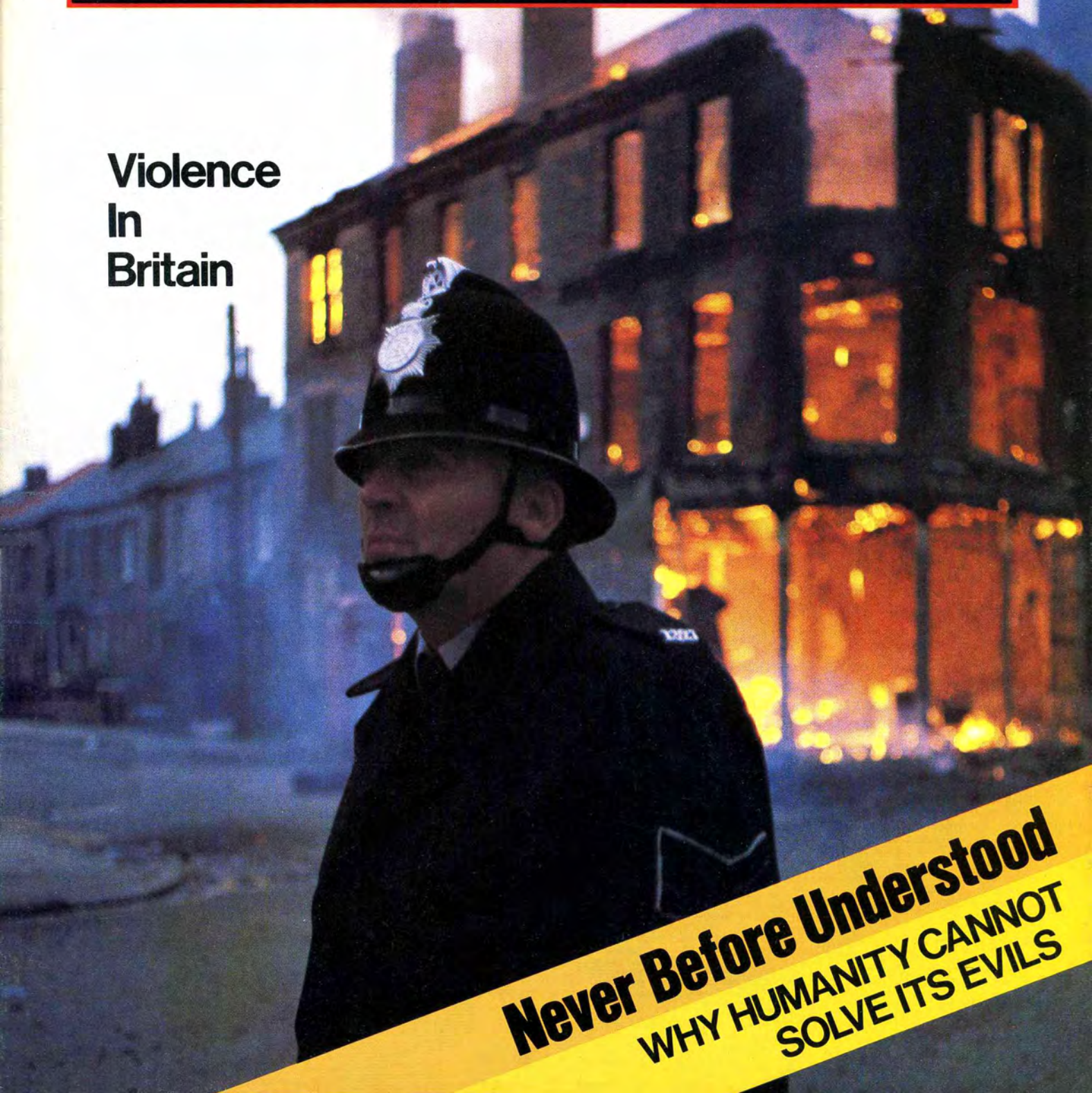
SEPTEMBER 1981

the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



Violence In Britain

Never Before Understood

WHY HUMANITY CANNOT SOLVE ITS EVILS

the PLAIN TRUTH

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Vol. 46, No. 8 ISSN 0032-0420 September 1981

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ABOUT OUR COVER

Flames leap from gutted building after a long night of rioting in Toxteth, Liverpool. A lone policeman stands guard in one of the many areas where white and black youths clashed with authorities.

Cover photo by Jacob Sutton—Liaison

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Personal from...

The Foundation of All Knowledge

NO TWO people believe alike in all things. Nobody agrees with EVERYBODY else. The purpose of *The Plain Truth* is to inform, to challenge, to stimulate THINKING, checking and PROVING what you believe.

We always say to new readers, do not believe what we say—or anyone else says—BECAUSE we say it. But listen without prejudice, check, verify, PROVE—and then believe what you find PROVED true. If you do, we think you'll come to believe what you read here.

A lady from London, England once wrote me: "I notice you say the Gospel message is an educational message. If this is so, it is not for us and for millions and millions of other people. This statement is not biblical. . . . The Bible was not written to inform man's mind, but to change man's heart."

WHAT'S THAT? This statement of mine is not biblical? The Bible was not written to inform the MIND?

It is VERY IMPORTANT that our readers UNDERSTAND whether the Bible was written to inform the MIND! And whether the only TRUE Gospel is an educational message. Entirely too many have been DECEIVED into the false idea that the GOSPEL is an irrational, sentimental, ethereal superstition. THAT IS THE REASON, more than any other, that modern education, and educated people today, have utterly REJECTED the Bible, the true Gospel, and belief in GOD!

And my statement is NOT BIBLICAL? I will now show you—if your mind is open—precisely how COMPLETELY biblical it is!

This lady in London put her finger on the very CRUX of *all this* world's tragedies, its sorrows, pains and sufferings, its heartaches, its poverty, illiteracy, filth and squalor, its crime, broken marriages, violence and wars!

The CAUSE of all unhappiness and wretchedness is WRONG education, and LACK of the knowledge that can be received *only* from the revelation of the Creator—in His Word.

And WHY?

Simply because the world has thrown away the BASIC TEXTBOOK of true education—the Holy Bible! The world has gotten all mixed up. The world, like this lady in London, has not realized just WHAT the Bible *IS!* The Bible *IS* the FOUNDATION of *ALL* KNOWLEDGE—and the true APPROACH to the acquisition of all discoverable knowledge. It is our Maker's INSTRUCTION BOOK of needed knowledge acquirable from no other source.

What is the most basic knowledge?

It is the PURPOSE for the very existence of human life here upon the earth! It is to know the MEANING of life. It is to discern the TRUE values from the false. It is to know THE WAY to peace, happiness, abundant well-being, and eternal life; THE WAY to what fundamentalists call "salvation." To know just what *IS* "salvation." Is it a PLACE—a geographical location; is it a changed *condition?* Is it a change of *composition*—or WHAT? And HOW do we obtain it? Is that KNOWLEDGE important? Does the Bible teach it?

Is it rational? Does it make sense?

Nowhere but in the Bible can one obtain THIS BASIC NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE! Of course, there seems to be an almost endless amount of knowledge that MAN can learn, discover or acquire by himself. God gave man eyes that see, ears that hear, hands that feel. God gave man a MIND that can reason, feet to carry him about, hands that can design and make instruments. He can make telescopes and microscopes. He can build and equip laboratories, conduct experiments. He can travel and explore.

But he cannot discover, by himself, WHAT he himself *IS,* or WHY he is. Did he just *happen,* without intelligent design, by a purposeless process called "evolution"? Or was he CREATED, and put here FOR A PURPOSE? And *what* is that purpose?

Yet that letter from the lady in London says "the Bible was not written to inform man's mind,"

and it is "not biblical" to say that the Gospel is an EDUCATIONAL message!

THAT false supposition is a MAJOR CAUSE of all the world's unhappy ills!

WHY! HOW could that be?

Millions have SUPPOSED that the "Gospel" is a sentimental, nebulous, ethereal sort of EMOTION, irrational and UNrelated to the MIND. They SUPPOSE that THIS false "gospel" came out of the Bible! Therefore they ASSUME that the Bible is an impractical book of maudlin sentimentality, utterly unrelated to rational KNOWLEDGE. Thus the Bible has come to be regarded as outmoded superstition—a book of fables—or, in the Old Testament, the writings of Jews ignorantly searching for a national concept of a god.

SO THINKERS, *without* thinking, and *without* checking to SEE what the Bible is, or what it says, have relegated it to the scrap heap of outworn superstition. The "EDUCATED" have thrown it out the window, without searching to PROVE their biased assumption.

And many religious people have SUPPOSED that "the Bible was not written to inform man's mind, but to change man's heart." They have accepted a sanctimonious sentimentalism, in which they get to "feel" that they are spiritual, and that they are "saved," largely shutting up their minds against the rational teaching of the Bible.

A very "religious" woman of this category once exclaimed, in surprised amazement, "Why, you surely don't read the Bible to try to UNDERSTAND it, do you?"

"Why, *of course!*" I replied emphatically. "Don't you ever read the Bible?"

"Oh yes! I read it every day," she said in a very sanctimonious tone.

"Well then, do you mean you read it, but you don't let it SPEAK to you—you don't get any meaning from what you read?"

"But we're not *supposed* to understand the Bible," she persisted. Like the lady in London, she thought it was not written to inform man's MIND.

"Then WHY do you read it," I asked.

"Why, just for INSPIRATION," she replied.

Entirely too many people are DECEIVED by this false idea. NO WONDER the men of science and the educators of this world have ASSUMED that the Bible contains nothing RATIONAL—but only senseless, sentimental superstition, entirely irrational!

Well, let's *read* a few words of it! It won't poison your mind!

To the gentile-born Thessalonians, Paul wrote: "But I would not have you to be IGNORANT, brethren, concerning them which are asleep . . ." (I Thessalonians 4:13). Was *this* written to inform man's MIND—prevent IGNORANCE? But of course MOST people today, *because* they embrace a sanctimonious superstition INSTEAD OF the MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE, do not understand this! If the Bible was written to *change* man's heart (AND IT WAS INDEED!) HOW can it change man's HEART, if it is never understood by the MIND?

Just what does the Bible *mean* when it speaks of man's "heart"? The word *heart* is used, in this sense, to imply the ATTITUDE of MIND! The BIBLE says: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked . . . " (Jeremiah 17:9).

It is not referring to the organ that pumps blood under man's chest. It is referring to man's NATURE—his attitude, or spirit, or tendency of MIND. It is referring to his natural CHARACTER!

But HOW does God go about *changing* this deceitful NATURE—this "heart"—this attitude of MIND?

Only the Holy Spirit of God can do this. So *how* does one receive God's Spirit?

Jesus began His Gospel ministry and teaching saying, " . . . The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the GOSPEL" (Mark 1:1, 14-15). Two conditions He said WE must perform: REPENT and BELIEVE!

Yes, TWO conditions. That, WE must do. Then GOD does the "saving"—the converting. God GIVES His Holy Spirit.

But now HOW does one REPENT? What does the word *repent* MEAN? The dictionary definition is, "To change one's MIND." "Godly sorrow worketh repentance . . . " (II Corinthians 7:10). This is done in and by the MIND!

Paul was concerned about the MIND. He said: "Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

How does one BELIEVE, in order to be "saved"? One must BELIEVE with the MIND.

The very last words of the apostle Peter's letter were: "But grow in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ . . . " (II Peter 3:18).

What is the FOUNDATION of knowledge—the *starting approach* to wisdom? "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good UNDERSTANDING have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever" (Psalm 111:10).

Speaking of the spiritual GIFTS—which God gives to His begotten children—to the heirs of salvation—we read this INSTRUCTION to the MIND:

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." Through Paul, GOD says He does not want us to be IGNORANT—but UNDERSTANDING and KNOWLEDGEABLE of MIND!

Continue: "Wherefore I give you to UNDERSTAND. . . . Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. . . . For to one is given by the Spirit the word of WISDOM; to another the word of KNOWLEDGE by the same Spirit; to another FAITH by the same Spirit . . . " (I Corinthians 12:1, 3, 4, 8-9). The MOST IMPORTANT of all the spiritual gifts which God gives His people are, first of all, WISDOM; second in importance, KNOWLEDGE; third, FAITH. These all are imparted to the MIND!

Jesus Christ said that we should actually LIVE BY "every word of God"—that is, every word in the Bible (Luke 4:4). How may we do that, unless we allow God's Word

(Continued on page 39)

NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD

Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Today nuclear weapons threaten human extinction. WHY? What happens now?

WHY DO we lack the know-how to solve world troubles—or even problems between individuals?

WHY?

Scientists have said, "Given sufficient knowledge, we will solve all problems, remove all human evils." In the decade of the sixties, Dr. Clark Kerr, president of the University of California, Berkeley, said the modern university is a factory—manufacturing knowledge. In that decade the world's fund of knowledge doubled—but world troubles doubled also! The newly produced knowledge did not cause the increased troubles, but neither did it cure them.

WHY?

Knowledge in modern science, technology, industry and government has produced awesome achievements. A Lincoln, Emerson or Vanderbilt, suddenly coming back to life today would be astounded! But also he would be appalled to see the immorality, violence and evils that have multiplied human unhappiness and suffering. And he would be shocked into consternation to learn that nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction have been produced that now threaten to erase all humanity from the earth!

This is one of the most important articles Mr. Armstrong has ever written. The reader is advised to carefully read every scripture quotation given.

The Bible is unlike any other book. Like a jigsaw puzzle, it is made up of thousands of pieces. When put together properly, each piece construed according to its intended meaning in its own context, it presents a perfect picture of God's overall purpose, and his Master Plan for its accomplishment through mortal man.

This article deeply concerns the personal life today of every reader.

During the past century the theory of evolution has become the universally accepted concept through which knowledge has been produced. Evolution is the explanation of the natural mind for the existence of a creation without the preexistence of an intelligent and all-powerful Creator. But what has been its fruits?

Human knowledge production has led the way through discontent, unhappiness, violence, war, human suffering, to near-approaching extermination of humanity by humanity!

WHY the paradox of astonishing materialistic progress amid

ever-increasing human decadence?

Yes, *WHY?*

Mankind is comparable to the one who purchased a technically designed instrument, but was unable to operate it because he ignored the manufacturer's operation manual. The human mind and body is the most perfectly designed mechanism ever produced from earthly material substance. Our Maker sent along with his product his operation manual. But this world's bestseller has been the most ignored, distorted, falsely interpreted and least understood of all books.

A Cause for Every Effect

There has to be a CAUSE for every effect. What was the original CAUSE for all the world's seemingly insolvable troubles? This CAUSE has been utterly overlooked by modern science. It is unknown in modern higher education. It has been carelessly glossed over by even the traditional Christian religion, and is unknown to other religions.

The CAUSE of all troubles in your life and mine and in the world today originated in the incident of the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden! It all began with the beginning of MANKIND! And even the true Church of God in this 20th century has not fully understood it until now!

What if Adam had taken of the tree of LIFE? Ever wonder about that?

Ah!—that would have made all the difference! There would have been no national governments today. No military establishments consuming the time of millions of soldiers. No violence. No wars. An entirely different educational system. A different business and commercial world. No tobacco industry. No need for doctors, nurses, hospitals and their staffs to treat today's host of illnesses. No police forces, jails and prisons. Millions released for more productive, useful occupations. Yes, THINK OF IT! YOU AND I WOULD BE LIVING IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WORLD! There would be no universal discontent, unhappiness, frustrated lives. There would be peace everywhere—between nations, groups, families and individuals. Abundance everywhere for joy-packed lives filled with interest, eager anticipation for a wonderful eternity ahead!

Sound impossible? Why should it? There was a CAUSE for existing conditions. There would have been a CAUSE for the happier state!

This matter of basic CAUSES has eluded the knowledge production of man. It has never been understood by modern science. It has not been recognized by education. Religion has remained in ignorance of this mystery of the ages! Yet it has been faithfully recorded and preserved for us who will to UNDERSTAND!

So now look closer at what did happen, what actually caused effects in your life and mine, and what the immediate future now holds for us all.

> *"This matter of basic causes has eluded the knowledge production of man.... Yet it has been faithfully recorded and preserved for us who will to understand!"*

The turning point in *your* life began in that forbidden fruit incident! It's time you UNDERSTAND!

Source of Life

God is the source of all LIFE. But he did not give mankind LIFE—not yet! Everything began with GOD. And of all the religions on earth—including traditional Christianity—not one knows *who* and *what* God is! More, not one knows *what* and *why* man is! Yet the Designer and Maker of this most intricately designed mechanism we call MAN reveals himself in man's instruction manual he gave us!

In order of time sequence the first revelation of *who* and *what* is God is found in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word." This "Word" was a personage, eternally self-existent. He was "without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life" (Hebrews 7:3). "The Word was with God" (John 1:1). God was another personal immortal Being. "And the Word was God." The Personage here named "the Word" was also God. "All things were made by him. In him was LIFE." In verse 14, same chapter, "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us"—in other words, fathered by God, became by human birth, Jesus Christ.

But of what was God composed? "God is Spirit" (John 4:24, RSV). God is composed of Spirit, not of mortal flesh from the ground of the earth. God has LIFE inherent. He is the source of all life.

Now see how he is described in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created . . ." Moses wrote these words originally in Hebrew. The Hebrew word translated "God" is *Elohim,* a uniplural noun like family, church or group. One family consisting of more than one person. God—*Elohim*—consisted from eternity of the "Word" and God—two Spirit-composed personages, forming one God, since the Word also was God.

In Genesis 1:26 God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Not "Let me, after my likeness." God had made animals after *their* kind—cattle after the cattle kind (verses 24-25), elephants after the elephant kind.

But he made man after the GOD kind! That is, as to form and shape—but not as to composition, because God "formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living [not immortal] soul" (Genesis 2:7). Like animals, man was made an air-breathing being. Like animals, his temporary physical existence came from air and circulation of blood, fueled by food and water from the ground.

But man is not an animal. There are two main differences: 1) man

(Continued on page 26)

“IT CAN’T HAPPEN HERE! NOT HERE IN BRITAIN!”

by John Ross Schroeder

“I DIDN’T think it would come to this,” were the words of a diminutive Liverpool lady who stopped to chat with me in the shadow of a series of fire-gutted buildings—the former premises of local businesses.

Two nights before Mrs. Margaret Thatcher had almost echoed her thoughts on a TV interview. The Prime Minister said: “Most of us did not think these kinds of things could happen in our country.”

Reaction from across the Atlantic Ocean was much the same. One knowledgeable *Times* reporter expressed it in these words: “Americans, however some try to conceal it, believe Britain has been, remains and will forever be the most civil society on earth. So there is shocked reaction to the recent riots by those who thought that ‘it couldn’t happen there’ ” (*The Times,* July 15, 1981).

Jacob Sutton—Liaison

The Financial Times termed the riots “like an epidemic of some alien disease.” The widespread extent of the rioting, spreading like a brush fire first from London to Liverpool and then very rapidly on to Manchester, Leicester and other inner cities in England, was a big surprise to people. But should it have been?

We Live in Two Different Worlds

To the discerning eye all the troublesome ingredients that suddenly erupted into violence have been present for some time. Take Liverpool as a microcosm of this so-called alien disease. Let us start with the environment. Two different worlds now exist side by side in Liverpool.

I disembarked from a London express train at Liverpool’s Lime Street Station in the heart of the city. A colleague had come to meet me. As we drove to the scene

of several nights' rioting, the Adelphi Hotel stood out as a handsome neoclassical reminder of another much more prosperous era. Not far from the hotel district a large newish shopping district graced the landscape. As we continued down Renshaw Street we noticed that the shop windows were boarded up with plywood-like timber in anticipation of a spread of the rioting to the main shopping area. Fortunately this did not happen.

Beyond the town center we entered an altogether different world. It is *not* the world of glittering prosperity that characterizes the main downtown section of Liverpool. It is instead a rundown assortment of abandoned buildings with broken and/or boarded-up windows dotted by the occasional small shop still open for business. In short it is urban blight at its worst in England.

Very quickly we arrived in trouble-torn Toxteth to take a few photographs and to survey the wreckage. Whatever the causes of the rioting, one conclusion is inescapable. Toxteth is a horrible place in which to have to live. And unfortunately this was true *before* the first rioter picked up the first petrol bomb. Now, of course, conditions are just that much worse. In the aftermath of the destruction of the lion's share of the shops, residents will now have to travel all the way to the Liverpool town center or a neighboring suburb to do their shopping.

Let's not pick on Liverpool. But an inner city, almost any inner city, is an exceedingly demoralizing place in which to dwell. Very little to see except concrete and tarmac, these urban monsters are typically very cold, lonely and dirty habitations. Often people don't even know the name of the person occupying the next flat or apartment.

The many, multistoried flats are a problem in themselves. Often defaced on the sides with obscene graffiti, people are forced to live virtually right on top of one another in these cheerless match boxes they call apartment buildings. Human beings desperately need privacy. Living so close to one's neighbors is against human dignity. It reminds one of a particular scripture in the biblical book of Isaiah: "Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, *till there be no room*" (Isaiah 5:8, KJV and RSV). The cultural context might be different, but the sentiment is certainly the same.

Of course, bad environmental conditions, unemployment, poverty and other societal ills are no excuse for violent crime.

The Ugly Faces of Crime

The current "in" crime in Liverpool happens to be mugging helpless pensioners. Even sexual assault on elderly ladies is not that uncommon. And newsboys are even on the take. Some few have collected payments from readers, shared it out among themselves and pretended to the newsagents that they were mugged and robbed of the money.

> *Society itself—in its various ways—has taught people to be contemptuous of authority—and especially toward that most basic symbol of all governmental authority—the policeman.*

Crime is not racial in Liverpool; it cuts right across the racial scene. Liverpool is a virtual nursery of crime with criminals from each racial group—white, West Indian and Chinese, plus mixed groups due to an unusually high rate of racial intermarriage in the area. Violent crime in Liverpool has risen by 45 percent in four years. The riots merely represented a sudden concentration of this crime problem in a blatant, open rejection of authority. But no rampaging mob was needed to document the breakdown of law and order in Liverpool. The evidence was already present to the seeing eye.

Yet the government was caught somewhat unprepared. It seemed to merely hope that what had already happened in Bristol and Brixton (south London—see the article on London in this issue) would not worsen and spread.

Little can be done in the short term to solve this long term problem. True, the police can and most certainly will be given better equipment and more effective weaponry with which to deal with riots. But the long-run solution to the problem is much more fundamental than that.

Unemployment a Factor

The editors and writers of *The Plain Truth* will *not* ever say that poverty, poor housing and unemployment are an excuse for violence! *No, never!* Nevertheless, unemployment in Liverpool tends to be twice the national average. Forty percent of the young people in the Toxteth area are without a job. Up to 60 percent of young black people in Toxteth have little hope of ever getting any work in Liverpool/Merseyside.

According to some authorities some of those who are out of work would rather collect their dole money and then simply supplement it by stealing a couple of purses a week. Even so it is still a dreadful experience for many to be unemployed and dependent on the government for one's living.

Human beings need to feel that they are productive, useful and needed members of the particular society in which they dwell. One of the most basic of human needs is the right to a job. Man is equipped with an innate creative capacity. If he is consistently denied the opportunity to express this creativity in a useful manner constructive to society, life can become pretty much of a despairing existence.

Because of the serious shortcomings of the world in which we live, many people have been shunted into meaningless, nonproductive lives. They see no visible hope. Nothing on the horizon that could channel their energies into any type of positive action.

Furthermore their lives have *not* been undergirded by the right kind of religious teaching. They have *not* been taught right from wrong.

(Continued on page 40)

What's Your BIBLE IQ?

by Richard H. Sedliacik

What is the Bible? Why was it written? And to whom? Why do so few really understand the Bible? Read this eye-opening article for the surprising answers!

BIBLICAL ignorance is considered "respectable" today.

"It is one of the curious phenomena of modern times," comments J.B. Phillips in *The Young Church in Action,* "that it is considered perfectly respectable to be abysmally ignorant of the Christian faith.

"Paradoxically, men and women who would be deeply ashamed of having their ignorance exposed in matters of poetry, music, or painting, for example, are not in the least perturbed to be found ignorant of the New Testament" (p. 6).

And so the Bible has become little more than an obsolete sacred book to which most of its devotees pay lip service, but which they practically never read, study or understand!

What are some of the underlying reasons for such widespread biblical ignorance and lack of understanding in the world today?

Not Even Theologians Understand?

You might expect that atheists and agnostics would not understand the purpose of the Bible and what it says. But would you expect that many of today's leading ministers and theologians themselves don't understand the significance of the Book they profess to understand? Not when you understand that they have assumed as true the hypotheses and theories taught today in seminaries and schools of theology!

Typical of commentary by leading theologians and biblical scholars today is this from a minister of a major church denomination:

"No mainstream Christian church accepts the Bible as the literal interpretation of the Word of God. Some of it is folklore, some legend, some tribal history."

Another theologian summed up the modern trend this way: "We must take the Bible seriously; but not literally."

No wonder the ordinary layman has backed away from the Bible.

The trouble with most people is that they have taken for granted what other people say about the Bible!

Most people—including church laymen and many in the clergy—have not taken the time to really look into the Bible and study it for themselves! They simply have never proved what they have come to accept as truth.

What the Bible IS

Believe it or not, the Bible was written for our day, this age—this generation!

The Bible is the most up-to-date book you can read today.

In the pages of this "Book that nobody knows" are revealed the causes of all of today's ills—the social problems, the economic problems and even the threat of nuclear annihilation hanging over mankind today.

The Bible shows where world events are leading, and what the final outcome will be.

The Bible is God's revelation to man of basic knowledge—knowledge of laws and principles that man is unable to discover for himself—knowledge that is otherwise utterly inaccessible to the mind of man.

For example: The law of gravity is not directly revealed in the Bible. God equipped man with the powers and abilities to discover gravity for himself.

But man has never been able to discover with assurance what he is and why he was put here on earth—whether there is a real PURPOSE for human life, or what that purpose is. Man has not been able to discover the true way to peace, happiness, abundant well-being and real success. This world's colleges and universities can teach students how to earn a living—but they invariably fail to teach them how to live!

Maybe you have never thought of it in this way before. But the Bible is God's "instruction manual" to show His supreme material creation how to live. Only in the Bible can one find this necessary basic knowledge. God inspired the Bible to be the very basis of true education.

The Bible, then, is the FOUNDATION of knowledge. It gives the true approach to the acquisition of knowledge in the fields of history, education, psychology, sociology and the health sciences. It reveals basic principles concerning business, commerce, science, the arts, law, government, philosophy and religion.

The Bible also explains the meaning of the chaotic times in which we live. And it shows us how peace, prosperity, success and happiness are coming to all the world in our lifetime!

Yet, ironically, this "Book of all books" is one of the least known, least understood of all books. Why?

Simply because when most people try to read the Bible, they can't understand it. Consequently, they assume it is out of date and irrelevant in our modern age.

People could begin to understand the Bible—if they were really willing to let it teach them and if they accept it for what it says. The Bible is plain and simple. It means exactly what it says. If we take it as it is—letting it interpret *itself*—it makes real sense.

You Can Understand It

For more than a quarter of a century, the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course has been helping hundreds of thousands to become "biblical literates." This unique course of biblical understanding has led more than a million students in virtually every nation on earth to a greater knowledge and understanding of the most-misunderstood book in the world.

This course is a totally different method of Bible study. It makes the Bible easy to understand and shows how the Bible *is* relevant to the space age! It is dynamic, down-to-earth. It pulls no punches. It tells the truth straight from the Bible. You've never seen any course like it before!

The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course has been designed to guide you through a systematic study of your own Bible—the Bible is the only textbook. It is not a study of men's ideas about the Bible, but a study of the Bible itself.

Major subjects of vital interest in this fantastic push-button age are thoroughly gone into and made clear with each 16-page, monthly lesson. Each lesson directs you step by step to the plain, simple answers in your own Bible!

This course helps you find the answers to the really big questions of life you have always wondered about. It is designed to show the meaning behind today's world chaos, and it helps you to see the very *purpose for your existence*—the reason why you are drawing breath.

Students from all walks of life are enrolled in this course—even including ministers of religion—and are enthusiastically discovering new truth in their Bibles with the guidance of each lesson.

They are all learning that there is hope for the future—that there are solutions to the seemingly insoluble problems of today. They are learning the keys to understanding Bible prophecy and the principles that lead to success, financial security and a happy, abundant life.

What Our Students Say

But perhaps you are one of those who thinks, A college correspondence course is too difficult for me. I'd never understand it. Or, I'm too old. If you have ever thought that way, you couldn't be more wrong. This course is designed for people of all ages—for YOU! And it makes studying the Bible enjoyable, rewarding—the experience of a lifetime.

Thousands of our Correspondence Course students have written to the editor expressing sincere appreciation for the lessons. We'd like to share some of those letters with you, showing how our students are actually understanding their Bibles for the first time, and finding that it is relevant to their own lives here and now! Notice the following letter:

Your Correspondence Course really shows one how to study the Bible and what the Bible really says. Most people don't realize that the Bible is a book for our day and age. They have never proved that it is true or that there is a God. You give the proof. I now believe that there really is a God, and that the Bible is His Word. The Bible has become a new book to me. I never realized what the Bible said until now.

D.M.
Apache Junction, Arizona

Read what these two students discovered with the aid of the Correspondence Course:

I would like to thank you for sending lessons from your Correspondence Course. My educational background was highly technical in nature: and I have, at times, overemphasized a logical approach to

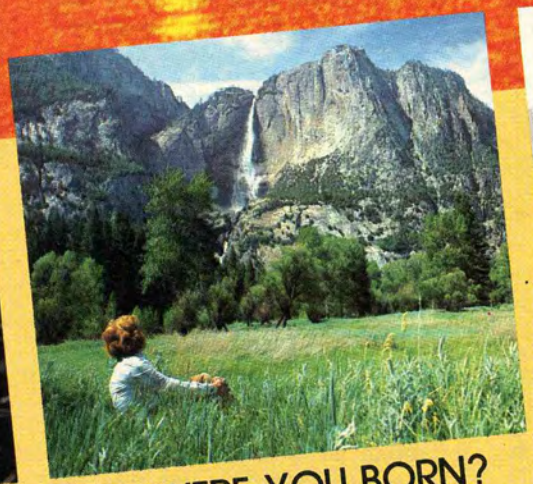
(Continued on page 12)

3 FREE BOOKLETS explain MORE ABOUT LIFE...

AND HOW TO ENJOY IT!

WHO CREATED IT?

Is God a myth? Can God's existence be scientifically proved? Does God intervene in human events? The enlightening booklet DOES GOD EXIST? answers these and other questions with solid, well-documented evidence. Prove for yourself whether God exists. You'll find the truth encouraging and reassuring.



WHY WERE YOU BORN?

Is there a purpose for human life? Has God forsaken man? Does He care? What is God's plan for mankind? For YOU? The Bible is clear on this subject. Here's a fascinating booklet that reveals the biblical truth. Read it and be inspired by man's ultimate awesome potential.

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

Why are so few really successful? Why so much poverty and unhappiness in the world? What is success and how can you achieve it? Here, at last, are the answers to life's most difficult problems. There are seven immutable laws of success, and they are revealed in THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS—a remarkable booklet. A separate chapter is devoted to each law. Every truly successful person has followed these principles—you can too, regardless of your age, sex, or present position in life.

Write to the office nearest you for your copies without delay. No cost or obligation. See addresses on inside front cover.

L E T T E R S

What Our Readers Say

Suggestion

I am writing mainly to suggest that you or someone on your editorial staff write an article for *The Plain Truth* magazine on the subject of crime and violence. This subject would also be appropriate for a future "World Tomorrow" telecast or radio broadcast.

Barry E. Lisenbee
Arlington, Virginia

Personal

I am receiving your magazine for more than 20 years. Although I am not a subscriber to your basic philosophies, I not only want to express my thanks, to be on your mailing list, but also wish to tell you that I tremendously enjoy reading it. Since I am very much interested in foreign policies, I have learned a lot from your writings, but it has also contributed to my spiritual awareness. It should also be recognized that you are probably the only publisher with free subscriptions of such a high standard and sophisticated magazine.

Martin H. Amberg
Detroit, Michigan

I agree with you on your viewpoint about American television shows and movies being taken the wrong way by people in other countries.

When I was ten years old nine out of ten programs were of good quality.

John Drofick
Weissport, Pennsylvania

I enjoyed Mr. Armstrong's "Personal" as it strikes a positive note, talking about the invisible law of "GIVE," as opposed to the materialistic "GET."

Ted Sumner
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Russia In Prophecy

I would like to compliment Mr. Armstrong very highly for his inspiring article "Russia in Prophecy."

For the last few years I had been trying to figure out where to place the prophecy of Ezekiel 39 into the prophetic puzzle concerning the U.S. and Britain.

Robert Austin Jr.
Lawtey, Florida

Silent Holocaust

I read your article on the "Silent Holocaust." I learned more on abortions from that one article than I have ever known before.

Donna Berends
Topeka, Kansas

I would like to thank you for the "Silent Holocaust." To think that before I read your article I supported abortion. Now I am 8½ months pregnant and every time I feel my baby move in my womb, I feel the greatest of joys. It always brings me back to your article and tears appear in my eyes.

I. Roldan
Elizabeth, New Jersey

After reading your sad but true article on abortion and then the poem on an "unborn child," I felt I had to relate an experience in my life.

About 2½ years ago while still taking birth control pills, I found out I was expecting our second child. My doctor was very concerned, telling me "the Pill" has been known to cause kidney and urinary problems in babies whose mother was taking the pill, when they were conceived.

She even suggested an abortion to avoid any such problems. I think I may have considered it five years ago before I was shown the truth. I could have eased my conscience by saying the doctor recommended it and I could always have another baby later.

I put my faith in God, I knew God wouldn't give me any more than I could handle. I prayed my baby would not be born with a serious problem. My pregnancy went fairly normal although I was more uncomfortable than the first time.

When I was brought into the delivery room of my local hospital, my husband was by my side holding my hand. That is when my daughter Hillary was born. Right after her birth the doctor's face went white, he was in a state of shock almost. My husband felt faint and asked for a chair, I started to cry when I was told Hillary was a twin, her sister Harmony was going to be born any minute. I certainly did have a complication, I was now the mother of a beautiful set of twin girls. They were a complete surprise to us all.

As for the doctor who suggested the abortion, she stops to admire my children every time she sees me walking down the street with them. I'm sure she never thinks of her advice which I never took!

Phyllis Gonyer
Whitefield, New Hampshire

Drugs

That was a very good article on the connection between drugs used casually and a serious accident. I read it to my six children and hope it will help them to realize the seriousness of what could happen.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl L. VanWert
Farmersville, California

Decision Making

I enjoy reading *The Plain Truth*. The articles are illuminating, enjoyable and, although I don't always agree with their context, helpful. *The Plain Truth* has helped me mostly, I believe, to become a little more autonomous in my own personal decision making. I was formerly at the mercy of this and that diet, philosophy, religion and what have you. Now I'm making more of my own

decision, based on my knowledge of a particular subject.

Ralph Gaudioso
Brookfield, Connecticut

Correspondence Course

Please continue to send me your fine magazine—*The Plain Truth.* It too adds special meaning to my personal life in many ways. Many of the articles are extremely well-written, holding my attention to the fullest. Compliments to the editors and their fine staff for the work they have done.

I would be most grateful to you if you would send me your "Ambassador College Correspondence Course" too. I am truly interested in furthering my personal enrichment and character and think your course is just what I need. Can you help me?

James T. Rocco
Administrative Officer
Youth Service, USA
Memphis, Tennessee

Weather

As a meteorologist, I was very much impressed by your article "Droughts, Floods, Weather Disasters—Why?" Our question, as meteorologists, is where and when will moisture precipitate. So while Mr. X will complain of lack of rainfall, Mr. Y will complain about floods. This balance (having enough precipitation at the right time) is beyond human control. With all the new discoveries, none has been close to this much needed balance. There is no way out except to fall on our knees and seek God, who will hear our prayers and bless our land.

P.S. Kangele
National Meteorological
Training School
Dar es Salaam

Education

Thanks for the excellent article on our responsibilities in educating our children safely and properly. Fortunately for our children my wife foresaw the danger you discussed and is teaching our two at home. Because she has both the ability and the "giving attitude," versus the "get"-them-out-of-my-hair mood, the results have been superb. Our local township's school principal described the results as "fantastic."

The article also showed how important it is to spend time with our children to help counter the 16,000 hours of possible negative influence they can receive while attending public schools.

John P. Cardie
Woodbury, New Jersey

Gorilla Speaks Out

The article "A Gorilla Speaks Out Against Evolution" was excellent. Human beings indeed are qualitatively different from mere animals.

Human beings can love and hate; they can cry and understand and laugh at the meaning of a joke. Human beings can engage in propositional speech and use and comprehend symbols; they possess the inherent capacity to make free choices and judgments.

True, animals can procreate, even as humans can procreate; but only man can see that sex is more than just a physical act, that there is a sacredness to sex, marriage and procreation.

Haven Bradford Gow
Arlington Heights, Illinois

Food Additives

Many thanks for the article on food and food additives. I had not really considered that refined and processed foods are a necessary outgrowth of families and societies that want everything in a hurry. Lack of time combined with the fact that people think they like the taste of these foods makes them very acceptable. Most people are not really convinced that these foods are harmful to their health so they continue to follow the crowd and eat the processed foods that are so easily available.

I hope you will have more articles in the future dealing with the harmful effects of poor diet so that people will understand why it is necessary to make changes and take the time to prepare and eat wholesome natural foods.

Andrea Oxley
Kalamazoo, Michigan

"What You Need to Know About Food and Food Additives" is a very well done article. The author quoted from some of your earlier writings and from the Bible. This gave me a new perspective on the Holy Book and health. Please send me the following booklets: *Principles of Healthful Living, Managing Your Personal Finances* and "Is All Animal Flesh Good Food?"

Joseph Killian
San Francisco, Calif.

Smoking

After reading "New Truth About Smoking" I feel compelled to write. My brother, sisters and I still live with my parents—both of whom smoke. I don't suppose my parents will ever read this letter but perhaps it will start some others thinking.

There is no one in authority over the parents to enforce a no-smoking rule so the children are not harmed, and in many households (such as ours), requests that the parents kick the habit are ignored or rudely rebuffed.

Please parents, reconsider what you are doing to your children! If you do not show respect for your children's health now, can you really expect their respect later?

M.H.
Virginia

The article on smoking I took to work with me and showed it to my boss. I have been after him to put a fan in for us non-smokers. Thanks to your article he is going to put one in for us.

Vinnie Rumberger
Clearfield, Pennsylvania

Prince Charles

In the article about the Queen Mother and Prince Charles, the Prince is improperly dressed in Naval uniform. What happened was, the negative was reversed. His medal ribbon is shown on his right breast. As a Royal Naval veteran, I think this mistake calls for an apology. I enjoy the magazine very much. Thanking you in anticipation.

William Munro
Hamilton, Ontario

• *Negative was reversed. Our apologies herewith expressed by photo as it should have appeared.*

BIBLE IQ?

(Continued from page 8)

my study of virtually any subject. I had always been taught that the Bible could not be studied in a logical manner; however, your course has convinced me that such a method can be used in Bible study.

David S.
Levelland, Texas

I have been so well pleased with the Ambassador College Correspondence Course, I must let it be known. It was far beyond my imagination that such a course existed at all.

In fact, before I started studying this course by mail I was under the impression that no one could learn the Bible by mail. I was wrong. I really am well pleased with the knowledge I've gained.

R.C.T.
Belva, West Virginia

One very important fact our students have learned is that the Bible does interpret itself. This letter explains it:

I just completed the first lesson of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. There aren't enough words to express my gratitude. I think the only word that can describe my feeling is *relief!* At last a source with which to really study and learn from the Bible, instead of just taking someone else's interpretation. All my life I've heard people say: "The Bible can be interpreted many ways."

I can't say that I believed or disbelieved that statement. I just didn't think about it. To me it was just an impressive book that everyone seemed to have. Now that I have respect for the Bible and am reading it, I feel that no [human] interpretation is needed. It is plainly written. I am really looking forward to my next lesson.

W.G.
Cincinnati, Ohio

From England comes this enthusiastic letter:

I have just received Lesson 1 of the Correspondence Course. I am delighted, overwhelmed! This is the most interesting and enlightening course of study I have ever undertaken. I can hardly wait for Lesson 2; and if Lesson 1 is any indication of what is to come, then please know that I will be corresponding for a long time to come.

J.W.S.
London, England

A well-pleased Canadian wrote the following letter:

Before hearing *The World Tomorrow* broadcast I had many unanswered questions that were so big that a psychiatrist was unwilling to answer them. . . . The only answer I received from him was that I should take a trip to Europe, go hunting, roam the countryside to get close to nature, take up sailboating, get married, etc. This didn't answer any one of my questions.

Through the Ambassador College Correspondence Course I have received direct and workable answers to all my questions. I am now learning the real purpose in life and receiving blessings beyond my wildest dreams.

Student
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Notice what happened to this student's understanding after just four lessons:

I have just completed my first four lessons of the Correspondence Course. Suddenly I realized the amazing change in my understanding of the Bible as I recalled the days before I ever requested the course. It has helped move me out of complete misunderstanding, myth, guesswork and bewilderment, and into a clear and ever-revealing knowledge of the Bible.

Edward M.
Hanford, California

A well-educated student wrote this letter:

Since I had the advantage of a good deal of this world's education, I feel qualified to make this next statement. Although the Correspondence Course is written so that anyone who can read can easily do the work, in quality and thoroughness of instruction, it is easily the equivalent of courses given for college credit by the better colleges and universities. It is really superior.

Student
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Many are surprised to find that their previous schooling is no barrier to studying the Bible with these lessons, as this student discovered:

Please tell people they don't have to have a high school education to take the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. I didn't finish high school and that kept me from writing for it for a long time. Now there isn't enough money to buy the lessons from me that I have received.

Student
Tavares, Florida

You, too, can begin to share these same experiences. You can begin to understand the knowledge that really counts.

The only qualification necessary for taking this course is the ability to read. No prior college training or other advanced education is necessary.

These monthly lessons are so plainly and interestingly written that even a child can understand them. And there are no assignments to send in—just a test after every fourth lesson so you can know how you are doing as you continue your studies.

Remember, there is no tuition cost to you! Your lessons have already been paid for by others who are voluntarily helping to send this vital knowledge to all who request it. The Correspondence Course is *absolutely free.*

Will you let the Ambassador College Correspondence Course make the Bible 100 percent relevant to your life today? You can begin by checking the Correspondence Course box on the enclosed literature request card and returning it as instructed.

Do it right now and you won't forget. You'll be glad you did! □

Just What Do You Mean...

by Keith W. Stump

Few religious topics are as misunderstood as this. Read here an eye-opening explanation of the real meaning of "Antichrist."

YOU HAVE heard their names: Nero. Mohammed. Emperor Frederick II. Pope John XXII. Martin Luther. Hitler. Stalin. Mussolini.

All these individuals have had one thing in common.

In their days, they were all branded with the odious, fear-inspiring title ANTICHRIST! Dozens of others throughout the past two millennia have equally shared this dubious distinction.

Obviously they cannot all be the Antichrist. Or can they?

Who—or what—is "the Antichrist"? Why do so many ministers today warn of Antichrist, yet misunderstand who or what this personage is? What does *the Bible* say about this mysterious figure?

Confusion in Film

Nowhere is the widespread contemporary confusion over these questions more blatantly in evidence than in the recent motion picture titled *The Final Conflict*.

The Final Conflict is the third and final installment of the *Omen* trilogy. This is a series of three motion pictures purporting to trace the birth, childhood and rise to power of the Antichrist. The events in these films appear to the public in the guise of Bible prophecy.

In the *Omen* story, the Antichrist is named Damien Thorn. Thorn has a bizarre genealogy—he is the offspring of Satan. Etched on his scalp is the so-called birthmark of the devil: 666.

A problem child, Damien spent his younger years plotting the violent demises of his parents, assorted relatives, tutors, household servants, priests, newspaper reporters and the like.

As an adult, Thorn has become politically ambitious. As *The Final Conflict* opens, we find Thorn at the head of the biggest multinational corporation in the world. His ultimate goal is world rulership.

Thorn is fully aware of his satanic identity. "I stand before you in the name of the one true god, Lord of the Lower Empire," he tells his disciples, "who was cast out of heaven but is alive in me."

Thorn seems on his way to the top. But one obstacle stands in his way. That obstacle is described in the book of Hebron, which we are told is "one of the obscure books of the Apocrypha" (so obscure it doesn't exist—editor). This ancient volume is said to reveal that Jesus Christ is to be reborn as a *human child* somewhere in England!

Thorn must kill this returned Christ Child—or be destroyed by Him. "Slay the Nazarene and I reign forever. Fail and I perish," he declares.

The exact hour of Jesus' 20th-century rebirth is supposedly revealed by an astrological source, an alignment of three stars (called the Trinity Alignment) in the constellation of Cassiopeia.

In the role of a modern Herod, Thorn proceeds to have his evil agents round up all birth certificates for that day. Male children born at the revealed time are then systematically exterminated, to be absolutely certain the reborn Jesus is eliminated. (But the baby Jesus is born among gypsies, and he has no birth certificate!)

Meanwhile, the fate of the world

depends on a priest and six monks. They alone, we are told, can foil the evil plans of Thorn. The Holy Child will not be totally safe and secure until the Antichrist is dead.

There is only one way the Antichrist can be killed. He must be stabbed with one of the seven ancient daggers of Megiddo. One by one, however, the monks die in their attempts to skewer Thorn.

In the end, the "final conflict" of Good and Evil takes place in a lonely Celtic chapel. Damien Thorn is killed by a woman BBC correspondent, who stabs him in the back with one of the seven magical daggers.

The Holy Child is now safe. Good triumphs over Evil. A new era dawns.

Fiction not Fact!

How much, do you suppose, of the above scenario is actually found in Bible prophecy? All of it? Half of it? None of it?

Do you know?

It is to be hoped that even the most biblically illiterate moviegoers are perceptive enough not to mistake the imaginative concoctions of Hollywood for literal biblical truth. Filmmakers have a well-known and well-deserved reputation for bizarre renderings of Scripture.

And, it seems, most preachers are equally confused.

Do *you* know what the Bible really says about the Antichrist? You may be surprised!

To begin with, the Bible *never once* speaks of *the* Antichrist! However, the word *antichrist* does appear in Scripture. This word—meaning, from the Greek, "against the Messiah"—is found only in the New Testament, where it is used exclusively by the apostle John in his epistles.

What Scripture Reveals

Let's notice the four scriptures where the word is found:

I John 2:18—"... as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now there are *many antichrists*. ..."

I John 2:22—"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

I John 4:3—"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and *even now already* is it in the world."

II John 7—"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

These scriptures were written toward the end of the 1st century A.D. Even at that time, John writes, there were "*many* antichrists." Some 1,900 years ago, he could say that the spirit of antichrist "*even now already* is in the world."

In Bible usage, therefore, the term *antichrist* does not refer exclusively to a single political or religious leader yet to arise in our day.

> *"Man will discover that his go-it-alone approach will utterly fail him in the end!"*

The four scriptures cited above clearly show that an antichrist is a deceiver and one who in some way denies that Jesus is the Christ. How does one deny Christ?

By evil works!

Jesus prophesied that many would come *saying* He is the Christ (Matthew 24:5). These, as Paul wrote to Titus, "*profess* that they know God; but *in works they deny him*. ..." They outwardly *claim* to be Christians, but they refuse to obey Him. The works of their lives are evil.

This is antichrist!

Further, John notes, an antichrist denies that Jesus Christ, through His Spirit, comes into the flesh of His people, living His life in them and enabling them to obey the law of God (I John 3:24; Galatians 2:20). This is the spirit of antichrist—a spirit of *lawlessness,* standing in opposition to God's law and way of life.

There is yet another, even more subtle way that many today deny Christ—and yield to the spirit of antichrist!

Alternative to Christ?

The Bible reveals that Jesus, the Messiah or Christ, must return to this earth with authority to establish a 1,000-year reign of peace—the Millennium. Were He *not* to return, "no flesh would be saved alive" (Matthew 24:22). Global extinction would be inevitable!

The Gospel or message of the Bible is clear: Jesus Christ is the *only hope* for this earth!

Yet man has devised his own counterfeits—philosophies, religions, systems of government—purporting to offer alternative solutions to global survival. Man believes that by channeling his resources, his technology, his intellectual energies into solving the problems he faces, he will be able to find *his own* solutions to the world's ills.

This is also the spirit of antichrist—a denial of the necessity of the Messiah and His mission! Man will discover that his go-it-alone approach will utterly fail him in the end!

We now see that in its true biblical sense, *antichrist* has a wide application. It can refer to persons and powers, attitudes and behaviors. The spirit of antichrist is found in individuals, in institutions, in religions, in societies and in governments.

In fact, there has been little in this world over the past 19 centuries since the days of Jesus that has not fallen within the broad spirit of antichrist! Little wonder, for the Bible reveals that *Satan* is yet "the god of this world" (II Corinthians 4:4). The world is under Satan's rule, not God's government.

But Satan's days are numbered!

Yet what of all the talk by prophecy hobbyists about a coming Antichrist? What of all the nefarious deeds attributed to him?

Many use the term *Antichrist* to designate an end-time personality who will embody the spirit of opposition to Christ. This unbiblical usage is unfortunate.

The Bible nowhere speaks of *an* end-time Antichrist.

(Continued on page 37)

STOPPING JUVENILE CRIME at Its Roots

by Donald D. Schroeder

Why the failure to pinpoint the primary cause of youth crime and violence? Here is the critical solution to this soaring—and frightening—problem!

"IF I WERE God, I would be an angry God, but I am only me . . . a mother, a woman—and afraid!"

This terrorized citizen from southwest Los Angeles, California, wrote of her tragic experiences to the Los Angeles *Times,* one of the largest and most respected newspapers in the U.S.

She is not alone in her fears.

James Nachtwey—Black Star

A Worldwide Plague

In recent months, newspapers across the continent of Europe report similar fears. A growing army of aimless, often inarticulate and unemployable youth are spreading nihilistic revolt. They do not know what they want except self-gratification. "Self Not Society" proclaim their protest posters. They drift casually from riot to riot.

Says Pim Van den Berg, an Amsterdam social worker: "The impotence that many young people feel encourages them to live for the moment—the new sensation, the kick. They have no idea of what will happen to them in 10 or 20 years—and they no longer care."

It is time we faced reality. Something is horribly wrong in cultures that produce purposeless, hopeless youth. These "no future people" (as they are known in West Germany) take over empty buildings, smoke marijuana and sally forth into violent street battles with police.

Nations occidental and oriental report this alarming increase in crime and violence. There is a reason.

Does God see and ignore? What will be His response? Whom does God hold responsible?

The Bible—the source that precisely prophesies today's trend to worsening violence—also pinpoints the primary *cause* and what God will do about it! Here is the book that foretold cause and effect in our mounting social problems.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful . . . *without natural affection . . . fierce,* despis-

ers of those that are good . . . " (II Timothy 3:2-4).

And the prophet Isaiah eloquently prophesied the present youth crime plague: " . . . The child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient. . . . children are their oppressors . . ." (Isaiah 3:5, 12).

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it," commands scripture (Proverbs 22:6).

The Primary Cause

The chief cause of criminal behavior is not poverty. Criminal problems now plague rural and well-to-do suburban areas as well as inner-city ghettos. Ghettos merely concentrate and aggravate the social conditions that encourage criminal behavior.

The vast majority of individuals in poverty areas are not criminals or violent. Only a minority are—though their numbers are growing for discernible reasons. We must answer why senseless crime, theft, dishonesty and violence are growing in middle- and upper-class families, businesses and schools.

What is wrong is clear. Most criminologists, sociologists and other officials are fighting crime at the wrong end of the problem. Many blame lack of police, the easy availability of guns, the overburdened and crippled criminal justice system, or drug abuse, underemployment, violent entertainment or poverty. These situations contribute to the crime problem, but they are not the fundamental cause.

The cause of crime is the lack of right character! It is the failure of individuals to grasp right values and recognize and resist evil, whatever its source. The roots of juvenile crime develop when children—rich, poor or middle class—are allowed to think criminal thoughts or develop unsocial or criminal attitudes in their character.

The Bible reveals a primary *spiritual* source of this criminal attitude and violence. That source is a great archangel that rebelled against God and His ways and is now known as Satan. Yet how many sociologists know of the existence of Satan? They reject the idea and, of course, cut themselves off from a solution to their problems.

Satan's attitude is one of selfishness, lust and greed. He pumps that attitude into unwary human minds (Ephesians 2:2-3). He works on humans at early ages of life. Individuals pick up and develop Satan's attitudes in varying degree. How much they develop such attitudes depends on cultural values, on family life and personal character. Children who lack self-discipline miss out on right values. The result is obvious.

The First Failing

The foundation of human character is first formed in the family unit. Character development starts at an early age. Children must overcome ingrained emotional instability, destructiveness, defiance of authority or lying, in their character.

Parents, how many of you train your children in right character? The personalities of some children, maybe yours, demand more attention, guidance and discipline than others.

Parents fail their God-given responsibility if they don't set a right example in living and self-discipline. They are failing if they don't teach right and positive values, if they fail to discipline their children for indecent and inhumane attitudes. Why are so many parents distracted from this most important of human functions?

Increasingly it is because parents are not there! Divorce, desertion or separation have intervened. More frequently parents are too busy with other interests, activities or pleasures. Some parents, misled by false child psychology, excuse their children's misbehavior lest discipline damage their child's "creative" abilities. What they often create is an obnoxious, indisciplined brat!

Some parents don't care what their children do as long as they stay out of their hair. Others don't conceive it's their job to train their children; it's their mate's job to carry the responsibility!

Often it's not that parents don't care about their children. Many parents don't know how to care, to train, teach and discipline their children in love. They feel embarrassed to show love or affection. They were not raised that way.

Dr. David Abrahamsen, writer of volumes on the psychology of criminals (*Psychology of Crime,* 1960; and *Our Violent Society,* 1970) concludes: "A real answer to the problem of violence we have today must come from within the family and the way we raise our children. There is no mass solution—not in our schools, [or in] our jails. . . . "

Absolutely true!

Two decades ago, Judge Rodney S. Eielson of Darien, Connecticut, also pinpointed the reason for criminal behavior:

"I am sick and tired of spanking someone else's children in court. This has to be done at home. It's at home where the moral fiber of a young person is woven, and the process starts with the earliest ages. By the time a teenager gets to my court, he is often beyond help. His character has been formed. . . .

"Until we place the responsibility where it lies, with the parents, our country will continue to see a rising incidence among teenagers of larceny and theft, reckless driving and intoxication, pregnancy among unwed high school girls, and other legal and moral crimes, including homosexual experimentation and the use of narcotics. . . . Inability to administer discipline with love is equally harmful. . . . [Without that] you won't convince a youngster that you really love him or are interested in his welfare" (*McCall's,* January, 1965).

Judge Eielson's "prophecy" of a worsening epidemic of youthful immorality, crime and drug abuse is more than fulfilled. It is now an international tragedy that touches all of our lives!

Sins of the Fathers

Vicious criminal behavior is mostly concentrated in inner-city ghettos of the United States and other nations where the family structure is most greatly fragmented. Many inner-city families are headed only by a mother. Divorce, desertion and illegitimacy are rife. Often there is no father whom young men and women can look up to and emulate. Street toughs are the only models of "success."

The sins of the fathers do pass on to the next generation. Hordes of men have dropped their God-given responsibility of leadership in the home. Many mothers have ne-

(Continued on page 42)

LONDON
Where Violence Runs Rampant

by John Ross Schroeder

LONDON, the capital of violent crime?

You must be joking! Why only a very few years ago one could walk these historic city streets in relative safety. But no more. London is beginning to look more and more like Houston, Texas, and New York City every single day.

"The Capital of Crime," screamed out the headlines of the *Evening Daily*. "London suffered its worst crime wave last year and there was a staggering 20 percent increase in robberies and muggings," followed the bold subtitle.

Chris Perkins—Magnum

But why is this famous old British city caught up in such an unprecedented violent crime wave?

Not Only Brixton

It exploded first in unprecedented racial turmoil in the Brixton district of south London. The intensity of this racial disturbance was unprecedented in Britain in this century. But elsewhere, too, brutal thugs increasingly prey on the aged all over the city. And then there is the mounting violence within the once friendly confines of the British home. Cases of child battering by frustrated parents rose by almost a third last year. Serious societies have sprung up to try to help protect unfortunate wives whose husbands beat them up on a regular basis.

Schools are another case in point. Senseless vandals regularly rip up school property for no apparent reason. Add to this the vicious student assaults on teachers that are far from uncommon in inner London districts. And all that is not to speak of the ugly problem of bullying on the typical British playground today.

In looking over the entire crime scenario in Britain, numbers by themselves are *not* the most important factor. It is the character of the crimes committed that should cause us the most concern. London has long had a reputation as a haven for professional pickpockets with, perhaps, many of these crimes going unreported. However, any harm to the person of the victim happened only on rare occasions.

Nearly all authorities now agree, however, that the trend toward violence against the person (often accompanying robberies) has increased significantly in Britain. For instance, medical doctors have noticed that horrifying stab wounds are on the increase just in the last two or three years. Juveniles now tend to arm themselves with anything from a kitchen knife to a screwdriver.

But Why?

The big question nearly always centers upon that little three letter word *why*.

Most press reports inevitably center on environmental causes. Unemployment is perhaps most

Vignettes on London Crime

"Muggings and robberies in the streets are increasing all over the country—and reaching record numbers in London" *(The New Standard).*

• "The significance of the London riot is not its violence, which in American terms was not very great, but in the degree of political content which it contains and the anti-police, anti-law and order development stage which it marks" *(Intelligence Digest World Report).*

• "Cases of child-battering handled by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children rose by almost a third last year according to the Society's annual report, published yesterday" *(The Times).*

• "Last year 1,963 people over 60 were attacked and robbed in London streets" *(The New Standard).*

• "Rape is on the increase in Britain. In 1969 the number of rapes reported in England and Wales was 869. Ten years later in 1979—the latest figures available—there were 1,170. The London-based Rape Crisis Centre, claims that for every woman who reports a rape at least another six keep quiet" *(The Daily Mail).*

Black Star

• "Serious crimes in London increased by 5 percent last year and half of the 105,000 people arrested were under 21 years of age, annual crime figures issued by Scotland Yard . . . showed" *(Daily Telegraph).*

often mentioned as a causal factor in the current rash of violent crimes.

And while Mrs. Thatcher is certainly correct in her statement that unemployment did not cause the Brixton riots, soaring joblessness did generate angry frustration and general unrest among the young people in Brixton. High unemployment is, of course, especially acute among the West Indian population.

Tension between the police and young people is another oft-mentioned environmental causal factor. Whether rightly or wrongly, young black people in Brixton believe the police force has little use for them. And it just may be that relations between the police and young people have been allowed to regress over the past 10 years. Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir David McNee has recently taken measures to increase police involvement in the community's needs. For instance 63 Panda cars were withdrawn from service in central London in favor of returning the London bobby to foot patrols.

Sir David hit upon the root core, environmental factor when he recently stated that "there is an obligation of parents to instill into their children a sense of responsibility." *The Sunday Telegraph* put it this way: "The missing element in the Brixton equation as set out so far is surely this, the young blacks, together with some whites of the borough, *have slipped completely from the control of their parents . . .*" (April 19, 1981).

It is axiomatic that the authorities cannot stop crime by themselves. Ultimately it is the public's responsibility. And the fundamental arm of the public is each individual family unit. If enough families fail to exercise their basic responsibility to properly educate their children, criminal anarchy is the ultimate result.

"Honour your father and your mother" is the fifth of the Ten Commandments. It heads the list of those commandments that are concerned with community relations. If young people really honor and respect their parents, it follows that they will also honor and respect civic authorities. But that does not happen automatically. Children must first be taught to honor their father and mother. That is an inherent familial responsibility incumbent upon the parents.

More and more parents are obviously failing to bring up their children properly. They neglect to teach their children the Ten Commandments. Too many young people are simply not taught respect for the person and property of others. Why?

The reasons are numerous. Perhaps their parents' parents did not teach them. Perhaps economic pressures have forced a wife and mother into the job market instead of being at home to educate and discipline the children. Perhaps the father is a poor example and even an alcoholic. It may be a combination of many factors.

The Failure of Religion

Undergirding the overall failure of parents to train their offspring is the appalling decline of religious influence in the United Kingdom. The clergy has been invested with the responsibility of teaching society to observe the Ten Commandments.

Unfortunately some pastors have been in the forefront of actually undermining the authority of this basic law. The broad majority have spoken too softly and without sufficient moral authority. Only a few have boldly warned the country of the dire consequences of continuing on the course that the British people are following.

And the people are not without blame. The nation at large tends to center its attention almost exclusively on secular matters.

But we are still writing about the environmental causes of the crime

(Continued on page 42)

THIS PHYSICAL LIFE...

Did It Begin by Chance?

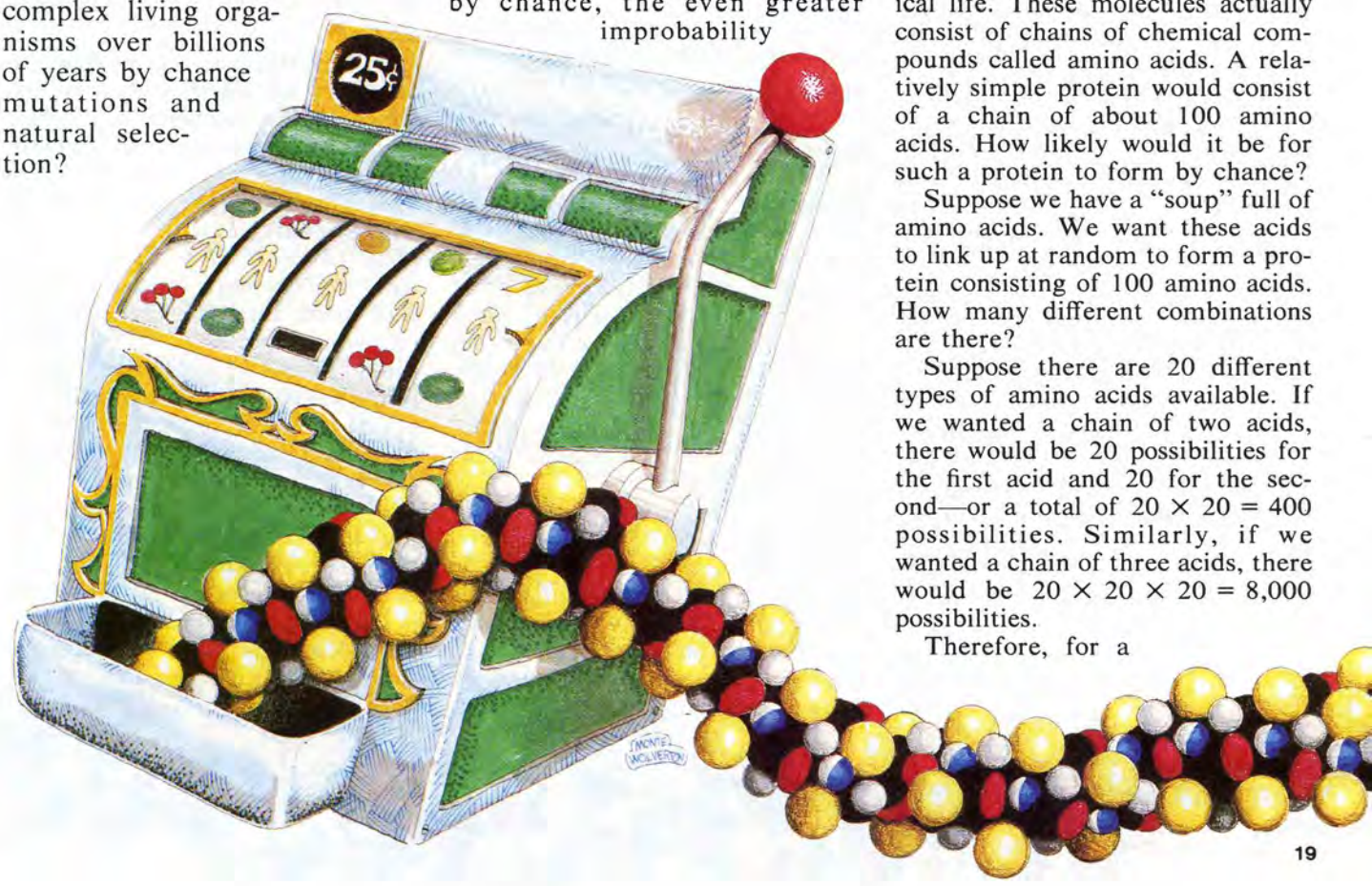
by William Stenger

WHERE did physical life come from? Did highly complex molecules form by chance in a primeval chemical soup? Did these molecules combine by chance into highly complex combinations of molecules, thereby producing "simple" living organisms? Did such "simple" organisms evolve into increasingly more complex living organisms over billions of years by chance mutations and natural selection?

According to the theory of evolution, all living things, all human beings, all that we know of life on earth, came into existence through such chance processes.

Just how credible is the theory of evolution? What happens if we apply the laws of chance—probability—to the theory?

In the following, the facts will show the utter improbability of even the "simplest" constituents of physical life coming into existence by chance, the even greater improbability of such constituents actually producing living organisms by chance, and, finally, the fundamental inadequacies of the arguments offered by evolutionists to try to make improbable events probable.



A "Simple" Case

First of all, let us consider the probability of a "simple" protein forming by chance.

Proteins are, of course, essential molecules for the existence of physical life. These molecules actually consist of chains of chemical compounds called amino acids. A relatively simple protein would consist of a chain of about 100 amino acids. How likely would it be for such a protein to form by chance?

Suppose we have a "soup" full of amino acids. We want these acids to link up at random to form a protein consisting of 100 amino acids. How many different combinations are there?

Suppose there are 20 different types of amino acids available. If we wanted a chain of two acids, there would be 20 possibilities for the first acid and 20 for the second—or a total of $20 \times 20 = 400$ possibilities. Similarly, if we wanted a chain of three acids, there would be $20 \times 20 \times 20 = 8{,}000$ possibilities.

Therefore, for a

Does natural selection make unlikely collections of molecules possible? Natural selection—like a sieve—can only 'produce' as output organisms that already exist as input.

protein consisting of a chain of 100 acids, we have

$$\underbrace{20 \times 20 \times \cdots \times 20}_{100 \text{ times}} = 20^{100}$$

possibilities. But 20^{100} is approximately equal to 10^{130}, that is, 1 followed by 130 zeros.

Is it reasonable to believe that such a protein could have been formed by chance during the history of the universe?

Scientists have stated that there may be as many as 10^{22} stars in the observable universe. Let's be generous and say 1,000 times as many (10^{25}) stars just to be on the safe side. Instead of allowing just one planet like earth for each star, we'll give each star 10 such planets for a total of 10^{26} "earths" in the universe.

Let's also give each "earth" oceans the same size as our earth's oceans—about 10^{46} molecules. Again, we'll be generous and fill the oceans with a "soup" of amino acids rather than sea water. So we have $10^{26} \times 10^{46} = 10^{72}$ amino acids floating around.

In order to give the evolutionists a sporting chance, we'll let all of these acids link up into chains 100 acids long every second. Since $100 = 10^2$, this would give us $10^{72} \div 10^2 = 10^{70}$ chains per second.

A year has less than 10^8 seconds, but we'll round it off and say we have 10^{70} chains per second $\times$ 10^8 seconds per year for a total of 10^{78} chains per year.

Now all we need is an upper bound on the age of the universe. Various estimates have been given, but a safe upper bound is about 10 billion (10^{10}) years. Therefore, we would have $10^{78} \times 10^{10} = 10^{88}$ chains formed in all our "oceans of amino acid soup" on all our "earths" around all the stars, for all the years the universe has existed!

But we have already seen that there are about 10^{130} possibilities. Therefore, the probability of forming by chance the given protein consisting of 100 amino acids in 10^{88} tries is less than $10^{88}/10^{130} = 1/10^{42}$.

How probable is this? The odds against such an event are beyond astronomical! Even though we have been exceedingly generous, the odds that one small protein could have evolved are infinitesimally small.

The odds against an average-size protein of 500 amino acids evolving are, of course, even more enormous. An evolutionist (or maybe even a sincere skeptic) can always claim (preposterous as it seems) that it could have happened.

Reasoning based on probability alone cannot lead to a conclusion that a protein could not form at random. But it does show the fantastic odds against it happening!

Answering the Evolutionist

Here are some of the evolutionists' counterarguments—and the answers:

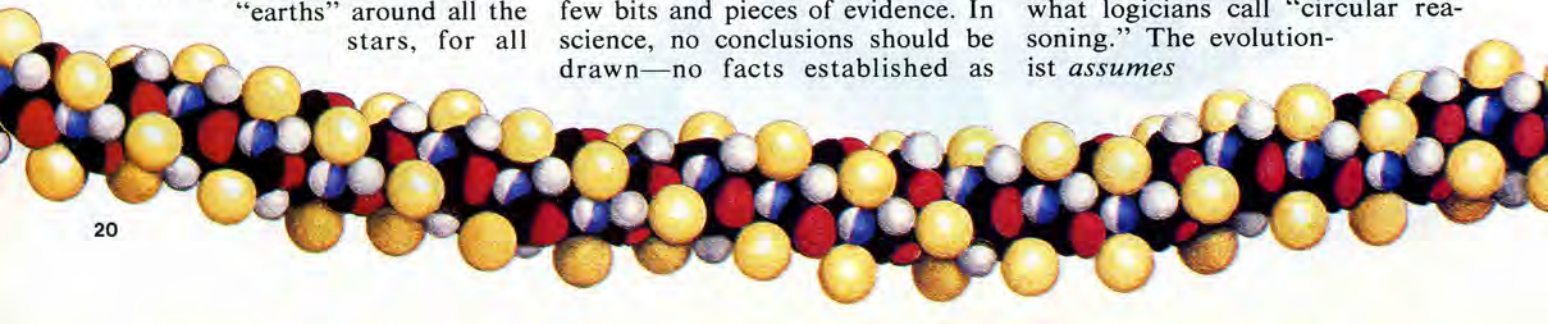
1) You can't prove anything by probability. Some people say you can't prove the world exists; you can't prove cyanide is poison unless you try it, etc. What kind of proof do you want? Do you want proof that things fall down, not up? From "back-alley" dice games to highly sophisticated research laboratories, the laws of probability have proven themselves to be just as dependable as the law of gravity.

In fact, the laws of probability are intrinsic to the gathering of virtually all quantitative scientific information. A true scientist does not jump to conclusions based on a few bits and pieces of evidence. In science, no conclusions should be drawn—no facts established as facts—without a rigorous test of the hypotheses by means of the laws of probability!

2) Not all chains of amino acids are equally likely to be formed. The ones needed for living organisms are more likely than the others. This is pure speculation. There is no evidence that such is the case. The idea is based on an analogy with other rare and completely unrelated chemical reactions (selective autocatalysis). Even if some chains could be proved to be more probable, this would not prove evolution. Quite the contrary, it would prove the existence of a law, which in turn demands a Lawgiver.

3) Even though the probability is immeasurably small, it still is not zero. Therefore, it could have happened. Do you want to believe in such an improbable event? Is such a belief rational? Would you send your child to school on a school bus that had 1 chance in 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (10^{42}) of arriving safely?

4) Nevertheless, the presence of ourselves on Earth today is evidence that a sequence of similar events of almost zero probability did take place over 3 billion years ago. This incredible statement by Sir Bernard Lovell, from the book *In the Centre of Immensities,* is even more incredible as it was made immediately after the following admission: "The probability of such a chance occurrence leading to formation of one of the smallest protein molecules is unimaginably small. Within the boundary conditions of time and space which we are considering it is effectively zero." This type of reasoning, which has also been used by other evolutionists, is the most indefensible. It is what logicians call "circular reasoning." The evolutionist *assumes*



Certainly natural selection might explain why an organism survives or dies. But, it cannot explain where the organism came from in the first place.

that we evolved, albeit against fantastic odds, then observes that we do exist, and therefore, concludes that we evolved. Utter nonsense!

In spite of these counterarguments, the following facts stand.

Fact one: If all the stars in the universe had 10 earths, and if all the earths had oceans of "amino-acid soup," and if all the amino acids linked up in chains 100 acids long every second for the entire history of the universe, even then the chance occurrence of a given very simple protein would be extremely improbable.

But what if a protein did form by chance? Would that be life as we know it? Is that all there is to this temporary physical life—a blob of protein? Is a dead dog alive because he has protein? No! Protein is just one small piece of an intricately complex puzzle.

What About Natural Selection?

Evolutionists freely admit that an organism (like you and me) is an extremely unlikely collection of molecules (including proteins). However, they claim that natural selection is the fundamental probability sieve which makes unlikely collections of molecules like you and me possible.

Is this true? No! Natural selection deals with the survival or extinction of an organism, not how the organism originated.

Certainly natural selection might explain why an organism survives or dies. But, it cannot explain where the organism came from in the first place. As one man aptly put it, "Natural selection may explain the survival of the fittest, but it cannot explain the arrival of the fittest."

In order to see that this is the case, we'll use the evolutionist's analogy, that of a sieve.

Suppose you had a mixture of sand, pebbles and rocks and put it into a sieve. The pebbles, rocks and coarser particles would be trapped by the sieve, while the fine sand would pass through. Would anyone seriously suggest that the sieve had produced the fine sand? Would anyone say that the sieve explained the origin of the fine sand? Ridiculous! The fine sand was there all along—in the mixture.

The same is true of the process of natural selection. Given many forms of physical life and given certain environmental conditions, the animals and plants that are more suited to the environment—more fit to survive—will survive. Those that are unfit to survive will die out. But note that natural selection does not explain the origin of the original mixture of plants and animals.

A classical example of natural selection is the increase in the number of dark moths and the decrease in the number of light moths in parts of Britain after the Industrial Revolution. Did natural selection produce dark moths? Absolutely not! A mixture of dark and light moths existed all along. However, industrialization produced soot and dirt on trees, buildings and other objects so that the dark moths had better camouflage than the light ones—the dark ones were more fit to survive. The sieve of natural selection allowed the dark moths to pass through while the light ones were trapped.

Does natural selection really make unlikely collections of molecules like you and me possible?

Fact two: Natural selection—like a sieve—can only "produce" as output those organisms that already exist as input.

What About Mutations?

Couldn't mutations produce genuinely new forms of life for input in the natural selection "sieve"? No! This has never been demonstrated. True, variation within a given species can—and often does—occur. Witness the fantastic variety of dogs that has "evolved"—largely under man's guidance—over many centuries. Yet a dog is still a dog, and no dog has ever been observed to change into any other form of life.

Scientists, in an attempt to produce "new and improved" species, have bombarded many forms of physical life with intense radiation designed to "speed up" the mutation process. This they have succeeded in doing—but only in the rarest case has a mutation been considered "desirable," and in no case has an alteration of species occurred.

For instance, numerous mutations of the Drosophila fruit fly have been induced. One remarkable group of flies had four wings, instead of two. A beneficial mutation? Hardly. It turned out that the four-winged flies could not fly.

You might, as a matter of blind faith, believe that mutations are responsible for changing one species into another, but science has no evidence whatsoever for such a belief.

Fact three: Mutations are strictly limited and cannot produce genuinely new forms of physical life.

Let's put it all together. Fact one establishes that every organism is an incredibly unlikely collection of

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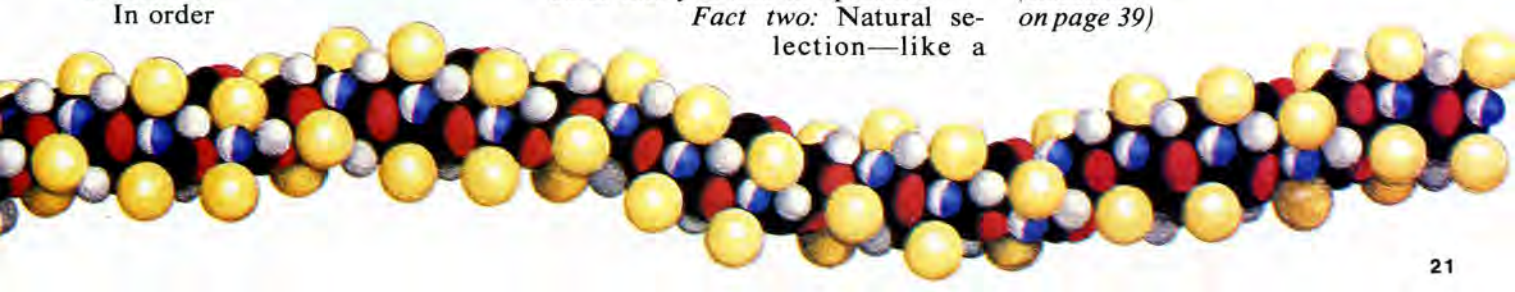


More Precious than Oil:

FRESH WATER

The world's attention has been focused on petroleum supplies. But another vital resource—fresh water—has been taken for granted.

by Clayton Steep

OIL? People got by without it for thousands of years. We could too if we had to.

We could find alternate sources of energy. We could develop synthetic fuels. We could substitute and modify. We could live without it.

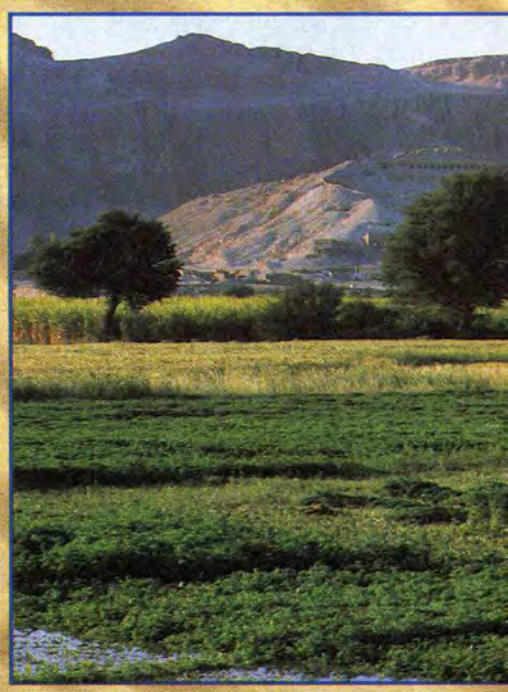
Not so for fresh water!

Life depends on it. Our bodies are composed mostly of water. We need fresh water to function—to drink, to bathe in, to grow food. There is no artificial water, no "synwater." It has to be the real thing.

But there is plenty of water on earth. Seventy-five percent of the surface of our planet is covered with it. Vast amounts are to be found underground. But the problem is that not all water is "fresh." And what clean, usable fresh water there is is becoming scarce to larger and larger segments of humanity.

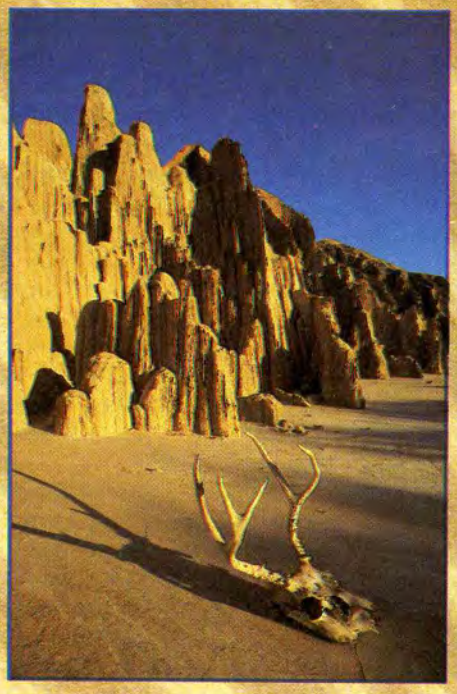
The Giant Distillery

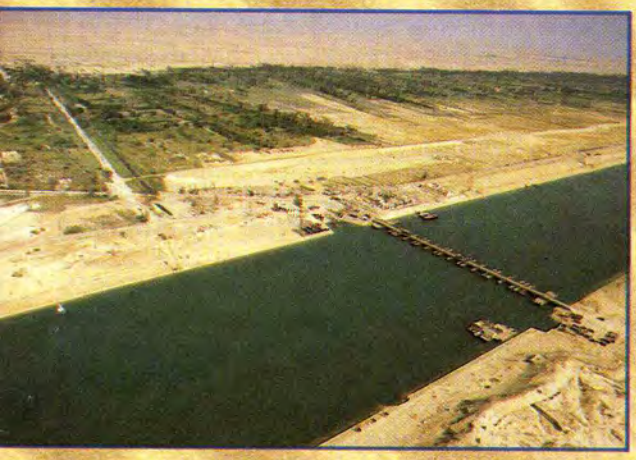
There is just about as much water on earth today as there ever has been. Very little has been lost or added since creation. The same water has been transferred time and time

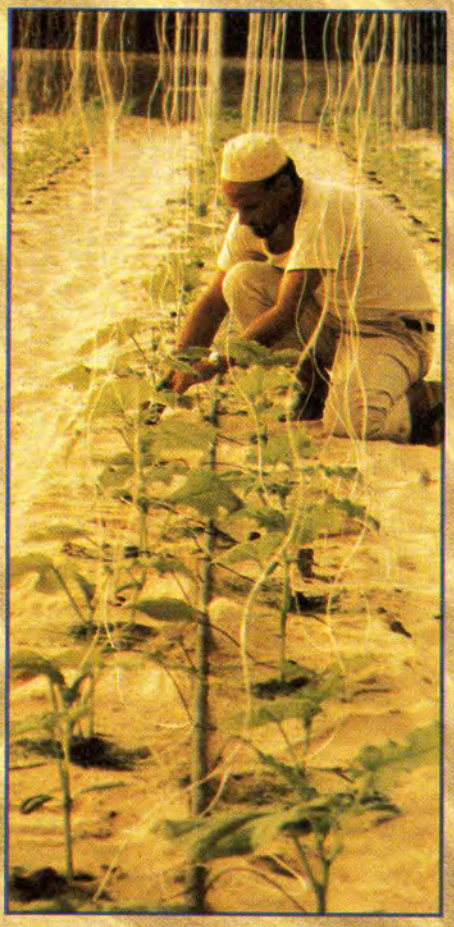


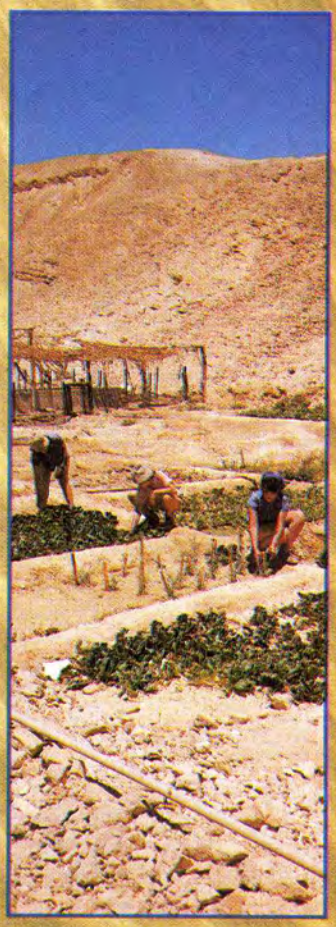
WATER IS MOST APPRECIATED *where it is scarce. In many areas of the world careful use is a way of life. Beginning at upper left-hand corner and going clockwise, pictures show: In Abu Dhabi, on the Arabian peninsula, the lack of rainfall means trees or decorative shrubs must be watered by hand. Dramatic portrait of stark desolation in Nevada. Rationing out available water during a drought. Making the desert bloom in Israel. In this agricultural project in Abu Dhabi, water is fed to plants through plastic tubing. A fertile, watered valley in mostly arid Egypt. Partially completed pumping station in Arizona desert. And (center photo) a channel of water in Egypt.*

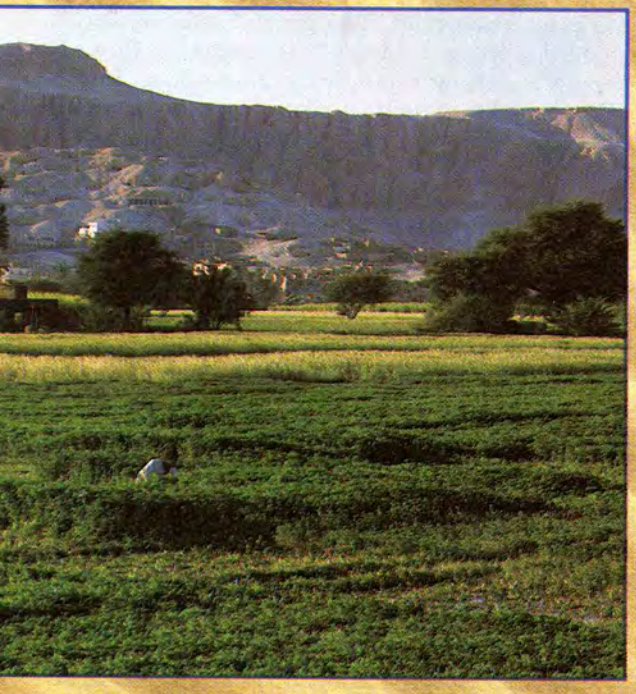
Clockwise from top left: Rene Burri—Magnum; Daniel Dancer—Black Star; Keza—Liaison; David Seymour—Magnum; Harry Redl—Black Star; Erich Lessing—Magnum; Harry Redl—Black Star; Rene Burri—Magnum. Background photo: Charles Moore—Black Star

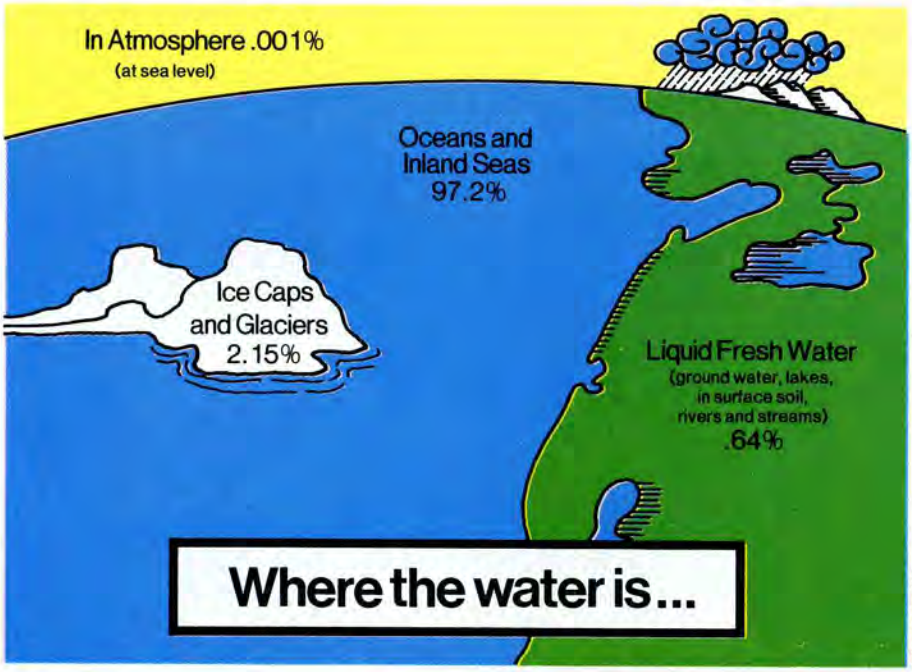












Minette Smith

again from the oceans into the atmosphere, onto the land from where it has flowed back to sea, there to start the cycle over. It is as King Solomon perceived long ago: "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again" (Ecclesiastes 1:7).

This process—we call it the hydrological cycle—means that the oceans, the atmosphere and the sun all work together like a gigantic distillery. The heat of the sun on the oceans and other bodies of water causes water to evaporate into the air. The vapor-laden air eventually dumps its moisture in the form of rain or snow. Some falls back into the oceans, some falls on land. That which falls on land becomes springs, lakes, rivers and streams—fresh water suitable for man's use.

Under the crust of all of earth's continents are additional vast networks and bodies of water called aquifers—slowly flowing like underground rivers. This too is "fresh" water. It comes from surface water that soaks down through the earth, finally emptying into the seas.

Only recently has it been realized how extensive this system is. Some of the underground water extends as much as three miles below the surface. In the top half mile of the earth's crust alone there is more than 30 times the amount of fresh water than is contained in all the lakes, rivers, streams and inland seas on the surface put together.

All this sounds like a lot of water. But the fresh water available for human use is really only a drop in this vast bucket! About 97 percent of all water on earth is salty ocean water. Of what is left, slightly more than 2 percent is locked up as ice in polar regions. That leaves less than 1 percent fresh water on land and under it.

Still, the amount of fresh water constantly available could support several times the current world population. It *could*. But it is not even supplying the present-day needs of the human race. Why?

Population Distribution

Since the beginning, human societies have tended to locate and develop near river basins, lakes and other fresh water sources. During the course of time populations have increased out of proportion to available water. Political borders have sectioned off water supplies. Even weather patterns change. Population as a whole today is not distributed in the same way that fresh water is.

For example, 11 million people massed in 131 cities in the desert and semidesert regions of Southern California depend heavily on water brought in from hundreds of miles distance by pipelines and aqueducts. The population has simply grown too large for the local water supply.

In crowded Hong Kong the situation is more complicated because international borders are involved. Here are not only too many people for available water, but the main supply originates in and is controlled by a neighboring nation, the People's Republic of China.

Worldwide, three fourths of the rural population and one fifth of the city dwellers do not have access to an adequate supply of water. Millions of women spend a good share of each day walking 10 miles or more from their homes just to obtain enough water for drinking and cooking. The World Health Organization has designed the 1980s as International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. It hopes to bring about "safe drinking water and adequate sanitation by 1990 . . . for two billion people in the developing countries." The estimated cost will be some $30 billion a year.

By contrast to these areas, the mighty Amazon, largest river in the world, winds its way through sparsely inhabited tropical rainforests, dumping its incredible volume of nearly untapped water into the ocean. The great Congo River, second largest on earth, flows through jungles and empties into the Atlantic. Other major rivers such as the Mackenzie (Canada), the Yukon (Alaska) and the Ob and Yenisei (Soviet Union) run off into the frigid Arctic Ocean virtually unused. Lake Baikal, the largest and deepest single body of fresh water on earth, sits in relatively sparsely populated Asiatic Russia.

In those societies that have had an adequate supply of fresh water, the tendency has been not to appreciate it. Turn the tap on. Out comes the water. There has been water for bathing, washing the car, watering the lawn, operating industry, supporting agriculture and fulfilling thousands of other functions from

(Continued on page 44)

Water—Middle East's Most Volatile Liquid

What happens in the Middle East may depend as much on the scarcity of water as on the abundance of petroleum. Critical water supplies are shared by nations in the region through tenuous agreements, compromises, sometimes outright intimidation. For one nation to divert or cut off water from another would certainly be to flirt with war.

Egypt's life blood is the Nile, most of which originates in Ethiopia, now a Marxist state. After leaving Ethiopia, the Nile goes through the Sudan before reaching Egypt. There is not enough water in the Nile for the growing needs of these three states.

Jordan has a growing need for water. But political problems and the fact that much of the available water is saline have stood in the way of a solution. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states do not have an adequate and dependable source of water for their present and future requirements. The situation is serious.

Israel's needs are growing much faster than the water supply. Indeed it seems to have reached the limit as far as exploitation of available fresh-water sources. The Jordan and Yarmouk rivers must be shared with Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, countries in which the rivers rise. Aquifers are being pumped to the point that salt water is seeping in. Water will clearly play an important political and social part in the forthcoming events of this region.

(If you would like to know ahead of time the major events that will take place in this area, write to any of our offices listed on the inside front cover and ask for your free copies of "Middle East in Prophecy" and *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last.*)

"We Didn't Think..."

The public is becoming more and more skeptical whenever "experts" offer their opinions.

Take the case of TCE for example. TCE is the abbreviation for trichloroethylene, an industrial chemical widely used in the United States for the last 60 years. It is now suspected of causing cancer. Cheap and plentiful, it has been the most popular solvent, its uses ranging from degreasing metal parts and engines to dry cleaning clothing to decaffeinating coffee. Since it was so easily available, it was merely dumped after being used.

Apparently no one wanted to believe TCE could taint water supplies. And so it is with a certain degree of astonishment that it has recently been discovered in wells all over the country. "With an ease that has surprised geologists, TCE has defeated nature's soil, sand and clay filters to reach deep aquifers, the underground geological formations that supply half the nation's water" (*The Wall Street Journal,* Aug. 12, 1980).

In one area where TCE contaminated drinking water was discovered, a local newspaper explained: "State health experts admitted Thursday they were wrong in *assuming* trichloroethylene never would contaminate groundwater wells. . . . 'We [scientists] *thought* TCE would evaporate. We were wrong. We *didn't think* it would get into the groundwater,' " a scientist confided (emphasis ours).

In fact, somebody has been wrong about a lot of things—not only about TCE. For while examining tap water throughout the country, officials have identified 22 known or suspected cancer-causing substances plus some 1,000 other organic chemicals. Each year more than 500 new chemical pollutants are developed of which too many are dumped into the water system.

The knowledge that some experts admit being wrong must be of small consolation to any who may be suffering physically from foreign substances they ingested in their drinking water.

Burk Uzzle—Magnum

HUMANITY

(Continued from page 4)

was made in the form and shape of God. For example, notice the human hand. God has hands (II Chronicles 6:4). What animal with hooves, paws, claws, could make a fine handmade watch? Even if they had man's mind no animal could make what man can. How could any animal make a computer? And 2) man has mind, while animal has only brain with instinct.

Yet animal brain, in form and shape and even quality, is almost precisely like human brain. But the character and quantity of output is vastly different. Animal brain is equipped with instinct. Human brain with MIND power.

Ever see a calf born? In two or more minutes it is on its feet and walking. It knows where to go for its dinner. It knows how to suck milk. The stupid cow stands dull-eyed, waiting for the calf to suck its dinner.

Compare that to the birth of a human. The human baby is utterly helpless at birth. It will need about a year to be able to walk—and it will have to *learn!* It will need a human mother to care for it, do everything for it, teach it little by little. But the human baby has MIND power. At birth its mind is unfilled with knowledge or with instinct. The human must be guided by MIND, rather than instinct. But KNOWLEDGE must be fed or acquired by the mind.

Man's Need vs. the Animals'

Man was made to NEED knowledge in two areas, as contrasted from animal needs.

Animals were created with brain equipped with instinct. Man was not. Man was made with MIND, almost totally devoid of instinct. Man's *mind,* containing KNOWLEDGE, must think and direct whatever he does.

At our home in Tucson, Arizona, we have a few animals. We have three dogs, two ferrets and a dwarf kid. My wife has a pair of horses.

When we take a ferret out of its cage, it automatically will seek some tiny enclosure it can crawl into. On ground it will seek to climb into and up my trouser leg, or any small enclosure into which it can squeeze its tiny head. That's its instinct. If a car or someone on foot approaches outside, the dogs begin to bark. They don't know WHY! They do not think and reason and consider, "Shall I bark?" It's automatic instinct. The young kid will butt our small dachshund, "Sir Hans Armstrong," if she is displeased with him. Hans looks bewildered. He can't understand this. He doesn't have that same instinct. Neither does Gretchen understand why Hans barks.

But MAN was made to need KNOWLEDGE for relationships in two directions:

1) to work with matter and things;

2) for close relationship with God, and also with fellowman.

Man was by creation equipped with materialistic MIND to work with matter and things. In that area man has achieved wonders. But his relationship with God, and with other humans, is a SPIRITUAL relationship. This, man has never understood! Adam did not understand it! The most highly educated today do not understand it.

Man was made with one spirit within him from birth (in essence form), which empowers his brain with materialistic intellect. But he needed another Spirit—that of his Maker—the Holy Spirit. Without it his mind is only half complete. As an infant baby is helpless by itself, and needs parental care, so even the human adult is helpless before his fellows and his God by himself—and he needs spiritual guidance, knowledge and help from his God. Without this, man is as helpless before his problems and troubles as a newborn infant in its mother's arms! But man has never realized this. He has felt smugly self-confident—self-reliant. He has chosen to "go it alone" without God. And he has gotten himself into a world of trouble!

But now, first, consider the differences between human and animal brain.

How does human MIND differ from animal brain? Man's physical brain is not superior, except in slight degree. But (Job 32:8) there is a spirit in man and no such spirit in animals. Man is not spirit. He is matter from the ground. The spirit essence in man enters with his first breath. This spirit is not the man—it is something *in* the man. If he swallowed a very small marble, the marble would be *in* him, but not the man or part of him. The spirit cannot see or hear or think. The physical brain sees through the eye, hears through the ear. Knowledge therefore can enter human brain only through the five senses. Man can know naturally ONLY physical or materialistic knowledge.

But man was created to need another Spirit—the Spirit of GOD! This was freely offered to Adam if he would choose the tree of LIFE. The Holy Spirit from God would have given man contact with God—would have opened his mind to comprehension of spiritual as well as physical and materialistic knowledge. Without the Spirit of God added to his human spirit, man was *limited* to materialistic knowledge—his mind was *only half there!* He can know only what is seen, felt, heard, smelled or tasted.

Again, WHAT *IF* Adam had taken of the tree of LIFE? Adam was made from the ground—with a physiochemical temporary existence. He did not have LIFE. Like a wound-up clock running down, he was in process of dying with each breath he took. At any time he was only one breath away from death—cessation of existence. This is true of YOU, even as it was of Adam.

It was the Creator GOD who offered him freely the gift of LIFE. But HOW does God impart that gift of life to man?

By His Spirit

God would not have bestowed life on Adam in a manner different than he offers it to those he calls today—for God is the SAME, yesterday, today and for ever (Hebrews 13:8).

God gives LIFE through the Holy Spirit. But when one receives the Holy Spirit he is only begotten—

impregnated—an heir, not yet an inheritor of eternal LIFE. God's Spirit "beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; and if children, then . . . heirs of God" (Romans 8:16-17).

God's Spirit in humans opens the MIND to comprehend spiritual knowledge. Until then, "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard; neither have entered into the mind of man," spiritual knowledge and comprehension (I Corinthians 2:9). "But God hath revealed [spiritual knowledge] by his Spirit" (verse 10). For (verse 11), no human knows human materialistic knowledge, save by the spirit of man that is in him. This human spirit (essence) empowers the human brain with intellect—MIND! That is how human brain differs from animal brain.

But man is still only HALF THERE mentally, until he receives the second Spirit—that of GOD. He is LIMITED in knowledge to the physical and the material. That is the state in which Adam was created! *That is the state in which YOU were born!*

God's Spirit in man reveals spiritual knowledge—the spiritual Law of God—the WAY OF LIFE to CAUSE peace, happiness, every good result. There are, broadly speaking, the TWO ways of living—exemplified by the two trees in Eden. The one, outflowing LOVE (which is the spiritual Law of God). I term this for brevity and simplicity, the way of "GIVE." The other, the way of "GET." They are the two divergent ways of life, leading in opposite directions, producing opposite effects!

Now LOVE is the fulfilling of God's Law (Romans 13:10) and it can be fulfilled only by the divine "love of God . . . shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy [Spirit]" (Romans 5:5). The Spirit of God imparts the faith *of* Christ (Galatians 2:16) so we may rely on God for help, guidance, deliverance from troubles—for MANY are the afflictions, even of the righteous, "but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19, RSV). God knew that MAN—Adam and his family, the world—would need this divine help in times of trouble.

So what was the meaning of the tree of LIFE? It meant God's GIFT of self-contained immortal Spirit-composed LIFE precisely as possessed by God himself (the Word *and* God). But that life would have been given to Adam, precisely as offered to those called of God today, by his Holy Spirit. And God does not impart immortal Spirit-contained life instantaneously. One is first merely begotten—impregnated—an heir.

Notice it! This has never been understood! Just as a mortal human must be first begotten, then after a period of gestation, born, so may we be born of God.

God Reproducing Himself

UNDERSTAND THIS! God is reproducing himself through man. God made human reproduction the very type, in analogy, of his divine reproduction.

HOW were you born? This does concern *YOU!* First there was a tiny ovum, released from your mother's ovary into a fallopian tube en route to her womb or uterus. Each ovum has a temporary physical existence of less than 28 days. Had the ovum not received a sperm cell from the very body of your father in less than that 28 days, there would have been no you. But you—then only the size of a pin point—did have *physical* life imparted through your human father, just as to be born again, you now must have *Spirit* life imparted to you by God the spiritual Father.

You are in fact a spiritual ovum. But, just as, in your mother's womb, you became a newly begotten embryo, so are those in a spiritual sense when begotten of God. You had to grow, physically, fed by and through your mother, protected from physical harm by her. The spiritually begotten must grow spiritually, in grace and the KNOWLEDGE of Christ (II Peter 3:18). After four months you began to take on physical human form and were called a fetus. You still had five more months to grow and develop physically to be born.

Now compare this physical reproduction to God's divine reproduction. The Church, "Jerusalem above," is the "mother of us all" (Galatians 4:26) that are in the Church. The Church must feed God's children on the spiritual Word of God and protect them from spiritual harm. Those begotten are already the "children of God"—begotten, not yet born—heirs, not yet inheritors (see Romans 8:16-17).

Through the Holy Spirit we receive from God spiritual KNOWLEDGE, the LOVE of God, the faith of Christ, and the power of God. And if we grow spiritually (II Peter 3:18) and keep growing until the end of this physical existence, we shall be born of God by a resurrection (Romans 8:11, I Corinthians 15).

Adam would have received spiritual KNOWLEDGE from God, had he taken of the tree of LIFE, instead of the forbidden fruit—knowledge to solve his problems, and FAITH to receive help and deliverance from trouble.

Now consider what Adam needed!

He needed two kinds of KNOWLEDGE first of all. He needed ability to absorb materialistic knowledge, to make things out of matter—to deal with material THINGS. This God endowed him with ability to acquire, with his created materialistic MIND.

But he also needed to have contact with God and with people—and to learn how to deal with other humans. This required SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE! Adam was not created with this knowledge. *YOU* were not born with it. This knowledge could be imparted only through the Spirit of God.

How the Forbidden Fruit Is Affecting You!

But now what of the other tree in the garden of Eden? It is even today tremendously affecting YOUR life!

This tree also represented KNOWLEDGE! But where the tree of LIFE represented the kind of knowledge that would have led to eternal LIFE instead of a temporary existence, the forbidden tree repre-

sented KNOWLEDGE leading to DEATH—to cessation of even the temporary physical existence!

When Adam took the forbidden fruit, he *took to himself* the knowledge—the production of the knowledge of good and evil. He appropriated the prerogative of deciding *what* is good and evil—what is right and wrong—what is righteousness and what is sin. Also he took to himself the KNOWLEDGE of the *way of living* that would *cause* good or evil.

In so doing he rejected *revealed* spiritual knowledge from God. AND HE DISOBEYED GOD! He rejected the GOVERNMENT OF GOD! Had Adam taken of the tree of LIFE, he could have restored the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, nullified by the former Lucifer, now Satan.

How Satan Enters the Picture

At this point Satan enters the picture of mankind on earth. He appeared in the form of a serpent (Revelation 12:9) to Eve. He got to Adam through his wife! Where did Satan come from? Did God deliberately create an evil devil? Most certainly not.

Originally Satan was a created great archangel, the cherub Lucifer. He was perfect in all his ways from the day he was created (Ezekiel 28:15). He was placed on the throne of the earth as earth-ruler (Isaiah 14:12-14). He ruled over angels who then inhabited the earth. He led his angels into rebellion against the government of God (II Peter 2:4). Angels are immortal beings, composed of spirit. Lucifer's rebellion ended administration of the government of God, yet left Satan ON EARTH'S THRONE!

So what actually happened in the garden of Eden, later to overwhelmingly affect *your life?* God had talked (preached) to Adam and Eve. This was on what today would be called Friday evening and through the Sabbath. But on a Sunday morning Satan got to Adam through his wife.

God had said plainly, taking of the forbidden fruit would result in the DEATH PENALTY! God had said, for disobedience "You shall surely DIE!" Satan said, "You shall NOT surely die"—in other words, you are an immortal soul. Eve was deceived into taking the forbidden fruit. ADAM WAS NOT DECEIVED (I Timothy 2:14).

Adam DID NOT BELIEVE GOD! He believed Satan. Mankind has been disbelieving GOD ever since—and believing Satan! When Christ came in human flesh He preached the Kingdom of God to many thousands. He—VERY GOD in human flesh! Yet only 120 actually believed him (Acts 1:15).

What had happened?

Adam, choosing for all his family, the world, disbelieved God—disobeyed God—rejected revealed knowledge and eternal life through the tree of LIFE—took to himself all knowledge production, with a carnal mind LIMITED to knowledge of the physical and material! He was ONLY HALF THERE mentally! He had made the choice that limited him to knowledge of the physical and material. He had rejected the spiritual knowledge for happy relationship with God and with fellowman. He had rejected eternal LIFE!

Adam had SINNED! He had disobeyed the explicit command of his Maker! He had rejected God's LOVE, God's GOVERNMENT!

So now what did GOD do?

"And the Lord God said . . . and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the Lord God . . . drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life" (Genesis 3:22-24).

God *shut up* the tree of LIFE! He barred access to his Holy Spirit, until the coming of the second Adam—Jesus Christ!

AND *WHY?* WHY did God refuse man access to his Holy Spirit, until the time of Christ? THIS HAS NEVER BEEN UNDERSTOOD!

First, it has never been understood that God did shut off his Holy Spirit from mankind.

UNDERSTAND THIS! God refused human access to the Holy Spirit—UNTIL CHRIST, THE SECOND ADAM, should come and pay the death penalty for humans in our stead!

UNDERSTAND THIS! The Holy Spirit and gift of eternal life was not available to Adam's children. It was not available, even to God's called and chosen people ancient Israel, except their prophets (who were part of the foundation of the New Testament Church, born out of due time—I Corinthians 15:8; Ephesians 2:20).

Therefore all humanity was born with minds that were carnal—limited to MATERIALISTIC KNOWLEDGE! And the carnal mind is HOSTILE (enmity) against God, and not subject to the Law of God—the way of outflowing LOVE (Romans 8:7).

People do not realize this, but their natural minds are HOSTILE against God! They do not want to hear about God! The things of God are foolishness to them. Those inoculated with higher education (MAN'S KNOWLEDGE) in their smug vanity feel superior, and look with disdain on the things or knowledge of GOD!

But WHY? Yes, *WHY* did God cut mankind off SO LONG? WHY wait some 4,000 years for Christ the second Adam to come? And WHY, even then, to call only the predestinated FEW?

What God Is Creating!

Now we come to another important truth never understood in our time until now.

Few know WHAT God is creating! Creating is God's occupation. But what is he CREATING? He is creating righteous, perfect spiritual CHARACTER in his created beings!

This character cannot be created instantly by fiat—even God can't do that! WHY? This perfect godly character requires the decision, the assent, the enforced self-will of the created entity, and often against self-desire or self-will. It is a process that requires time!

We judge and evaluate things by comparison. God intended that man experience the fruits of the way he has chosen for 6,000 years, then compare those agonizing results with the healthy joys and inspiring lives of the next millennium—with Satan gone, with

Christ and immortal saints ruling—the earth then full of God's knowledge, as the ocean beds are full of water!

With God, a thousand years are only as a day, and a day as a thousand years (II Peter 3:8). The six days of the first chapter of Genesis were a type of the six millennial days of man, swayed by Satan. The coming millennial day was typified by the seventh day Sabbath.

God, in forming his Master Plan for working out his purpose here below—that of reproducing himself through man—is accomplishing through us the most stupendous feat even the Great God can bring about! And through you and me!

Life by the Second Adam

Physical temporary existence came by Adam. But eternal inherent self-existent LIFE came by Jesus Christ, the second Adam!

Once Adam had sinned, the "wages of sin" was death, "but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Is it mere coincidence that, as the sun brought the light of day from the darkness of night on the fourth day of "creation week," Christ brought the light of truth out of the darkness of evil after 4,000 years? In him was light. Yet most still loved darkness!

Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of [the grave] shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). The Church is only the firstfruits of God's salvation!

Jesus said plainly, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which sent me draw him" (John 6:44). But those are the predestined FEW drawn during the Church age (Ephesians 1:11-12).

The prophet Joel had prophesied, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh . . ." (Joel 2:28). The apostle Peter quoted this as being in a preliminary typical manner fulfilled on the day the Church was founded (Acts 2:16-17).

Notice this pivotal scripture. Peter had quoted the prophecy of Joel. The preliminary type of that prophetic fulfillment was occurring that day of Pentecost—the foundation of the Church. Those whom God had called there asked Peter, "What shall we do?" after his speech. Peter answered: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy [Spirit]. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, . . . even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:38-39). Only those God *calls,* and *draws* to him may come to Christ during this Church age!

That is a BASIC TRUTH in God's Master Plan for redeeming humanity—for REPRODUCING HIMSELF—understood by almost no one!

When Adam sinned, he cut himself off from God. And God cut him and his children off from the Holy Spirit.

SO WHAT THEN?

God appointed a Master Plan for yet redeeming sinning mankind! Sin entered the world by Adam, and all have sinned.

The JUDGMENT Brings Salvation

So God appointed a time of JUDGMENT, during which humans shall NOT ONLY be called to account for their sins, BUT ALSO OFFERED REMISSION OF SINS, RECONCILIATION WITH GOD AND THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE, upon repentance and belief!

Read that above paragraph again. AND AGAIN!

UNDERSTAND it! The PENALTY of sin, for man, is the *second* death! ". . . it is appointed unto men once to die, but *after this* the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Again, "As in Adam all die" (the first death), "even so in Christ shall all be made alive"—the same "all" who die in Adam!—"but every man in his own order. Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then . . ." (I Cor. 15:22-24). Yes, then, a thousand years afterward (Revelation 20:11-12), the judgment.

But a comparative FEW were predestined to be called to judgment and salvation during the Church age (Ephesians 1:11-12). They are the "first fruits" of God's salvation.

But WHY? Why call a few, a thousand to three thousand years before the judgment of the MANY? To prepare and spiritually train a people for the Kingdom of God—the divine FAMILY of God, to rule with Christ during the Millennium and after, in redeeming the vast billions of people since Adam during the time of *their* judgment and salvation!

There is this DIFFERENCE! Those specially called, begotten and spiritually developed through the Church must OVERCOME SATAN! Satan is still on earth's throne! But when Christ comes—and the resurrected saints rule with him in the Kingdom (FAMILY) of God, Satan shall have been removed. Those called then, and in the post-millennial general judgment shall not have to overcome Satan and Satan's deceived world!

So notice! Judgment and opportunity for salvation have begun with Christ! To the Church, Peter wrote, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God" (I Peter 4:17).

God is calling the FEW now, into his Church. Others CANNOT come to Christ NOW (John 6:44). Jesus in no manner came on a "soul-saving crusade." At no time did he plead with any one to "give him one's heart." He pleaded with none to accept him and be saved. At Jacob's well in Samaria, the gentile Samaritan woman asked him for the Holy Spirit—which he had pictured to her as living water. Jesus then told her of her sins, but offered her no salvation—though God had drawn some in Samaria who did believe on Christ (John 4:15-18).

Of those whom God the Father has drawn to be reconciled to him through Christ, during this Church age, notice what Christ has said:

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne [at Jerusalem]" (Revelation 3:21). And, "he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the

nations: and he shall rule them . . ." (Revelation 2:26-27).

Those words apply to those of the Church *only*—of the time prior to God's Kingdom! But those called now have Satan and Satan's world to overcome. Those called during the Millennium and in the judgment afterward will not—Satan shall then be removed. The world then will not be deceived. But it shall be as full of the KNOWLEDGE of God as the ocean beds are full of water (Isaiah 11:9).

Some will ask, What of one who really wants salvation—wants to believe in Christ—willing to repent and come out of this world and be led by God's Spirit in a true Christian life? Answer: Such a one has been drawn by God, otherwise he or she would have had no such desire. However, most who believe they are in that category have followed a false gospel, false teaching, and are deceived. MILLIONS profess Christianity who have been so deceived. Of them Jesus said, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men . . . laying aside the commandment of God" (Mark 7:7-8).

All this TRUTH is pictured by God's annual festivals. They were given for the Church when the Church was first founded—but that was the Church (or Congregation) of Israel, under the Old Testament. Ancient Israel did not understand the meaning of these festivals. But they were ordained FOREVER! Christ observed them. The Church, as founded A.D. 31, observed them. God's Church observes them today.

They outline God's Master Plan, for the redemption of man. The Plan starts with Christ. The first festival is the Passover, reminding God's Church annually of the sacrifice and shed blood of Christ for the remission of sins of the flesh-born children of Adam.

The second festival is that of Unleavened Bread—seven days, of which the first and last are annual Sabbaths or holy days. As seven is God's number of completeness, they picture the complete putting away of sin, or the overcoming life.

The third is the Feast of First-fruits, called in the New Testament "Pentecost," because it came fifty days after the cutting of the wave sheaf during the Days of Unleavened Bread. The Church was founded on that day. On that day the Holy Spirit was given to those God had drawn FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE GOD BARRED HUMANITY FROM HIS SPIRIT (Genesis 3:22-24). The Church is the FIRSTFRUITS of God's salvation, and therefore the festival given that name.

The fourth festival is the Feast of Trumpets, the first day of the seventh month of God's sacred calendar, late summer or early autumn. It pictures the second coming of Christ.

The fifth festival is the Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the seventh month. It pictures the putting away of Satan, since Christ who had qualified to restore (Acts 3:19-21) the government of God shall be inducted on the throne at Jerusalem. This day pictures the making of man's AT-ONE-MENT with God through Christ.

The sixth is the Feast of Tabernacles—a seven-day festival, picturing the seventh thousand year reign of Christ and the resurrected saints. During this millennium the TREE OF LIFE will be opened to ALL who repent and believe.

The seventh is the Last Great Day, following the seven days, picturing the Great White Throne Judgment. At that time, all from Adam on, who were not called, will be resurrected to judgment. The Book of LIFE will be opened (Revelation 20:12).

Afterward there will be a resurrection of those who had been called, but had wilfully rebelled and rejected God's call. The earth then will become a molten lake of fire. All others by then shall be immortal spirit beings—children of God. The fire will not in any way affect them. The condemned will become ashes under the soles of their feet (Malachi 4:3). They shall be as though they had never been (Obadiah 16). Does this show harshness with God? Is God unfair? NEVER! God is LOVE! This is the kindest and most merciful end for those who have been freely offered LIFE and in self-centered rebellion rejected it. It is my belief that only a comparative few will finally rebel, uninfluenced by Satan.

The Incredible Human Potential

What an astoundingly incredible human potential! The world little realizes what a glorious and stupendous PURPOSE God is working out in mortal human lives made from earthly ground!

God is REPRODUCING HIMSELF through us! He is taking matter out of the ground, making it into mortal, temporarily existing humans. For those willing, God is infusing into them his Holy Spirit—imparting to them GOD-life eternal! Through his Spirit, with our assent and effort at spiritual growth and overcoming, he infuses into us HIS RIGHTEOUS SPIRITUAL CHARACTER. By a resurrection, we become BORN God personages—personages just as are God the Father and Christ the Son! We shall have the entire UNIVERSE put under our feet (Hebrews 2:8).

In Adam all have sinned. In Christ shall all be made alive! God has called, first, HIS CHURCH! The Church is HIS BODY! The Church, resurrected at Christ's coming, shall be MARRIED to Christ the Son. We become the children of God. After our marriage to Christ—a spiritual marriage of spiritually immortal Persons—we shall beget children into this DIVINE FAMILY!

There is but the ONE CHURCH—ONE BODY (I Corinthians 12:13, 20) to become ONE DIVINE FAMILY. The Church is "fitly framed together" (Ephesians 2:21), joined together and compacted (welded) together (Ephesians 4:16), all speaking the SAME THINGS as CHRIST speaks (I Corinthians 1:10). God has called the Church specially out of Satan's world to overcome Satan and his world, to be prepared and trained to become God beings in and after the Millennium, to rule with Christ as we bring to eternal LIFE all others beginning with Adam, who then shall be willing!

WHAT A WONDERFUL PURPOSE AND MASTER PLAN! □

Is It True Some Are "BORN THAT WAY"?

by Donald D. Schroeder

How do human sexual emotions develop? Why do certain youths develop into homosexuals or transvestites? In this article you will read knowledge even sex researchers don't understand!

MANY OF US may be in for a surprise—or a shock!

It does not automatically happen that a young man and woman become sexually attracted to each other. Nor does it automatically happen that they want to deeply love, cherish, marry and protect one another.

These emotions or desires are not all inherited or innate in the human constitution.

Not Inborn

Heterosexuality—sexual desire toward a member of the opposite sex—is not altogether inborn. Nor is homosexuality—sexual desire toward a member of one's own sex. Nor, for that matter, are other damaging sexual feelings or fears about sex.

Human beings are not born with an inherited sexual orientation or sexual instinct that drives them irrevocably in a certain direction.

There is a reason why many homosexuals assume their sexual feelings and emotions were "born that way"; why they assume their sexual attractions are as natural to them as the color of their eyes.

Genetics and hormones play a part in developing human sexuality, but not in the way many think. And responses to cultural, parental and individual experiences play a very big part in molding human sexual feelings. In addition, there is critical knowledge beyond biology and cultural studies that is missing in modern education about human sexual and emotional development.

Missing Knowledge

Scientific sex research is late on the scene. It began just after the middle of the 19th century. Sex researchers have indeed gained certain knowledge and understanding about genetics, hormones and environment and their combined effect on shaping human sexuality.

Yet, "The impetus behind the homosexual urge contained in the male bond remains unexplained," writes psychologist C.A. Tripp in summarizing such research in his book, *The Homosexual Matrix,* page 53. But the "missing impetus" is explained in the pages of your Bible!

Humanity through the ages has rejected essential knowledge from the Creator. Researchers, rejecting revealed knowledge, are looking for answers to damaging human problems—sexual and otherwise—only by their own limited *physical* tools of discovery and reasoning. They look for answers in the physical makeup of the human body or brain when the major problem is a *spiritual* matter—a problem in the spiritual attitude, motivation and desires of individuals.

Researchers have developed theories to explain individual human sexual feelings, problems and motivations without understanding the true nature of human nature. We must understand this *first.* Then we can rightly use the added *demonstrable* discoveries of human sexual research.

Why has humanity been plagued with so many damaging sexual problems? Why sexual fears and phobias? Why so many unhappy intimate marital relationships? Why so many damaging feelings among human beings and between the sexes?

The Bible reveals the origin of these problems in events before the first man and woman were created!

First Perverted Being

Scripture reveals the existence of a great spirit being, an archangel, who rebelled against the laws and government—the *way*—of his Creator (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:12-19).

His name, in Latin, is Lucifer and means Lightbringer. He was created to be the bringer of God's truth to the earth, inhabited first by angels, later man. Instead, this great archangel swayed one third of God's angels to follow his self-seeking, self-willed "get" way (Revelation 12:4). His angels became demons.

These spirit beings rejected God's way of love—the "give" way. The "give" or love way is the way of diligent respect and concern for

Research Has Found...

Modern sex researchers and biologists may differ on the role of heredity in human sexual behavior. But all do agree on the importance of individual learning and conditioning in human sexual behavior. The predominant role in causing humans to develop their sexual orientation and attitudes about sex is not biologic heredity.

Genetic First Step

When the male sperm and female egg unite at conception, the individual inherits a *biologic sex*. The female ovum (egg cell) provides what is called the *X* sex determinant chromosome. The male provides *X* or *Y* chromosome sperm.

If an *X* sperm unites with the ovum, the result is female (*XX*); if a *Y* sperm unites, the result is male (*XY*). (Gross genetic male/female aberrations are rare.)

But a child must still *learn its gender identity* in his or her own mind; that is, "I am male," or "I am female."

"What the child is taught [or learns] concerning gender identity transcends the effects of chromosomes, hormones and other physiological factors" (*Health—Man in a Changing Environment,* by Benjamin A. Kogan, M.D., Dr. Ph., page 490).

Gender identity, the sense of one's sex, is largely influenced by the way parents and other influential persons respond to the child: what they name the child, how they treat, handle, clothe the child, expectations they voice to the child, with whom the boy or girl is encouraged to identify. Aspects of the child's own personality may affect the attitudes and responses of parents and be reflected back to the child.

Usually a fundamental sense of one's gender is established by two years of age. A child is not conscious of how it learns its primary sexual identity. It develops gradually from innumerable social inputs and reinforcements in its particular environment. (Unfortunately, this gender learning can be distorted as in transsexuality—cross-gender identification.)

Gender Role

As a child grows in early preschool years, even up into early adolescent years, it learns its *gender role*. A male and female come to understand from their culture, from parental role models or other persons' values and attitudes what are the appropriate duties, functions, mannerisms and attitudes expected of males and females in their culture.

Not every male or female trait or ability is totally learned, of course. Men and women have different muscular and skeletal structure, (usually) different metabolism, different sex organs, different hormone and emotional levels—even different sizes of some organs in common such as heart, lungs (men's bigger), and liver and kidneys (women's bigger). Men's and women's voices, dexterity and perception psychology usually differ. Only men can impregnate. Only women can lactate, gestate and menstruate.

Males, in general, are more muscular and physically stronger than females (but there is significant overlap); females are softer, more maternal in their interests, emotions and feelings. Each sex's inherited physical and emotional capacities, or levels of feeling, make it easier for them to respond to and fulfill functions or strengths of their biologic sex.

Yet within each sex there are differences in body size and shape, muscular development, temperament and emotional levels, in mental abilities—things that cause individual personality and appearance differences.

These shadings of differences may deeply

the position and welfare of others, as well as concern for oneself. God's laws define what love is.

Lucifer's rebellion caused his name to be changed to Satan meaning the Adversary. Satan reasoned the "get" way was what he wanted. It is the attitude of being your own authority of right and wrong. It is the way of lust, doing whatever seems pleasing and exciting to you—experimenting with things to see if there is a better way than God's way. Happiness, Satan reasoned, is getting all you can for yourself. He became a competitor with God.

Then God planned to create, through free moral agency, God's own character in human beings and bring them into the God FAMILY. The account of this marvellous purpose for humans begins in Genesis 1:3.

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness," said the Creator (Genesis 1:26). Think of it! God is reproducing Himself! Human existence is merely a physical, chemical existence. This earth is the training and testing ground for the production of godly character. (This is explained more thoroughly in our free booklet *Why Were You Born?*)

Satan resented human sexuality and the great purpose God had in creating it. Satan did not have sex (Mark 12:25). He could not reproduce, but he could sway human minds with his attitudes and nature.

Sex Good to Sex Evil

When God recreated a habitable earth after Satan's rebellion and put humans on it, we read: "male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). The Creator called all of His creation, including sex in humans, "good" (verse 31).

God didn't leave this first human couple ignorant of their sexuality or its proper use. Though they were

affect a person's view of himself or herself—his masculinity or her femininity— and in turn affect emotional responses to environment and personal experiences. Inherited, constitutional or emotional characteristics, while not finally determining heterosexual or homosexual interests, often have significant influence on the *kind* of heterosexual or homosexual person one becomes, such as dominant or passive, bold or shy.

Gender roles are most easily transmitted in cultures with a definite tradition for each sex. But not all individuals in a culture have precisely the same influences and experiences in their lives. They do not use their minds in the same ways. Individuals may be influenced, taught or choose to follow patterns of life other than the expected norm.

Learned Orientation

Comprehending one's gender does not automatically establish one's sexual orientation, although one's gender usually carries high implications in one's culture.

Sexual orientation means, "I am a male (or female) and my sexual attraction is . . . (female), (male), (both), (other)."

"The direction of a person's sex life is determined primarily by his *learning* and by how he responds to a host of experiential events [in life]," writes C. A. Tripp (*The Homosexual Matrix*, page 17, emphasis added). This statement summarizes the predominant view among sex researchers today.

Most men and women are heterosexual, as opposed to bisexual, because their religious and social traditions directly support this kind of mateship and family living. In such cultures, innumerable overt and indirect messages inform impressionable youths and adults to have their expectations and interests channeled toward heterosexuality.

But human cultures vary in the sexual practices and values they allow or encourage. Humans within any culture or family can allow different persons, thoughts, sights or objects to become eroticized in their mind.

Role of Hormones

Research has uncovered no chromosomal differences between homosexuals and heterosexuals. Effeminate men also have no chromosomal differences with normal heterosexual males.

Homosexuals and effeminates have been found to have sex hormone levels within the same ranges as those found in exclusive heterosexuals. (Homosexuals sometimes point to small-scale studies that have found some differences in hormone levels between homosexuals and heterosexuals, but these findings have not proven to have consistency. Hormone levels in humans alter at various times because of various stresses in life.)

Experiments—by scientists cut off from the revelation of God—with sex hormones injected into humans indicate hormones are not the chief determinant of sexual preferences. Most sex researchers recognize that although sex hormones influence sex organ and glandular development, tissue structure and strength of the sex drive, they are not the primary determinant of sexual interests.

If extra male sex hormone (testosterone) is given to a man —heterosexual or homosexual—it will (most likely) increase his sex drive, but it has no influence on his choice of sex objects. Injected estrogen, the female sex hormone, will reduce sex drive in a man, but it will not affect his sexual orientation.

Some researchers are endlessly dedicated to devising tests and methods of discovering a genetic or biological factor for sexual aberrations—at least in some individuals.

God gave us His revelation—the Bible—so we could know the *true spiritual, nonbiological causes* of human problems and do what is required to change them.

unclothed they were unashamed (Genesis 2:25).

God became the first great sex educator! He instructed: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

Marriage between a properly prepared male and female is the God-ordained sexual orientation and context of sexual relations.

God knows the emotional needs of human beings. He said it was "not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). Understand this point. It is critical! God knew that the human male needs to give and receive appreciation, affection and love from another human to be happy and fulfilled, to fill an emptiness in life. That is why God created woman.

But God designed the human female also to need to receive appreciation and give it, to share in affection and love for other humans and to be fulfilled. That is why God created the *family*—a God-plane relationship. To establish a family there is the need for sexual attraction. That is why God created sex—made man male and female.

God ordained sex, or marital love, as the proper use of the sex drive. Sex in the marriage bond is for more than human reproduction. It is intended to unite a couple in love and respect in a way shared with no other and to build stable families.

In His first sex instruction, God taught that marriage is for persons mature and self-disciplined enough to leave parents and successfully establish a separate home. Parents are to teach appreciation of God's ways to their children by their example. That takes maturity of mind. Impressionable youths need mature parents to understand the way to true success and happiness.

But in His plan to allow humans the opportunity to build character

by free moral choice, God had to allow Satan to have contact with the first human couple. He had to see which way they would choose to go.

Very quickly, Satan injected into the first woman's mind the false idea that God had lied to them. Eve was deceived into stealing from God, and Adam, dropping his God-ordained leadership role, weakly followed his wife anyway.

The first human couple rebelled against their Maker and took something that was not theirs. They had decided to experiment with knowledge, to take upon themselves the prerogative of determining what is good and what is evil. This was all symbolized by the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

Suddenly their minds had an added and different attitude. They were embarrassed to discover they were naked. They hid from God. When God asked why they hid, Adam replied, "I was afraid because I was naked" (Genesis 3:10). The Hebrew root for the word *naked* used here implies bareness in a bad or negative way.

God answered, "Who told you that you were naked?" (verse 11).

Who? Only Satan had talked to them. But he had conveyed to them the idea that they ought to be ashamed about the way God had created them, about their sexuality and sex differences. Satan is the originator of the idea that sex is intrinsically evil, dirty and shameful.

This is how wrong sexual attitudes and feelings among humans first began!

Ever since, Satan has worked in human cultures to pervert human attitudes, emotions and relationships. He has implanted in human minds selfish moods and attitudes so that human beings think these moods or feelings are only inborn human feeling. Some human minds, during early childhood, have accepted wrong moods or feelings of attraction to the same sex. It starts so early in some that many homosexuals and lesbians think these are totally inborn human orientations.

Devil-deceived Cultures

Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden and from contact with God's Spirit. Ever since, humanity, as a whole, has been cut off from God's Spirit, which would have guided them in the right ways of living and to Life itself.

Mankind was given 6,000 years to develop his cultures under Satan's sway and experience the results. The terrible results are recorded in the Bible, and, frequently, secular history. Human beings today are merely repeating these ugly experiences of previous generations—though we like to think of many of them as new.

Through the ages God has called a few people to walk in His ways. God gave His laws and inspired the Bible (II Timothy 3:16) for a special nation—the family of Israel—so mankind would not be totally without knowledge of the way they should live, so they could, if they wanted to understand, find the *cause* of human problems.

Most humans have rejected such knowledge. Many educated don't believe there are fallen spirit beings influencing and deceiving all humanity (Revelation 12:9); they don't believe that Satan is the unseen ruler and god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4).

But the apostle Paul revealed, contrary to the enlightened education of this world, how Satan injects his wrong attitudes, desires and emotions into unwary minds:

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

With what results? " . . . [fulfilling] the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind" (Ephesians 2:2-3). There are no inborn limits or controls to the human mind but that which an individual *learns* or chooses to restrain.

Here are the damaging moods, desires and attitudes produced by Satan's "get" way in those who yield to them: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest . . . : Adultery, fornication [sexual immorality], uncleanness [any physical, moral or sexual uncleanness], lasciviousness, idolatry . . . hatred . . . strife . . . envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like . . ." (Galatians 5:19-21).

Satan and his host inspire attitudes of rebellion, selfishness and lust in human beings. They can insinuate wrong thoughts and desires in minds that are vulnerable to them, even young children. But not everyone is equally vulnerable. How any one person responds to various thoughts or emotions depends upon his culture, upon his upbringing and experiences, upon his learning and internalized values, upon the strength of character. In short, an individual's sexual feelings and values depend upon what thoughts and emotions are developed or allowed in his mind from infancy on.

How Sexual Sin Enters

Wrong and damaging emotional and sexual feelings take root in each human mind because humans *do not resist them.* Some wrong experiences leave deep impressions. Other misleading emotions, feelings and desires, repeated enough, become deeply learned and conditioned in the human mind.

"Habits are at first cobwebs, then cables," goes an old Spanish proverb. Satan well understands this deep conditioning in human minds and emotions. He works to thwart God's purpose through them.

Though many deny it, all humans become, in one way or another, the slaves of deceptive sins, pleasures and feelings (John 8:34, Hebrews 3:13). They can't shake or escape them all.

It takes strong spiritual power from God, as well as high human motivation and effort, to break the damaging cables of wrong thinking and feeling and then learn the right thinking and emotions revealed in the law of God.

A person's most important sex organ is his or her *brain!*

If a person is properly guided in youth by example and teaching to respect the opposite sex, and is prepared to serve and love other human beings, that person can develop a right heterosexual desire.

But sex education and emotional feelings are not primarily learned by formal instruction. Sex education and emotional feelings about sex start from infancy with the way parents and other influential persons treat

Real World of Sexuality

The majority of males in most cultures are heterosexually oriented. But even heterosexuals allow their minds and sexual feelings to be diverted by wrong attitudes and desires. Some heterosexuals develop a degree of homosexual interest (a degree of bisexuality). Heterosexual males with effeminate (female) mannerisms also exist.

Feminine heterosexual females again are the majority. But there are also masculine-mannered females. The latter, however, may still be heterosexual and maternal in interests.

There are many masculine-appearing (even super-masculine) male homosexuals and, at the other extreme, effeminate (or "swish" type) male homosexuals. There are all degrees in between. The effeminate or swish type are usually only a small proportion of male homosexuals but, because they are more noticeable, are often erroneously stereotyped to represent the whole.

Female homosexuals (lesbians) are often typically feminine in outward appearance and manner. Others are very mannish ("butch" or "dyke"). There are all degrees between these appearances and mannerisms. In modern cultures, not all homosexuals are readily discernible from heterosexuals by outward appearances.

There are as many variances in appearances, shape, personality, temperament, preferences in attractions and professions among homosexuals as among heterosexuals. The vast majority of homosexuals of both sexes clearly identify themselves with their gender, but prefer their own sex sexually.

Other Unfortunate Conditioning

Many unfortunate human sexual and emotional feelings exist—some too obscene to describe (Ephesians 5:12). All these warn us of the great varieties of sexual/emotional conditioning that can happen to improperly controlled minds and lives.

Transvestites are persons who cross-dress on various occasions. Research indicates most of these persons are males with heterosexual inclinations, although some have homosexual interests.

The majority of transvestite males identify themselves as males but have learned to get an erotic or emotional kick out of wearing items of clothing of the opposite sex, or in passing as a member of the opposite sex. Some can function sexually only after doing so.

This distorted emotional condition can often be traced back to early repeated cross-dressing by parents, siblings or by the person himself at some time. Such dressing began to produce exciting emotional or sexual responses that were repeated and cultivated.

God commanded the law of Deuteronomy 22:5 to prevent such distorted emotions: "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment; for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God."

The law of Deuteronomy 22:5 also is intended to discourage another human distortion: transsexuality.

Transsexuals (they may be male or female) feel they have the mind and emotions of the opposite sex and are trapped in the wrong physical body. Often such feelings have been traced back to very early childhood upbringing that deprecated or ignored the child's true sex and caused them to experience or value only the feelings and emotions of the opposite sex.

Effeminate mannerisms in males may be due to rearing in a totally, or nearly exclusive female environment. Maybe a male wasn't allowed or encouraged to identify with a male and male outlook and thinking. The person picked up certain female ways of acting or feeling about things.

Effeminate mannerisms may also be a way of portraying nonaggressiveness or reveal that the male does not want to be treated or threatened as an ordinary male may be. Many of these males still have heterosexual interests.

Effeminacy is harmful because it damages a male's proper leadership and thinking in a family unit.

The learning and conditioning of human sexual interests and emotional feelings is strong. So strong, in fact, that persons misassigned the wrong sex at birth for some sex organ abnormality, and then raised as a person of that assigned sex, readily develop the expected heterosexual interests for that sex even though their true genetics and hormone levels are of the opposite sex. These rare occurrences are sometimes not discovered until puberty changes force the true sex to appear.

The book, *Sexuality and Homosexuality—A New View,* by Arno Karlen, W:W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, contains other backgrounds and causes of damaging sexuality.

Sexuality Not Private

Human sexuality is more than one's gender or a sexual act. It is not just a private matter as so many want others to believe. Human sexuality is a total way of thinking, acting and feeling.

One's sexuality affects the way one responds to his own and the opposite sex, to marriage, to the family experience and to every aspect of life.

That's why sex has so much impact on human lives and culture. It's the reason why the Creator commands men and women to develop it rightly.

each other and the child. Additional verbal or formal instruction merely reinforces learning.

Wrong sexual feelings develop not only out of a wrong culture but also out of ignorance. Hush-hush about sex in homes has reaped a fearsome price. Many young people are not taught any right and wholesome attitudes about sex. They are taught no right standards of sexual conduct. They are not taught that certain sexual practices are wrong or damaging and why they are to be avoided.

The seedbeds of unfortunate emotional or sexual feelings may be laid in the earliest years of life. Many young persons do not understand their feelings and emotions because they lack proper association or communication with understanding or concerned parents who could help to evaluate their feelings. Without proper parental example, love, concern and guidance, wrong or misguided affectional feelings toward others can begin to stir sexual feelings and start a wrong pattern of association in the mind.

Millions of individuals simply follow peer practices or any "exciting" erotic emotion or thought that crosses their minds. They seem "natural." But what they may not realize is that wrong thoughts and feelings can be learned not only from others, but from their own uncontrolled thoughts—and these thoughts are not always natural, but can be injected into their minds unknowingly by an evil spiritual source—by Satan or his demons.

A person may have allowed himself or herself to respond to such emotions or patterns so early in life that they become a "natural" part of the way they have always felt. They look back on their life and conclude they must have been "born that way."

Misguided Choosing

Humans seek excitement, a sense of worth—something to fill the void, emptiness or loneliness of their lives. Whenever wrong sexual or emotional seeds are allowed and cultivated they will grow—in youth or even after one is married.

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

To some, extramarital or homosexual thoughts or acts (a person may not even realize what they are) seem a way to find affection, gain attention, recognition, security or money. Maybe they seem a way of proving sexual prowess. Maybe they seem the only option available, given one's desires, feelings or fears about the opposite sex.

One wrong thought, uncontrolled or accepted, leads to still more. Maybe a person doesn't know he should resist temptation. Maybe he doesn't care. Minds that feed on wrong emotional or erotic thoughts in various fantasies (especially masturbation fantasies or in conjunction with specific kinds of pornography) will eventually have them ingrained as desires and emotions.

Too many cop out and totally blame others for their problems and emotions in life.

One's society or culture may be partly to blame. Parents may or may not have set a right example in their relationships and teaching. Satan may have tempted. But individuals also repeatedly allow themselves to respond to wrong ways of living and thinking.

A person, young or old, may choose to rebel against even right teaching and example. He or she can decide to go his or her own way. Satan did. Scripture warns, "Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking some one to devour. *Resist him . . .*" (I Peter 5:8-9, RSV).

Godly Sexuality

God is very concerned about the cultural and family environments of human beings. Family and environment is where the foundations of human relationships and sexual feelings, values and ideas are established.

God is also concerned about the physical, mental and talent abilities and traits human parents pass on to their offspring. Wrong sexuality opens the door to rapid degeneration and physical and spiritual disease of the human body, mind and spirit.

Only if humans follow God's revealed laws about right relationships to God and between the sexes can true happiness, fulfillment and social stability be achieved. □

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"Antichrist"

(Continued from page 14)

But the spirit of antichrist will blanket the earth, holding nations and kingdoms in its grip in this generation! Various individuals will personify that spirit in a powerful way. In national distress, men will turn to other *men* who appear to offer solutions.

The Bible specifically mentions two such individuals who will come to be virtually deified by mankind. One is called the "Beast"; the other the "False Prophet."

The term *Antichrist* is often applied to one or the other of these prophesied personalities. Often, preachers and prophecy buffs confuse the two and impute to one some of the attributes of the other. Some even blend, falsely, the two into one.

Satanic System

Let us briefly take a look at these two satanic personalities, and discover what the Bible really says about them.

The Beast is a great dictator of the book of Revelation who is to rule over 10 nations or groups of nations just before Christ's return (Revelation 17:12-13).

In the Bible, a beast is the symbol for a political system or its leader. Yet how many ministers understand this fact? In the Bible the Beast is symbolic of the political system we call the Roman Empire. Throughout the centuries since the fall of the Roman Empire in A.D. 476 (the "deadly wound" of Revelation 13:3), numerous revivals of the beast—the Roman political system—arose in Europe.

In Revelation 17, the revivals are represented symbolically by the seven heads of a beast. Six have already occurred from Justinian to Mussolini. One last restoration of this great political system is yet to arise. The end-time Beast will rule over this final restoration of the Roman Empire.

In the book of Daniel, where he is called the "king of the north," we learn that the Beast will ultimately conquer portions of the Middle East (Daniel 11:40-41).

Working hand in hand with the Beast will be the False Prophet (Revelation 16:13; 19:20), a great miracle-working religious figure. By means of lying wonders and false miracles he will command the obedience of millions (Revelation 13:13-14).

The apostle Paul wrote of the False Prophet in II Thessalonians 2:3, calling him the "man of sin," and "the son of perdition." This miracle-working individual—a great religious figure—will declare himself to *be* God (II Thessalonians 2:4)! Many will believe him to be Christ in the flesh!

Rise of the Beast

Let's notice now *how* the Beast will achieve great power and authority.

The Beast will not seize power by means of a coup or by military conquest. Ten leaders will "*give* their power and strength unto the beast" (Revelation 17:13). This charismatic individual will be widely viewed as a deliverer—the *only* man who can lead Western civilization out of its troubles!

> *"The spirit of antichrist will blanket the earth, holding nations and kingdoms in its grip in this generation!"*

The prophet Daniel sheds further light on the Beast's rise to power. He writes in a dual prophecy—anciently fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes in 167-164 B.C. and again to be fulfilled in these last days (Matthew 24:15)—that the Beast will be a person "of fierce countenance and understanding dark trickery and craftiness" (Daniel 8:23, Amplified Bible). He will be a sly manipulator, cunning in the art of political maneuvering.

"And his power shall be mighty," Daniel continues, "*but not by his own power*. . . ." This is clearly a reference to the 10 rulers *giving* their power over to the Beast.

"And he shall corrupt and destroy astonishingly, and shall prosper, and do his own pleasure, and he shall corrupt and destroy the mighty men and the holy people . . ." the prophecy continues. "And through his policy he shall cause trickery to prosper in his hand; he shall magnify himself in his heart and mind, and in their security he will corrupt and destroy many."

The prophecy concludes with a clear statement of the time setting of these events. "He [the Beast] shall also stand up against the Prince of princes, but he shall be broken, and that by no human hand" (Dan. 8:25). The Beast will confront Jesus Christ at His Second Coming!

Religious Support

It will not be political craftiness alone that will propel the Beast to the top. His rise to power will be supported and encouraged by the False Prophet.

The False Prophet presides over a great, centuries-old religious system labeled "BABYLON THE GREAT" in Revelation 17:5. This system is an "image" or copy in the religious sphere of the Roman civil governmental system (Revelation 13:14).

This religious power is also personified as a fallen woman (Revelation 17:1) and a scarlet woman (17:3). In Bible symbolism, a woman is representative of a church (II Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 12). A fallen woman thus represents an apostate church.

In Revelation 17:3, we read that this scarlet woman sits "upon a scarlet coloured beast . . . having seven heads and ten horns." In other words, this religious power has historically presided over the restorations of the Roman political system (symbolized by the heads), and is *yet to be* associated with the final restoration (seventh and last head), made up of 10 powers (the 10 horns).

The Beast will be supported in his rise to power by the False Prophet. And in turn, the Beast will use his political might to enforce religious uniformity.

Beast's Mark and Number

In this regard, many readers of *The Plain Truth* have written inquiring

about the mysterious "number" and "mark" of the beast mentioned in Revelation 13:16-18. This bewilderment is totally unnecessary. The Bible clearly reveals what these things mean!

The number of the Beast is *666*. It is described as the number of a man (v. 18). And we are told to *count* it.

In Greek—the language of the New Testament—letters of the alphabet have numerical values. The same principle is found in the use of Roman numerals (V = 5, X = 10, L = 50 and so on).

In the 2nd century A.D., Irenaeus, disciple of Polycarp, the apostle John's disciple, explained that in Greek the word *Lateinos*—meaning "Latin man" or Roman—adds up to 666. (L = 30; A = 1; T = 300; E = 5; I = 10; N = 50; O = 70; S = 200.) This, he stated, was the intent of the scripture.

The number *666* is thus anciently branded on the old Roman Empire and its revivals.

But what of the mark of the Beast? Some claim it is the swastika. Others that it is the social security number. Still others that it is the universal product code. These are all mere *guesses*—and wrong ones, at that! Notice what the Bible says about this mark:

The mark of the Beast is received in the right hand or in the foreheads of those subject to him (Revelation 13:16). Without it, one will be unable to conduct business, to "buy or sell" (v. 17).

Those who have the mark of the beast in their hands or foreheads will suffer the corrective plagues of God's judgment (Revelation 14:9-10; 15:1, 6; 16:1-2). These individuals are contrasted, in Revelation 14:12, with the saints who "keep the commandments of God."

The mark thus has something to do with commandment breaking. Those who have the mark will suffer divine plagues; those who keep the commandments will not. One group is forced to accept the mark; the other keeps the commandments of God. The mark involves obedience to human authority. It is symbolic of forced allegiance. Is there a specific commandment that is intended? Is there a commandment that can be considered a sign of God's people?

A mark is a *sign* or a *brand* of identification. What commandment does the Bible call a *sign?*

There is only one: the *Fourth* Commandment!

Notice Exodus 31:12-17—"Verily *my sabbaths* ye shall keep; for it is a SIGN between me and you throughout your generations. . . ." The keeping of God's Sabbaths is the sign identifying God's people!

This sign of God is also received symbolically in one's hand—symbolizing work or labor—and forehead—representative of the mind or intellect. See Exodus 13:9; Deuteronomy 6:1, 6-8; 11:18.

The mark of the Beast is clearly revealed as an enforced counterfeit of the sign between God and His people—specifically the observance of man-made holidays in place of those Sabbaths that God originally ordained! Those who do not fall into line and join in religious conformity—including participation in its false religious days—will not be able to hold a job or earn a living.

> *"The Gospel or message of the Bible is clear: Jesus Christ is the only hope for this earth!"*

And, as in centuries past, many who refuse to receive the mark—who refuse to submit body and intellect to the Beast's domination—will suffer martyrdom.

For an in-depth look at this subject, request our free booklets, *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* and *Pagan Holidays or God's Holydays—Which?*

Then, Armageddon

What will be the ultimate fate of this satanic religious-political union? The Bible provides a graphic description.

The Beast and False Prophet will together muster armies to fight the returning Christ (Revelation 16:13-16; 17:13-14). They will undoubtedly have convinced much of the world that Christ is really the Antichrist. Because of this deception, many will refuse to repent and submit to Christ at His return (Revelation 16:9).

This final climactic battle, commonly, but incorrectly, referred to as Armageddon, is called in the Bible "the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:14). The fate of the Beast, False Prophet and their armies in that confrontation was seen in vision by John (Revelation 19:11, 14-16, 19-20):

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. . . .

"And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. . . .

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. *These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."*

The Beast will *not* be stabbed by a magic dagger in a lonely chapel by a BBC correspondent! It will be Jesus Christ returned in *power* and *glory*—not as a reborn Christ Child—who will decisively overthrow the Beast and the False Prophet. They will be cast into a lake of fire and be *consumed!*

Satan's rule over the nations will be forever ended! □

Personal from...

(Continued from page 2)

to speak to, and instruct our MINDS?

What does STUDY mean? Do we "STUDY" with our MINDS—or our hearts? We find this INSTRUCTION and TEACHING: "STUDY to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). That is a COMMAND! One can STUDY, and *rightly* divide the Word of God *only with* his MIND!

God teaches—yes, COMMANDS! —that the Scriptures are to be STUDIED—with the MIND. Otherwise, how could we know God's WILL for us? So we find *this* command: "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but UNDERSTANDING what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17).

What a tragedy that so much of this world is DECEIVED.

MILLIONS have been deceived into a FALSE "salvation," inoculated with the spiritual poison that "salvation" and the "Gospel" are concerned only with a sanctimonious mental anesthetic, shutting up the MIND to God's real TRUTH, accepting the counterfeit of a sentimental "feeling" of piety.

And other MILLIONS have been conversely deceived into supposing that this ethereal, impractical, irrational superstition of these professing but deceived "Christians" constitutes the teaching of the Bible. So *these* millions, in vanity wanting to be considered rational, and educated—regarding themselves as *thinkers*—throw away the Bible without so much as an examination of its contents.

BOTH these "pious" sentimentalists and these "intellectuals" are DECEIVED! Going off in opposite directions, to the opposite extremes from the TRUTH, they are both headed for the same ultimate destination, unless there can be a mind-opening!

The Bible is the very SOURCE of TRUE RATIONALISM, of basic TRUTH. Also it is the very SOURCE of the only TRUE Gospel and genuine SALVATION. Surely it is the Book almost NOBODY knows!

What, then, *IS* the Holy BIBLE?

It is the FOUNDATION of *all* knowledge—knowledge which is otherwise utterly inaccessible to the mind of man—the knowledge of WHAT man is; of WHY man is; of the true values; of THE WAY to peace, happiness, abundant well-being, success; and of ETERNAL life.

It is the FOUNDATION of *all* knowledge—scientific, physical and spiritual. *Not* the sum-total of knowledge — far, far from it! It is the *starting point*—the BASIS, providing the proper *approach* toward the acquisition of knowledge that *is* discoverable by man.

It contains history, prophecy, wisdom, spiritual knowledge, TRUTH.

No one can be properly EDUCATED except by and through it. No one can know the way to eternal life, except by what it contains.

Yes, I REPEAT!—"the Gospel message *IS* an educational message!" It is RATIONAL! It MAKES SENSE! And it is REAL! □

PHYSICAL LIFE

(Continued from page 21)

highly improbable molecules. Therefore, the odds against any organism coming into existence by pure chance are unbelievably fantastic! Fact two means that natural selection cannot make an organism more probable, since natural selection requires the preexistence of an organism. And fact three leads to the conclusion that mutations cannot account for the arrival of new kinds of organisms.

Are the myriad forms that exist today the result of the unfathomably improbable, blind chance occurrence of highly complex molecules, followed by even more blind chance combinations of the molecules. No. Does natural selection provide the answer? No. Do mutations explain how evolution occurs? No.

The conclusion is inescapable. This temporary chemical existence we call life was planned. Physical life was designed. Physical life was created! □

God is alive. You can prove it, too.

SKEPTICS DOUBT God's existence. Many scientific minds say it cannot be proven. And, among the different religions, there are as many concepts of God as there are sects. Yet no question remains more fundamental than "Does God exist?"

Here, at last, are seven specific *proofs* of God's existence.

Discover, *who* God is, *how* life originated and *why* the evolutionary theory is in serious error.

The free booklet *Does God Exist?* is your starting point toward a proper relationship with your Creator. Use the reply card in this issue to request your copy today or write to *The Plain Truth* office nearest you.

NOT IN BRITAIN!

(Continued from page 6)

Instead, society itself—in its various ways—has taught people to be contemptuous of authority—and especially toward that most basic symbol of all governmental authority—the policeman.

We could not express it better than did *The Liverpool Post*. "The weakening of authority is dreadful in its consequence. The brutalization of Liverpool is evidence of that" (July 7, 1981). *The Spectator* put it in another way: "Somewhere the concept of the rule of law seems to have got lost, perhaps battered to death by anti-police propaganda. Until we find it, there is little hope for peace in our cities" (July 11, 1981).

The only authority that many young people know is that of the gang leader. Youths in the age category of 9, 10 and 11 were seen to be both rioting and looting. A fairly young Liverpool mother was asked where her children were at a very late hour. Her answer: "How would I know? I'm at the pub."

The failure of adults—both by example and in positive teaching—is primarily responsible for the general climate of permissiveness that pervades Britain today. They generally fail to lay down proper guidelines for their youngsters if they even know them in the first place. And those that do try to guide the conduct of their children often "talk an awfully good fight" without living it.

The prime minister was most certainly right when she warned that violence would destroy everything we value. She warned: "the free society could only survive if its citizens upheld the law and taught their children to do so." That says it all in a nutshell.

But what is the basic, underlying cause of this situation in which England finds herself?

Identifying the Problem

Some journalists have labeled Britain as "The Sick Man of Europe." One of the latest literary efforts to identify and define the British malady is a little paperback called *What's Wrong with Britain?* in which 15 highly distinguished commentators assess the causes of Britain's present-day problems in a frank and forthright manner.

But it was Lord Hailsham who really put his finger on Britain's overall problem. He wrote in summary: "The cause of our troubles is not economic, nor has it anything to do with world conditions or our loss of empire, or with any of the easy excuses which we are so ready to accept. . . . *It is a disease of the spirit* for which there is no blame but ourselves" (*What's Wrong with Britain?* p. 41). An oversimplification? Perhaps, but true, nevertheless.

Modern Britain today is in a state of transition. People are revolting against the past, against long-established traditions, against the class system, and unfortunately, *against authority in all of its forms*. Violent crime in inner cities is but one symptom of this overall problem. The old

Left to right: Jacob Sutton—Liaison, Homer Sykes—Camera Press, Jacob Sutton—Liaison

RIOTS IN TOXTETH AND BRIXTON— *Youths confront police in Toxteth, left, as commercial enterprises go up in flames. Fireman puts out smoldering ruins in Brixton, center, and, above, Londoners survey Brixton's ruins after riots. Economic and racial stress are two of many causes of summer strife in Britain. In most major metropolitan areas, youths, many on drugs, are in social upheaval from a breakdown in home and family life. The worsening trend began in the 1950s with the Teddy Boys and continued into the seventies with the Punks. Today many are white teenage Skinheads who seek to escape from the jobless misery and broken homes of the present, but do not know how to direct their minds and energies into constructive channels.*

settled frameworks and comfortable life patterns are fast disappearing. People have lost their moorings. They don't know where they fit anymore.

But Britain's real problems are spiritual.

The Failure of Religious Authority

It has been said (and with much accuracy) that a crisis of the spirit must have an answer of the spirit. National decay that has its roots in moral betrayal is essentially in the realm of religion. And religion is not popular in Britain today, that is, unless one is speaking of the many forms of occultism.

Britons are turned off of state religion. Britain especially—and the West in general—is a secular society and therein lies our problem. We have forgotten the God who made us. We have accepted, almost without question, the word of those who would tell us that biblical revelation is not for us today.

The riots in Liverpool and London should be grim reminders of our unsolved spiritual problems. They should set us to asking some basic questions about the Bible. Could the Bible be an up-to-date book with its finger on the pulse of today's happenings? Why did man come to be as he is—so seemingly intelligent, yet so utterly helpless before his own social, ethical and moral problems? What is wrong with a religion significant only at the time of birth, baptism and death?

You owe it to yourself to open your eyes to what is written in the pages of the Bible. It claims to identify the spiritual causes of violent crime and other social problems presently plaguing the industrial democracies. And more importantly, the Bible claims to possess the long-range solutions that will be put into force and effect to solve all these societal problems.

Violent crime will pass into the pages of history only when God intervenes in human affairs to set up His government over all nations. Hostility between human beings will then become a thing of the past. Indeed the time will come when "They shall *not* hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." That is the good news we announce in the pages of *The Plain Truth.* □

LONDON

(Continued from page 18)

problem. There is another side to the story.

Physiological research indicates that certain areas deep within man's mind are centers of aggression. While it is true that violence is learned in the home, on the street and from the media, the potential for rebellion is apparently already present in the psychological construction of human beings. Although a child is *not* inherently evil from birth, the potential for evil most certainly comes into his mind at an early date. Of course, this tendency can either be controlled or amplified by early environmental factors such as positive parental teaching or the lack of it.

The Bible brings out some of these basic truths. The psalmist expresses it in a poetic manner: "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies" (Psalms 58:3). The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah puts it another way. "The heart is deceitful above all things: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

This same fundamental truth is reiterated in the New Testament by the apostle Paul. "The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7). But is this basic problem rooted in the genetic makeup of the human brain and thereby inherited from our parents, or is there another explanation?

The Unseen Answer

Mankind has been unwittingly influenced by a great and powerful spirit being called Satan who pumps his evil attitudes and impulses into our individual minds. The apostle Paul explains how in his letter to the Ephesians: "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [Satan], *the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.* Among whom we also had our conversation [conduct] in times past in the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others" (Ephesians 2:2-3).

This basic truth is further explained in our attractively printed article entitled, "Human Nature—Did God Create it?" We have never reprinted a more important article when it comes to determining the root cause of all that is hostile within humankind. Please request your copy of this intriguing article by title.

The fundamental solution to the London crime problem or any crime problem anywhere is for each human being to learn to dominate, sublimate and control the wrong impulses being fed into his mind by the unrealized presence of a great fallen angel known as Satan the devil. So much the better if right teaching countering Satan's influences begins almost from birth. Greatly blessed is the man or woman who has been taught to observe the Ten Commandments almost from infancy.

Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Joseph Goebbels and Adolph Eichmann were all babies at one time. Could their parents have been convinced that one day they would so tragically affect the world? The proverb says: "Train up [or "educate"] a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Do you believe that proverb? To the degree that you heed and implement Solomon's advice here is the degree that you assure your children do not wind up as lawbreaking juveniles who are not only a menace to society, but also to themselves.

And do you know how to apply the basic Ten Commandment law governing human conduct to all areas of your life? If not, you should not delay to write for our free booklet simply titled *The Ten Commandments*. This booklet sets out in detail and explains plainly this inexorable living law of God—soon to become the basic code of conduct for the peaceful, prosperous, crimeless, wonderful world tomorrow. □

JUVENILE CRIME

(Continued from page 16)

glected theirs also. Both parents are needed to effectively support each other and properly train their children. What happens if they don't?

Each generation improperly loved and disciplined comprehends less and less of what decency, goodness and affection means, of what right relationships—especially a right marriage and family—are. Eventually, more youths have little or no compassion, no caring feelings for others but themselves. They feel they become somebody only if they dehumanize another human being.

The cause of spiraling crime and violence is the failure of homes, schools, churches and government leaders to teach the law of "love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 19:19). Compounding the problem is widespread violation of another important biblical principle: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed *speedily,* therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

Criminals need to know punishment for a crime will be sure and quick. But today it is not. Criminal youths are often caught for serious crimes only to be quickly spewed back onto the streets by juvenile justice systems never set up to handle large numbers of hardened vicious criminals. What deterrent is there for a young lawbreaker if he is considered a "hero" by peers for "beating the system"?

Contrast this to the swift punishment of incorrigibles laid out in Deuteronomy 21:18-21.

If the Family Fails

In 1963, Herbert T. Jenkins, chief of police of Atlanta, clearly answered the question of why children become delinquents. Listen to his words:

"In my 30 years of experience, I have come to the conclusion that the lack of discipline and self-discipline are the major roots of all crime. If the family fails to discipline a youngster, thereby instilling

Sociologists Who Proved Juvenile Delinquency Can Be Predicted

In the 1940s and 1950s, Drs. Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, a husband-wife sociologist team at Harvard Law School, developed a delinquency prediction scale for young persons. It is based on five social factors: affection of the father for the child, discipline by the father, affection of the mother for the child, supervision and discipline by the mother and cohesiveness of the family. Some of their studies also considered traits of juvenile temperament and character.

The Gluecks' rating method was developed from what they found in the family background and youthful temperament and character of delinquents and nondelinquents.

They found delinquents far more than nondelinquents came from homes of little affection, stability, moral fiber or understanding of parent-child responsibilities. The delinquents temperamentally tended to be more restless, impulsive, aggressive and destructive; in attitude, more defiant, hostile, resentful and nonsubmissive to authority.

The Gluecks' predictions of individual delinquency or nondelinquency among groups of youths they studied proved out to be remarkably accurate. They were often able to predict future criminal delinquency in children as young as ages 5 or 6 by looking at their family background and existing character.

The Gluecks' research can be found in numerous books and papers authored by them. Unfortunately, the Gluecks' sound methodology is largely ignored by criminologists and sociologists today.

In 1952, for example, the Gluecks studied 244 six-year-old boys of white, black and Puerto Rican origin in high delinquency areas for the New York City Youth Board. They predicted which would be criminal delinquents by age 17 and which would not. But since fathers of this group were so often missing, they made their predictions using only the three family factors on their scale not involving fathers.

Still, 10 years later they found 85 percent of the boys they predicted to become delinquent actually did so. And 97 percent of those thought unlikely to become delinquents did not. Out of 19 boys predicted as having an even chance of delinquency or nondelinquency, nine became serious or persistent offenders and 10 did not.

Other researchers using the Gluecks' methods in studies of juveniles often found that nine out of 10 persistent juvenile offenders could have been identified at age 6; if not then by age 10; and 90 percent of nondelinquents could also have been identified.

Blind Eyes

Juvenile delinquency is for the most part predictable. But many parents and other persons blind their eyes to the signs of delinquency in children and make excuses for them.

In one interview, the Gluecks concluded, "Poverty, by itself, doesn't make a delinquent. . . . You cannot make good parents out of bad ones simply by raising their income or moving them into a new house."

The Gluecks said after another study, "In Boston, our research investigators could often tell just as soon as a tenement door opened whether they were entering the home of a delinquent or a nondelinquent. All the families in the neighborhood would be poor, but there would be enormous variation in the under-the-roof atmosphere from one household to the next. . . . In a suburban neighborhood or middle income, you could find similar variations."

The primary roots of delinquency are basically the same in poor, middle class or upper class areas: parents fail to properly instill in their children respect, discipline and concern for others and their property.

Often these parents themselves were raised by permissive parents, or were raised by parents that swung between extremes of laxness and harshness in discipline. Such parents don't know, and their children can't know, what discipline with love is.

The things that count most in raising children to be law-abiding citizens do not depend so much on income as they do upon the parents' right values, affectionate attitudes and fair but firm discipline.

Many parents try to express love or buy the love of their children through overindulgence or gifts to make up for their lack of parental guidance, affection and concern day by day. Parental love is not purchasable. True parental love is more than providing material comforts of life. It involves training children in right values and character!

in him a sense of self-discipline, then it later becomes the almost hopeless job of the courts to try to do it. For that is where this type of youngster always ends up."

If parents fail in their responsibility to show affection, guidance and proper discipline, it is unlikely any other institution will successfully pick up the reins. "We look for quick solutions, but family stability is the only long-term solu-

tion," says Judge Seymour Gelber, Juvenile Division judge in Dade County, Florida.

God Is Angry

God is angry! He is going to intervene and *spank* whole *nations* for forsaking their responsibility to properly train, guide and discipline their children. God is angry because so many—adults and youth—have turned freedom to obey God and His laws into license to forget God and commit whatever they think they can "get away with." National captivity and destruction are prophesied for many nations because of such sins. Sin, remember, is the transgression of God's law—I John 3:4.

God is especially angry at religious leaders who should be forcefully teaching obedience to God's law but instead have watered down God's laws. Is it any wonder so many are not diligent to obey them? The punishment of these false shepherds is recorded in Jeremiah 23.

Everyone will be held accountable for his or her actions and attitudes. God holds parents accountable for teaching decent and godly attitudes and values—and setting a right example. Children are free moral agents. They can choose to respect or rebel against right parental and godly values; but God will also bring each youth into an accounting (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10). Young people need to be told this early in their lives!

Fortunately, growing numbers of parents who heed *The Plain Truth*'s warnings are willing to meet the great challenge of guiding, loving and rightly disciplining their children.

They are beginning to fulfill the prophecy to "turn the heart of the fathers to the children"—that often must come first—"and the heart of the children [will be turned] to their fathers." Otherwise God would be forced to smite the earth with "total destruction" (Malachi 4:6, Moffatt translation).

Are you going to be part of the reason why God will save humanity from total destruction—because you are willing to learn the right way to rear your children? □

FRESH WATER

(Continued from page 24)

filling water beds to carrying away sewage.

Outside of air for breathing, probably nothing has been more taken for granted by those who have it than water.

Not So Fresh

Today enormous quantities of industrial wastes are poured into lakes, rivers and streams, creating out of water, chemical soups. Thousands of injection wells have been dug where toxic wastes are pumped directly into the ground, thereupon polluting the aquifers. It has been estimated in scientific studies that half of the water in the ground is already contaminated either with disease-producing bacteria or industrial waste.

Not that industry should get all the blame. Other sources of pollution are detergents and drain cleaners from homes, salt used for melting ice, filth from city streets, insecticides and chemical fertilizers from agriculture, leaks from underground petroleum tanks, lead and cadmium dissolved from water pipes. And think of all the things water is used to clean and dilute.

A newly recognized problem is acid rain. This is rain that absorbs chemical pollutants in the air and becomes a toxic acid dropping down on land and—you guessed it—water supplies.

Add Drought

To these factors making good fresh water scarce, add one more disaster: drought! Drought is rain either not falling, or falling in the wrong place—over the oceans, for example, instead of over the land. This is producing a whole new set of complications. As ground water is being depleted in some areas, sea water is seeping in and mixing with the fresh water. Or the land is simply collapsing and sinking in.

Worldwide, three fourths of the available water supply is used for irrigation. Much of this water comes from underground reserves. The vast Ogallala aquifer, the main water source for the American Great Plains (called the "breadbasket of the world") is now severly depleted. Likewise the water table under the agriculturally critical San Joaquin Valley in California has been so lowered that the land has settled 30 feet in some places. As the water level drops it is becoming very expensive to run electric pumps to draw water out. Yet if agricultural output declines substantially in these areas, significant effects, nationally and internationally, occur.

What is needed is rain in the right places. But that is going to be increasingly rare in the years just ahead for reasons most people have not expected!

When Rains Fail

You may not know it, but the period of time God has allowed for human beings to struggle with their problems in their own way is about to come to a close. Human history is a record of rebelling against God's government and His ways. The God who created nature and all the water there is, is going to punish humanity, as a parent punishes a disobedient child, till we learn our lesson.

One of the ways He punishes nations is to shut off the water supplies. Listen to this warning: "Take heed lest . . . the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and he shut up the heavens, so that there be no rain, and the land yield no fruit, and you perish quickly . . . " (Deuteronomy 11:16-17, RSV).

To a rebellious and self-willed people, God declares: "The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke . . . and thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed" (Deuteronomy 28:20, 23-24).

If good water is scarce now in many areas, what will happen when God steps in and sends drought and dries up what moisture there is, till

The Modern Sewer System: Outdated and Illogical

One factor responsible for the disappearance of pure water is the dumping of sewage into fresh water supplies. This totally illogical practice is commented on in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* for November, 1975: "To a visitor from another planet it would seem incredible that human beings who are intelligent enough for space travel solve their problems of personal hygiene by putting their body wastes into the public drinking water and then spend billions in futile efforts to restore the water to its original condition."

Many are coming to the conclusion that the flush toilet, long considered one of the prime symbols of civilized progress, may turn out to be one of the most harmful devices inflicted on modern society. About 40 percent of all water piped into a home is used—or rather, wasted—by the flush toilet. The average person using one contaminates 13,000 gallons of fresh water a year to wash away 165 gallons of sewage.

But this wastage isn't the worst problem! Nor are the huge expenses involved in constructing and maintaining complex sewer lines and treatment plants.

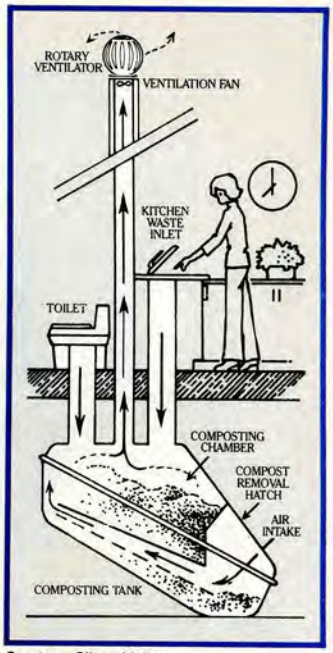
The most negative aspect is that significant amounts of effluent become part of the water supply of those who live downstream. At times plain raw sewage is just dumped into lakes and rivers. Or raw sewage can leak out of aging sewer lines and thus befoul surface and underground water.

Even when the sewage reaches treatment plants and is processed, unwanted by-products still pollute water supplies. In an effort to protect the next person who drinks the water, a process used in the United States for the last 70 years has been to add chlorine. While chlorination kills bacteria, there is considerable doubt that it has any effect on viruses such as infectious hepatitis or polio. Recent studies have indicated that the chlorine itself, added to the water used by 75 percent of Americans, interacts with organic pollutants in such a way as to contribute to the cause of cancer of the bladder, colon and rectum.

The Environmental Protection Agency wants cities to alter the way they use chlorine or to use a substitute disinfectant. The usual reply is that a change would not be financially possible.

Another financial headache for cities using treatment plants is what to do with all the sludge taken from sewer water. Some cities just flush it out to sea. Some offer it as fertilizer. However it is disposed of, its accumulation is a constant problem.

While an increasing number of researchers believe society took a wrong turn a century ago when it adopted the running water/flush toilet system, many assert there is nothing economically feasible we can do to change it now. And so, industrial nations are headed toward a real dilemma: they can't afford to give up the flush toilet now, yet the time is coming when water won't be available at an affordable price to flush it. Then what?



Courtesy Clivus Multrum

It's not that there aren't alternatives. There are increasing numbers of them on the market. The best systems are based on the sensible principle laid down in the Bible long ago, but ignored by society: Human waste ought to be carefully reintegrated, through microbial activity, into the ground (Deuteronomy 23:12-14), not dumped into the drinking water supply!

we come to our senses and at last submit to His ways that bring satisfaction, peace and prosperity.

Healing Waters!

When God sends Jesus Christ to set up His Kingdom over all nations, the world will have brought itself to chaos and ruin. But the policy of God's government will be to heal, rebuild and restore until the whole world is a paradise.

Think of it—no more shortages of water as nations learn to obey God. Rain will come when it should (Ezekiel 34:26) and in just the right amounts (Psalm 65:9-13). Where will be the need of complicated irrigation systems and huge dams with all of their drawbacks?

Vast deserts and desolate expanses will be inhabited as the results of divine rule over the earth. "I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water," God promises (Isaiah 41:18, RSV).

The world's water problems—in fact, all its problems—will at last be solved! □

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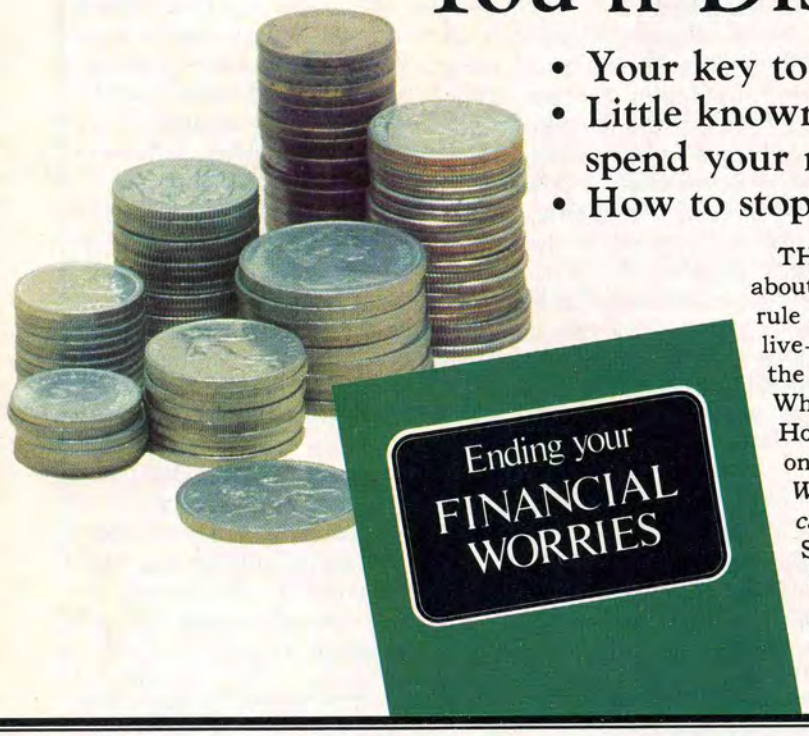

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