

# The PLAIN TRUTH

*A magazine of understanding*

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## PROPHESIED for NOW!

**The most important event for humanity in eighteen hundred years is occurring today as prophesied!**

**by Herbert W. Armstrong**

**T**HIS is a *terrible* world, today! God-defying Russia juggernauting on to rule the world—or destroy it! The hellish H-bomb is *here*! Cold war. Hot wars. Yes, *war*—and FEAR OF WAR that can wipe human life from the earth!

It's all **PROPHESIED!**

But **WHY?** Why does God *allow* such chaos? **WHY** did He foretell it?

All these tremendous world events are merely the climax of a *system* men have been allowed to build up on the earth—the "*kosmos*"—this present evil world. It is part of the working out of **GOD'S PURPOSE** here below! It is the **CRISIS** at the close of this age—*this world!*

Yet, unnoticed by the powers of this world, is occurring now a **FAR MORE IMPORTANT** event for the future of mankind than any of these political and military movements that fill front pages and newscasts. This, too, God has foretold! It is of *vital concern* to YOU!

### Most Important Event on Earth

The most important activity on earth today is *not* what the Kremlin is plotting or doing. It is *not* allied military preparedness nor the development of the terrifying H-bomb. It is *not* the Korean war nor the shadow-boxing side-show burlesque pretending to affect a truce. It is *not any* of these things being done by the **BIG POWERS** of THIS WORLD.

These world-shaking human events are *playing their part* in the unfolding of **GOD'S PLAN** for fulfilling HIS GREAT PURPOSE here below. But their part is

temporary. It will come, and go. It will soon be **ALL OVER**—and **GONE FOREVER!**

These fearful world events are the inevitable result of six thousand years of wrong living under human-devised government in defiance of the rule of God. God ordained that men should be allowed this six thousand years of full sway in the direction that has seemed **RIGHT** in human eyes, to demonstrate forever the awful suffering it would bring. The terrible lesson has been written in human anguish. It has now reached its climax—the **CRISIS AT THE CLOSE** of this age.

These events, which fill human minds, occupy human interest, will soon be past and relegated to the limbo of the lessons of ancient history.

A **FAR MORE IMPORTANT** activity has started on the earth, and today is progressing in ever-increasing momentum, now beginning to **SWEEP THE EARTH!**

### God's Intervention

God has not intervened in the affairs of men during these six thousand years, except imperceptibly, to the world, on certain occasions. Yet in His way and His times, God has intervened. God sent the flood to destroy a corruption that would have destroyed humanity. God saved Noah and his family; He called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; He sent plagues to teach the Egyptians a lesson and release the children of Israel; He set up His material government and church in Israel and allowed that nation to re-

ject them; He sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world **WITH HIS MESSAGE FOR MANKIND**—the **GOOD NEWS** of the **KINGDOM OF GOD**—the greatest single event in world history, which went unnoticed by the powers and leaders of this world.

Caesar on his throne took *no notice* of Jesus Christ or His **MESSAGE FROM GOD FOR MANKIND**. The world in general of that day knew nothing of Jesus. The "authoritative" historians of this world would have taken *no notice* of Jesus Christ whatsoever, had *not* pagan fifth-columnists infiltrated inside the fellowship of Jesus' followers, and taken over what they called the "Christian Church," substituting counterfeit doctrines and practices, and putting the **CHRISTIAN** label on the world-popular paganism, falsely claiming Jesus Christ as the founder of their apostate religion!

Jesus proclaimed **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**—the only hope of doomed humanity—but the world covered it up with their pagan superstitions, which have *masqueraded* as "Christianity," deceiving the entire world, making all nations spiritually **DRUNK** on these counterfeit teachings, until the world's spiritual eyes are bleary.

### God's Final Intervention

It was part of God's purpose to allow this **Great Delusion**. This world must learn, once for all eternity, **HOW** wrong are its ways, its thoughts, its teachings.

But now, once in the **END** of this age,

just before God takes all power and authority and rule away from mortal man forever, God's last and final intervention in the affairs of THIS WORLD *is occurring before your very eyes!*

The disciples had come to Jesus privately to ask Him about the future.

He opened His mouth and gave them the MOST IMPORTANT PROPHECY of His entire ministry on earth.

They had asked Him about the terrible events of this CRISIS AT THE CLOSE of this Age, and of HIS COMING, and of THE END OF THIS WORLD.

And what did He foretell?

1) Apostacy, false teaching, accepting Him, proclaiming Him as Christ and Saviour, yet deceiving the world. How? As Jude says, by turning GRACE into LICENSE.

2) Wars and rumors of wars, finally climaxing in a series of WORLD WARS, of which we have had the first two.

3) Famines,

4) Pestilences, and earthquakes.

5) THE GREAT TRIBULATION—which, when coupled with the many other prophecies, means the invasion and captivity of the United States, Britain, and the democratic nations, their terrible enslavement, and *the persecution and martyrdom* of those who hold true to the Word of God and His Commandments except for those who have watched and prayed enough to be accounted worthy to escape and come under God's divine protection.

6) The signs in the heavens, immediately followed by

7) The DAY OF THE LORD — the PLAGUES of God poured out on a sinning world in THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST AT HIS SECOND COMING.

However, inserted in His words regarding the Great Tribulation, Jesus said that "ere this" (Moffatt translation, Mark 13:10)—that is, just before the Great Tribulation—"this GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached (Mark, *published*) in all the world for a witness unto ALL NATIONS; and then shall the END come." (Matt. 24:14).

God's *last* and FINAL intervention in the affairs of men in this world—prior to His taking authority and rule completely out of human hands—is the PROCLAIMING OF THE SAME GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S KINGDOM which God sent, 1900 years ago, by JESUS CHRIST.

The world *rejected* and CRUCIFIED God's Messenger who brought that Message to the world—the world's ONLY HOPE! The world buried the Message under an avalanche of pagan superstition and deception, which have masqueraded as "Christianity."

TODAY GOD ONCE MORE IS HAVING THAT SAME MESSAGE PROCLAIMED TO THE WORLD!

### Most Important Work on Earth

Our human minds cannot fully comprehend the overwhelming significance. But God has called US—given US—you readers—you co-workers—the unprecedented privilege of being used as His servants—His instruments—in sending out HIS MESSAGE to all the world!

Jesus said, as recorded by Matthew, it should be "*preached*." He also said, according to Mark's account, it shall be "*published*"—in print!

How significant that in these last days God has seen to it that the mass-reaching power of RADIO and the PRINTING PRESS is at our disposal!

Today, by these tremendous powers, we can reach MILLIONS of people with God's Message where only hundreds could be reached 1900 years ago!

THIS IS GOD'S DOING!

Twenty years ago, I began preaching *this Message*—the BIBLE TRUTH—in a little country school-house eight miles west of Eugene, Oregon. A man said to me, "Mr. Armstrong, you won't get anywhere preaching the PLAIN TRUTH of the Bible like you're doing. The people won't support it, and it takes money to keep going." I replied that I had renounced all salary from men, had been called of God, was working for HIM as His minister, and I would TRUST GOD to supply the need. The man smilingly shook his head in sympathy. True, my family didn't have enough to eat at the time, but God did begin to supply that and every other need.

The owner of the local radio station, smallest in the world, invited me to start a half-hour radio program, at the low cost of \$2.50 per week. Friends pledged \$1.25 per week. I trusted God in faith for the other \$1.25 per week. We paid in advance. One day, an hour before broadcast time, we lacked the money to go on the air. A man I hardly knew rode up to our front door on a motorcycle and handed me the money. There have been many such incidents thru the years, as this greatest work on earth, gradually and continually growing—ever growing larger and more powerful, has swept on to its present scope and power.

After a year or two we were able to add another small 100-watt station in Portland, Oregon. In another year, a very small station in Seattle. Then a larger station in Portland, then a Spokane station, then a larger station in Seattle and a still more powerful station in Portland.

In nine years this work of proclaiming THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM multiplied in size, power and scope THIRTY TIMES larger than at the end of the first year. After nine more years it had multiplied thirty times the size of its ninth

year. Now, in two more years, it is three times larger than two years ago and still growing in multiplied acceleration!

By 1942 we went on the air in Los Angeles over a strong Hollywood station. Later that year we were heard Coast to Coast over super-power (50,000-watt) WHO, Des Moines. Six months later the program went on 50,000-watt WOAI, San Antonio, and two years later on 150,000-watt XELO. In another year or two XEG had become the most listened-to super-power station in North America, and the program went on that station and XELO EVERY NIGHT, seven nights a week. Later, such great stations as XERF, XERB, WAIT Chicago, and others were added, until many MILLIONS in every state in the Union and most of the provinces of Canada and all Mexico were hearing THE GOSPEL JESUS PROCLAIMED.

### And NOW—ALL EUROPE!

And now at last, in this fateful year 1953, "The WORLD TOMORROW"—which is modern language for THE KINGDOM OF GOD—is heard on the most powerful station in all Europe—the giant, super-power 150,000 watt RADIO LUXEMBOURG.

When Mrs. Armstrong and I were in Britain and Europe in 1947, I investigated every opportunity available for carrying THIS GOSPEL quickly, powerfully, to ALL THE OLD WORLD. There simply was no way open. The only avenue I could find open was to advertise in WANT-AD columns of British newspapers! It seemed God had forsaken us! I knew by then He had called us to preach and publish HIS MESSAGE to the world.

But HOW?

All the radio stations were government-owned, and closed to us. I knew God would open, and show us the way—though it was not yet apparent to us.

Meanwhile, the great RADIO LUXEMBOURG was opened, with the finest German Telefunken equipment, which brings the station's programs in over European radio sets FAR more clearly than our American listeners can hear the program.

At first there was no time available. Then a time opened to us. It is not the best time—it is the POOREST time of the week. I did not know this until we had been on the air over there some weeks. But we are now on a band broadcasting only French-language programs (except for ours), and in the middle of Thursday afternoons (4:15 to 5:45 P.M. until October 1st, when it is to be moved to one hour earlier).

However, the important thing is that WE ARE ON THE STATION. As soon as

(Please continue on page 4)



# STARTING AROUND THE WORLD

Over a number of the most powerful radio stations on earth the *same* Gospel Jesus preached is now going with radio's LOUD VOICE to all North America, and to all Europe and the British Isles. Letters from listeners are coming in from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and Italy, besides every

state in the Union, Mexico, and most provinces of Canada. The END of this world shall come *when* this greatest work on earth has completely spanned the globe—reaching the Southern Hemisphere, the Middle-East, and all Asia. Yes, TIME *races on!* THIS is the world event prophesied for *now!* There's no time to lose!

*The*  
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of any change in your address. IMPORTANT!

## Prophesied for Now

*(Continued from page 2)*

better time opens, we shall be moved to an hour giving many times more listeners, and also time for French and German-language broadcasts by Richard D. "Dick" Armstrong and Herman Hoeh.

Dick Armstrong is now in London, making all preparations for the personal ministry to Britain, France, and all Europe, following up the broadcast.

### Starting AROUND THE WORLD

God always starts things the smallest possible way thru human agencies. But like the grain of mustard seed, GOD'S WORK ALWAYS GROWS INTO THE LARGEST. Already radio time is being offered to us on other super-power stations reaching North Africa, South Africa, the Middle-East, India, the Far East and all China, Australia, and all South America.

WHEN shall the END of this world come?

It shall come WHEN "this Gospel of the Kingdom" has gone around the world, as a WITNESS unto ALL NATIONS! It is ON THE MARCH, *around the world!*

THIS IS PROPHESED! This is the VERY WORK OF GOD! This is the MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY ON EARTH TODAY!

This work of God will continue long after the Kremlin has decayed in ruins and been forgotten. It will continue long after all WAR preparations have ceased, and when "they beat their swords into plow-shares, and men shall learn war NO MORE."

This is the work that is *changing men's lives* by the thousands! It is PREPARING THE WAY for the KINGDOM OF GOD! It is the VERY world event prophesied for NOW!

# How to PREVENT Sin

by Herbert W. Armstrong

DO YOU realize that if it is wrong to do a certain thing, it is wrong to harbour THOUGHTS of that thing in your mind?

"All have sinned," says the Scripture.

What *is* sin, anyway?

Satan ought to know—and he is the invisible influence who sways the course of this world. Hollywood is considered by many as the world's mecca of sin. On the newsstands in Hollywood may be found a very worldly booklet, written in a very light, "breezy," and satirical vein, titled "How to Sin in Hollywood." It gives a very worldly definition of sin—perhaps the definition of the very devil who devotes his time to enticing people into it. The definition is expressive, and not far from the truth. Here it is: "Sin is *thinking thoughts* you ought not to be thinking about things you ought not to be doing while you are *thinking* that kind of *thoughts*."

God's definition is: "Sin is the transgression of the law." (1 John 3:4). The law of "LOVE," as defined by the Ten Commandments. Jesus said: "That which cometh *out* of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart proceed *evil thoughts*, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness (violations of the law—the Ten Commandments)". (Mark 7:20-22).

"ALL have sinned," says the Scripture. And what man—especially what Christian, is there who has not time and again experienced the struggle against sin described by the Apostle Paul? "What I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that I do . . . For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do." Who is there who has not LOST that struggle, perhaps many times?

Of course no man, of himself, can live above sin. "With men it *is* impossible," said Jesus, "but with God all things are possible." And Paul continues (Romans 8) to show that the only DELIVERANCE from this "body of death" is thru Jesus Christ, and the indwelling power of God's Holy Spirit—"that the RIGHTEOUSNESS of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit . . . for as many as *are led by* the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Yes, but we have OUR part in it, too. And it all centers in the MIND.

REPENTANCE of sin means, literally, to *change* one's *mind* in respect to sin. If we repent, and accept Jesus Christ as Saviour, the promise is we SHALL receive

the gift of the Holy Spirit . . . "and be renewed in the Spirit of *your mind*" (Eph. 4:23)—the presence of the Holy Spirit is the RENEWING of *the mind*.

How does sin actually happen? "Every man is *tempted*, when he is drawn away of his own lust (desire), and enticed. Then when lust (the desire IN THE MIND) hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1:14-15).

The TEMPTATION is in the *mind*. When you *think* about the thing that tempts you—let your mind dwell on it—turn it over in your mind—whether it be a desire to GO someplace, to DO something, or to HAVE something you know is wrong—that *thinking about it* finally conceives—leads to *action*—and breeds SIN. You finally DO the thing you kept thinking about, wanting to do. If you keep thinking about it, after a while you'll be UNABLE to resist it. That's why you've lost so many of these struggles against sin—you kept *thinking* about it, desiring it, wanting it.

The way to prevent sin is to let God's Spirit fill the mind. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col. 3:2).

The way to put a thing OUT of the mind is to put an *opposite* thought IN the mind. So often I have noticed parents of babies strive so hard to "shush" up the baby when it is crying in church. There's something in the baby's mind that is causing its crying or fretting. Just saying "Shush!" or commanding the baby to stop fussing doesn't usually get very good results. We have raised four children, and long ago I learned the trick of quieting the baby by *getting its mind on something else*. Instead of commanding it to stop crying, attract its attention with some new object—get it interested in playing with that object (I have often used my fountain pen with excellent results)—and before you know it the child will forget all about its crying.

Try using this same method on yourself. But instead of material or worldly things, a mature person should use self-discipline and set his mind on spiritual things. Open your Bible. Put the study of some *spiritual* subject in your mind. Next time you are tempted, try it. Pray over it. Ask God to help you. See how rapidly you begin to win the victory over temptation and sin, and how marvelous will be your spiritual and CHARACTER growth.

# What are the TIMES of the GENTILES?

**Here is an amazing prophecy, which few understand, yet which explains the real meaning behind Russia's struggle for world dominion. It explains what's going to happen to our nation IN THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS!**

**by Herman L. Hoeh**

ONE THIRD of the world is in slavery under Communist tyranny. Abject poverty engulfs a large portion of the rest of the world. There is something terribly wrong with the Gentile nations!

Why?

The answer to this terrible condition is revealed in an amazing prophecy for our times. It is the "Times of the Gentiles."

## Jesus' Amazing Prophecy

Let's notice Jesus' prophecy in Luke 21:24.

When speaking of the Jews, Jesus told his disciples that "they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations, and Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles until the *Times of the Gentiles* be fulfilled."

Notice that this prophecy is *not* speaking of a period of peace, but of *war*. It is a time when the Gentiles are conquering and destroying, when they are ruling themselves contrary to the way of God who is Creator and RULER.

Remember that one of the keys to understanding this prophecy and all prophecy is DUALITY. There is always a fore-runner which is a type of ANOTHER FINAL GREAT FULFILLMENT. Jesus was speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Roman legions as a type of *another terrible world war* soon to surge through our United States. Even Palestine and Jerusalem will again be trodden down by Gentile armies until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Exactly what did Jesus mean by the times of the Gentiles?

When did they begin? How long will they last? When do they end?

## Common Teachings in Error

It is the common assumption that the times of the Gentiles are a period of blessing on the nations. It is argued that since God took away *the blessing* of being great and dominant nations

from Israel and Judah and since the Gentiles for centuries have been dominant nations, that human rule is a *blessing* bestowed upon the Gentiles.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

Then again, many claim that the times of the Gentiles are synonymous with the times of Judah's punishment, that the Gentile times have already ended—some say in 1914, others say in 1917 or 1936. Some even think that it might end this year. But all these *supposed* dates for the ending of the times of the Gentiles are mere guesses!

The truth is that almost no one really knows what the times of the Gentiles are. And yet without an understanding of the meaning of this prophetic period, you can *not* grasp the real significance of present day world-shaking events or understand what's going to happen in the next twenty-five years. Let's not assume, let's *study the Bible itself* to see what these times really are.

## Times of Israel's Punishment a Key to Understanding

Israel was promised great national blessings, including national greatness *if* they would obey God. But God also promised that if they obstinately refused to obey Him, if they refused to follow His laws and let Him rule their lives, then He would punish them for a period called *seven times*. (Lev. 26).

The Bible itself defines this period of seven times for us. If you turn to Revelation the twelfth chapter, and compare verses 6 and 14 you will see that the word *time* in prophecy simply means a *year*; hence seven times would be seven years or 2520 days.

Now let's notice another key. In Numbers 14:34, God said Israel would bear their iniquities in the wilderness after the number of days they searched the land of Canaan, forty days, *each day for a year*.

Then seven times or 2520 prophetic days would equal 2520 literal years! This period of seven times or 2520

years punishment did come upon Israel because they went their own ways and would not submit to the *rule of God*. Israel went into captivity about 721 B.C. and did not become a great people again until their times of punishment ceased about 1800 A. D. At that time the descendants of the ancient House of Israel—America and Britain and the democratic peoples of the world—began to rise to such wealth and power as the world has never enjoyed before—all because of the promises made to Abraham.

Also Palestine, after a punishment against the House of Judah, that began about 604 B. C., was brought back from the Gentile Turks in 1917—exactly 2520 years later, when it came under the control of Great Britain, and finally the Jews.

The seven times of Israel's *punishment* was a period of great privation and suffering, of slavery and war because they would not submit their wills and their ways to God, because they would not allow Him to rule their lives by His perfect laws which could have brought them peace and prosperity and dominion.

## The Original Prophecy Found in Daniel

Now that we understand the seven times punishment on Israel, let's understand the meaning of the times of the Gentiles.

The original prophecy to which Jesus had reference is found in the fourth chapter of Daniel. Jesus understood that this prophetic vision of the great tree had reference to the times of the Gentiles as well as to Nebuchadnezzar's literal punishment.

Notice Daniel 4:17. This striking vision was not only to teach Nebuchadnezzar that God rules, but it is also "to the intent that THE LIVING may know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the basest of men."

So the Bible itself interprets this

prophecy to have reference not only to the king of Babylon in that day, but also to teach *the living—yes, all of the nations today—that God is Supreme Ruler.*

Now notice verses 20 and 22 of Daniel 4. The great tree represented the king. And what was to happen to him?

"Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given him; and let seven times pass over him" (verse 16).

The king was to lose his understanding—to be cursed with insanity—he was to act and think like a wild ravenous beast, *until* he learned that the Creator rules over the affairs of men, till he learned that the only way to peace and security is through *submission to the rule and laws* of God instead of yielding to lust and human pride.

But the world and its leaders have not yet learned this needed lesson. The nations today still devour one another in war like wild beasts as they struggle to gain world conquest.

#### The King Only a Type

Most of the misunderstanding about this important prophecy results from not realizing that the seven literal times or years that passed over King Nebuchadnezzar were *a type* of the seven prophetic times of punishment upon the Gentiles.

Now turn to Daniel 2, verses 38 and 39 where this is clearly explained. The king saw a great image composed of different metals and clay. The head of this image represented *the kingdom of Babylon.* Daniel tells king Nebuchadnezzar, "*Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom.*"

The divisions of the great image represented various kingdoms of the Babylonish system. Yet Daniel designated the first *kingdom* by its supreme dictatorial *king* Nebuchadnezzar. The *king*, then, was a type of the kingdom of Babylon, because he had absolute power. Also by comparing Daniel 7:17, 23 you will see that *king and kingdom are used synonymously.*

Remember that one of the punishments on the king was that his heart should be changed "from man's, and let a beast's heart be given him."

Have you ever noticed that Babylon, after it ceased conquering and when God began to deal with its leaders, *was also given the heart of a man?*

Read Daniel 7:4. It stood "upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it."

Now let's notice what happened. King Nebuchadnezzar had the *heart of a man* but because of his sins he was afterward punished seven literal years. The ancient Chaldean kingdom had

*the heart of a man*—it ceased to attack, conquer and destroy other nations—but because Babylon continued to sin and live contrary to God's ways *it was punished for seven prophetic years or 2520 literal years.*

Notice how the type is being fulfilled in the antitype. King Nebuchadnezzar because of his stubborn refusal to submit to the rule of God—the only way that would have brought him peace of mind and satisfaction was punished seven years by having his mind changed to that of a beast—*until* he learned that God ruled. He was *dethroned* and lived among the wild beasts.

In like manner, the Chaldean Empire, of which he was a type, was defeated and *its dominion was taken from it.* But just as Nebuchadnezzar continued to live like a wild beast, so the *Babylonish system* has continued with leaders having the minds of wild beasts. The Persians, Greeks, Romans—Europeans even to the days of Hitler and Mussolini—have all been cursed with leaders who think and act like wild animals, *leaders who glory in war and conquest.*

Not one of the beasts, which followed

the Chaldean Empire as described in Daniel 7, was given a man's heart. They all were like ferocious wild animals—conquering, pillaging, destroying one another by intrigue, alliances and war.

Nebuchadnezzar was forced to live among the wild beasts *just as the successor nations of the Babylonish system have had to fight and struggle constantly against other Gentile nations* who are also cursed with the same mind—the same desires to conquer and rule the world. That is why the Babylonish system under Hitler and Mussolini struggled against Russia. And that is why Russia today is plotting to rule the world by intrigue and stealth and lying and deception. The leaders of Russia think and act like cunning wild beasts.

The ancient Chaldean Empire would not submit to God's rule and ways but wanted to rule its own way—the *greatest curse* that could happen to any nation. As a punishment God has allowed even to this very day the Gentile nations to *rule themselves* until they learn that only His ways are right and that He rules in the kingdoms of men. Just as Nebuchadnezzar finally regained his throne and acknowledged God's authority, so the Gentile nations when their punishment is over, will come up to the kingdom of God and ask to learn of his ways (Micah 4:1-3) so that they also may become begotten and finally born into His kingdom as members of the ruling family of God.

What GOOD NEWS there is ahead!

#### Amazing Prophecy for Today!

Notice how present day events are explained by this prophecy.

All nations have been made drunk with the false teachings of the Babylonish system that has gripped this world for thousands of years until this world has become *so confused and divided* that people don't know which way to turn (Rev. 18:3).

Russia is seeking to conquer and rule the world. Millions in Asia are turning to communism as their last desperate hope. In our own land more people than ever before are becoming interested in religion—but they don't know which is the true church in this Babylon of sects and divisions.

This terrible predicament that confronts the nations today, *as well as what is SOON going to happen*, is made clear in this prophecy of the times of the Gentiles.

#### When Did the Times of the Gentiles Begin?

The seven times of the Gentiles are a curse upon them just as the seven times (Please continue on page 13)

## RADIO LOG

### "The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of The WORLD TOMORROW!

TO ALL OF EUROPE:  
RADIO LUXEMBOURG—4:15 P.M.  
—Thursdays Luxembourg time.

Sundays Only During Summer  
TO THE NATION & CANADA:  
XERF—1570 on dial (extreme top of dial) Sundays, 7:15 P.M. Central Standard time.  
XEG—1050 on dial, Sundays, 8:30 P.M. Central Standard time.  
XELO—800 on dial, Sundays, 9:00 P.M. Central Standard time. (8:00 Mountain Standard time.)

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST:  
XERB—50,000 watts—1090 on dial —7:00 P.M. Sundays.  
XEDM—1580 on dial—6:30 P.M. Sundays.  
KBLA—Burbank—1490 k.c.—9:30 A.M., Sundays.  
KXL—Portland—10,000 watts. 750 on dial—2:30 P.M., Sundays.  
KPDQ—Portland—800 on dial—8:30 A.M., Sundays.  
KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—10:30 P.M. Sundays.  
KVSM—San Francisco—1050 on dial —4:00 P.M. Sundays.

### OTHER STATIONS

WAIT—Chicago—820 on dial—1:00 P.M. Sundays.  
KMAC—San Antonio—630 on dial —7:00 P.M. Sundays.

# The Days of Creation

**Were the days of creation week "ages"? Why do people insist that God could not set the world in order, create life forms in six literal days?**

**by Kenneth C. Herrmann**

FOR OVER 3000 years men of God have believed the literal meaning of the account of creation recorded in Genesis 1 and 2. To them the Scripture said that in six days, 24 hour days as we know them, God created the heavens and the earth and rested the seventh day.

Holy men of old rested on the Sabbath day believing that it had its beginning as the final day of that creation week that it was a memorial of creation. For 3000 years righteous men have dared to take God's inspired record at face value.

No record is found of "ages" rather than days of creation in the ancient history of the Hebrews or of early Christians. Why has this doubt entered Christian minds today? Why do men in this "enlightened age" reject the unmistakable meaning of the Word of God?

## How the Idea of "Ages" Began

Since the days of Darwin a controversy has raged between the Bible proponents and atheists. The theory of evolution, a theory which remains unproven even today—and always will—became the entering wedge to separate the Bible scholars from their trust in the truth of the Scriptures.

The atheist looked to the evidence on hand: Fossils of varying types in the earth, evidence of variation among living organisms; and with his mind stubbornly set that he would not believe what could not be demonstrated before his eyes, he preached the idea to the world that man had evolved from lifeless matter over a period of millions of years—that the Scriptural account of creation was gross superstition.

With few exceptions, religious circles denounced evolution with equal vigor. But they refused even to look at the facts the atheist presented, much less to question his faulty reasoning.

Between the two extremes a third group sprang up, accepting the facts of the atheist and swallowing his reasoning without question. Reverencing the Bible and not willing to give it up, yet *thinking that perhaps it didn't mean quite what it said*, this group concluded that perhaps Moses misunderstood, perhaps the record had become confused or altered. Evolution *looked* so plausible,

evolutionists' arguments so sincere and the Bible so old and uncertain in meaning, so difficult to understand. "Ages" of creation became the cry of the modernists.

That is the history of the modernist teaching in regard to creation week. An attempt to believe contrary to Scripture and yet believe the "easier" portions of the Scripture.

What proof is there that God created the present order of things on this earth in six literal days? What difference does it make whether one believes in "ages" of creation or literal days of creation? Let's question the record and set aside doubts for once and for all time.

## What the Scriptural Record Really Says

Distorted interpretations of the creation record have resulted mainly from two causes: (1) *a desire to read a false meaning into the Word of God*, and (2) *a pitiful ignorance of the account itself*.

A brief review of the account of creation is certainly in order here. Open your Bible and study the account thoroughly as you read further in this article and after reading it.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"—this tells the original creation, The Second verse of Genesis 1 refers to a destruction which came upon the earth following the sin and rebellion of Satan and the angels who followed him. A thorough explanation of this with scriptural proof will appear in a later article. But let's continue with the inspired account.

The renewing of our earth in a state of order followed in six days. Darkness was upon the face of the ocean. At dawn the first day, light penetrated the dense water laden clouds. As it grew warmer the clouds rose the second day and an expanse or heaven was formed, the one in which the birds fly. Thus the waters on the earth were separated from the water laden clouds above. The ocean receded, dry land appeared and grass and herbs were planted the third day. A mist watered them and as the fourth day progressed the sun became visible thru the thinning clouds. Toward evening the moon and stars appeared.

Notice how agreeable with the laws

of science this is. Birds and sea life were created the fifth day, the land animals with Adam and Eve the sixth, and a day of rest and worship for the man the seventh. Thus in one week order was restored to the earth.

But was it a literal week? Carefully notice that no close is mentioned to the seventh day. Check this point in Genesis 2:1-3. All the other days were "an evening and a morning" but this expression does not follow the seventh day. Why?

Now if, as some teach, the seventh day hasn't ended yet, it would already be almost 6000 years long. And if it were that long couldn't the first six days be similar periods.

## The Seventh Day Did End!

Here's proof not from the imagination of men but from God's Word *that the seventh day did end!*

Genesis 2:2 "He (God) *rested* on the seventh day from all His work." Not "*is resting*" from all His work!

Exodus 20:11 "The Lord . . . *rested* the seventh day."

Again Genesis 2:3 "In it (the seventh day) He *had rested*. He blessed the Sabbath AFTER He *had rested* on it.

Hebrews 4:4 "God *did rest* the seventh day from all His works." Not "*is resting*!"

The seventh day of creation is PAST for on it God rested. No Scripture exists saying He *is resting* on that seventh day!

Double proof of this fact is found in the scriptures telling of the WORK God has done *since* that day of rest. John 5:17 "My father WORKETH hitherto (even now), and I work."

Jeremiah 50:25 "This is the WORK of the Lord God of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans."

Exodus 32:16 "The tables were the WORK of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables."

Joshua 24:31 Joshua, and . . . the elders . . . which had known all the WORKS of the Lord, that He had done for Israel.

Yet in the face of God's word, men will believe "days" to be "ages" and that God is now resting and being refreshed. Thus one certain sect teaches, "Meas-

ured by the length of the 'seventh day,' on which God *desists* from work and *is refreshed*, each of those days was 7000 years long." From *Let God be True*, second edition, page 168.

Reread the preceding scriptures: The 24 hour day upon which God rested *had passed* and has been followed by nearly 6000 years in which God has worked. Then compare the above quote with Exodus 31:17, "In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he *rested* and *was refreshed*." Not *is* (being) refreshed!

Following that rest, God blessed the seventh day and set it apart for holy use. *The first week, creation week, had ended.*

### The Witness of Nature

In the time of Moses the witness of two *men* was accepted as being the truth. Many "witnesses" have been given from *the Word of God* that these creation days were literal days and there is yet more proof. God leaves no room for doubt in the minds of those who diligently study his word.

Consider the plants which were created on the third day. The sun did not appear until the next day. *If these "days" were each 7000 years long then these plants would have had to survive 7000 years without sunshine.* A few might possibly survive such an ordeal but the majority of plants require direct sunshine. Those who believe the days to have been ages which were millions of years long are faced with an even greater absurdity.

Or consider this, Plants were made the third day, insects on the sixth. How did certain specialized plants continue to exist through ages without their insect partners? The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* states that two groups of insects which include *bees, wasps, butterflies and moths could not have existed without the honey or nectar bearing plants, NOR COULD THESE PLANTS HAVE EXISTED WITHOUT THE INSECTS.* Without insects to pollinize them they could not bear seed.

The types of plants which require insects for pollinization are those with brightly colored flowers, having an odor to attract insects and containing nectar to provide them with food. They include such common plants as the maple tree, the strawberry, the blackberry, the honeysuckle, and the poppy. *The Bible states that these plants were made on the third day and that the insects were not made until three days later. Those who claim creation days were each 7000 years long are faced with the conclusion that these original plants must have had to live 21,000 years before they*

*could produce seed—an utter impossibility!*

People find it easier to swallow a camel than to believe the plain simple statement of scripture: "In six days God made heaven and earth." You will either have to accept God's account of creation as being true or lose your faith and trust that His Word is dependable. Evolution will not mix with the Scripture any more than iron will with clay. Ages and evolution must go!

### What Is the Meaning of "Day"?

The word "day" in the Bible is often used to represent an indefinite period of time, in fact the Hebrew word, *Yom*, translated day is occasionally translated "time." *But in EVERY CASE where the numerals first, second, third, etc. occur, the word day is obviously and clearly referring to a natural 24 hour day as we know it.*

The Scripture speaks of the day of vengeance, the day of adversity the day of temptation, just as we do today, meaning a time or season. Yet when it speaks of the fourteenth day of the month (Lev. 23), the seven days of Unleavened Bread or the fifty days until Pentecost, *the word day can mean only a 24 hour period.*

Symbolically a day may represent a

## The TABERNACLE In BUILDING

**I**N THESE last days, the Gospel Jesus preached is not only going out into all the world as a witness to ALL NATIONS in great power—but also the true WORSHIP of God, in the manner, and *at the times* God commanded, is being restored—all for the first time in many centuries!

More than four hundred people came to this partially built new Tabernacle for the Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread, March 29th thru April 6th. A little over one hundred remained for the eight days.

We had a roof over us—without the final roof covering—and a solid concrete floor under us—but that was about all. The building was not much more than barely started. Only about 40% of the floor space of the ultimate building had even been started. But everyone who came was *thrilled!* They were astonished at the size and height of the center portion of the main auditorium. It is only about half as wide as it will be, yet we put 600 chairs in it.

Work is progressing, and it is hoped that we may have the entire Tabernacle in readiness for the Feast of Tabernacles, September 23rd thru October 1st.

year (Ezek. 4:6) or a thousand years (II Peter 3:8) but symbolic interpretations may not be applied in all cases. The three days Christ was in the grave were not 3 years or 3000 years. Neither would any symbolic interpretation fit in the first chapters of Genesis where we have proven from nature that they must have been natural days of twenty four hours.

Another Bible meaning of the word day as a 12 hour period is also in common usage today. When it speaks of the three days and three nights Jonah was in the great fish's belly or the three days and three nights Christ was in His grave, the word day refers to the daylight part of the 24 hour period. This "day" is by Christ's own definition 12 hours. "Are there not 12 hours in the day?" John 11:9.

The Scripture used by many as an excuse to believe the days of creation were ages really suggests no such meaning. It is Gen. 2:4 which refers to the time of creation, "In the *day* that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, and every plant . . . and every herb." Lacking a numeral before, it can refer to a longer period of time than 24 hours and it does! This "day" refers to the first six days of creation week.

It takes a great deal of imagination to use this as a proof that a day means an age or even 7000 years.

### The Obvious Meaning

Can the word day mean 24 hours in one part of a sentence and an age in another part. It would have to if one were to believe in "ages" of creation! Exodus 20:9-11 "Six *days* shalt thou labour and do all thy work: but the seventh *day* is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; . . . for in six *days* the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh *day*: wherefor the Lord Blessed the *Sabbath day*, and hallowed it."

The word day occurs five times in this one sentence. Can you believe that in the third and fourth occurrences it means an age while in the other three it means a day? *Had God meant an age wouldn't He have used the Hebrew word dor to mean age as in Job 8:8, "Enquire, I pray of thee, of the former age?"*

In each of these five occurrences in Exodus 20 God is obviously speaking of the same unit of time, a 24 hour day. And as the word "day" means a twenty four hour period here *it has to mean the same in Genesis!*

As a final proof that the days of creation were literal days, reread Genesis 1:3-5, 14-19 with special attention on the words evening and morning, night  
(Please continue on page 13)

# Man's Greatest Battle

**Here is the gripping inside story of a struggle YOU are engaged in—perhaps without realizing it. The outcome will affect your very life!**

**by Rod Meredith**

**M**ANKIND is now engaged in a momentous struggle, the *results* of which may well prove to be the *total destruction of human life from this planet!*

But *these are not my words*. In one form or another, this startling fact has been proclaimed by the leading military and political personages of our day.

Yes, this colossal struggle is widely recognized, but it is **NOT UNDERSTOOD**.

Almost no one understands the real **CAUSE** of this chaotic international situation and of the *individual wretchedness* of so many millions of human beings.

Why don't our statesmen have a definite answer to the basic cause of world problems?

## Answer Is No Secret

The basic answer to these questions—in *principle*—is apparently understood by a few of our greatest statesmen. **BUT** they do *not* possess the knowledge of *how to apply* that basic clue to obtain the solution of this world's problems.

Let us carefully examine the words of two of the greatest soldier-statesmen of our time.

In his inaugural address, President Dwight D. Eisenhower states, "In the swift rush of great events, we find ourselves groping to know the full sense and meaning of the times in which we live . . . How far have we come in man's long pilgrimage from darkness toward light? Are we nearing the light—a day of freedom and of peace for all mankind? Or are the shadows of another night closing in upon us? . . . Science seems ready to confer upon us, as its final gift, *the power to erase human life from this planet.*"

Yes, our president realizes that *man may soon destroy himself*. Then, after setting forth the nine principles which were to govern our international relations, he stated a truth which—*if properly applied*—would be a big step toward the solution, not only of our own problems, but those of the entire world.

He said, "For this truth must be clear before us: Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must *first* come to pass in the **HEART** of America."

## Christ's Teaching

In an even more effective manner, Jesus Christ proclaimed *this same truth*: "Or how wilt thou say to thy brother,

Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, *first cast out the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye*" (Mat. 7:4-5).

America needs to **REPENT** and **CLEAN UP** here at home!

All available statistics show that this "Christian" land of ours is literally infested with graft, greed, crime, and corruption of every description. *All is not well!*

Could it be that Almighty God is purposely letting us learn by *experience* that *our individual and national ways are wrong?*

What is the "fruit," the *product*, the *result*, if you please, of our national *way of life?*

Better than any other group, the *youth* of the nation reflects the *results* of our society.

## What Are the Facts?

Here are recent facts about our youth from J. Edgar Hoover, head of the F.B.I. He states: "Crime is on the march in America. Day after day, year after year, the appalling tide of criminality continues to *rise* . . . And young America still makes its alarming contribution to the sum . . . During 1950 more persons 21 years of age were arrested and fingerprinted *than in any other age group.*"

Let's face it! The *results* of our society are **EVIL**. As Mr. Hoover said, every day we are not getting better—but *worse!*

*Who* is to blame for this national decadence and the growing criminality of our youth?

## MacArthur's Answer

God Almighty lays the principal blame for our national sins squarely on *one certain class* of people. But before we examine the true Bible revelation on this subject, let us refer to a unique and striking statement made by General Douglas MacArthur in regard to the chaotic *international* situation.

When he was relieved of his command and ordered to return to this country by President Truman, General MacArthur made a historic address before the assembled Congress of the United States. In that dramatic speech, he made some pointed statements which revealed the depth of his understanding.

He said, "I know war as few other

men now living know it, and nothing to me—and nothing to me is more revolting . . . Men since the beginning of time have sought peace . . . Military alliances, balances of power, Leagues of Nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. *The utter destructiveness of war now blocks this alternative.* **WE HAVE HAD OUR LAST CHANCE.** If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, our *Armageddon will be at our door.* *The problem basically is THEOLOGICAL and involves a spirit of iridescence and IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN CHARACTER* that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature and all the material and cultural developments of the past 2000 years.

"It must be *of the spirit* if we are to save the flesh."

## The Bible Agrees

Let us scrutinize two of these remarkable statements.

Although he is one of the greatest and most successful generals of our time, MacArthur believes that—in war—*we have had our last chance!*

This agrees *exactly* with the sure word of prophecy contained in *your Bible!* In these last days God is going to punish His people Israel—Britain and America—by allowing us to be *conquered* and taken into slavery.

Next, General MacArthur states that the *solution* to this global problem of war, strife, and human misery is *basically a theological one!*

And once again, this agrees exactly with your Bible!

In the first and second chapters of Micah, the prophet speaks of the soon-coming destruction and captivity of our people—the descendants of Israel. In chapter 2, verses 12 and 13, Micah shows that God will then gather all those who survive this captivity and will go before them and lead them as a shepherd does his sheep. So the captivity spoken of is yet to come, and will not end until the second coming of Jesus Christ.

In chapter three, Micah lays the blame for *our sins* squarely on the shoulders of the preachers or "prophets" *who lead my folk astray, who cry 'all's well' if they get food to eat, and open war on any who deny them*—it shall be night for you, devoid of vision"

. . . "till seers are shamed, and the diviners blush, in mourning, all of them, because no answer comes from God" (Micah 3:5-7, Moffatt).

Micah proceeds to show that our national calamity will come because today preachers "teach for hire" and *mislead the people!* This same theme is repeated in Jeremiah 23, Ezekiel 34, and many other places in your Bible. GOD LAYS THE BLAME FOR NATIONAL TRAGEDY AND INDIVIDUAL MISERY SQUARELY ON THE SHOULDERS OF THOSE MINISTERS WHO HAVE FAILED TO SHOW THE PEOPLE THEIR SINS, AND TO TEACH THEM GOD'S LAW.

### Stop and Think

MacArthur was right. The solution to this world's ills is basically a *theological* one.

*Religion is infinitely more important than you have realized!*

We have already seen that even our national leaders realize that this is the most important question affecting our lives—our very existence!

And what have we found to be the "fruit," the *result* of our present day religious institutions?

Need we rehearse the tragedy of broken homes and lives, of increasing crime among youth, of mounting corruption in high places, of international strife and impending global destruction?

When will America WAKE UP?

### What IS the Solution?

If we will only acknowledge it, the *solution to all our problems*—national and individual lies in a CHANGE in our personal relationship to God and our fellow men.

But most people do not want to change. People want to conform to the ideals of those about them. They want to be "popular." That's why there is NOTHING that our leaders can do. They *can't change the people's heart. Only God can do that.* But God won't do it UNTIL the people want to be changed—until they cry out to Him to deliver them from their own ways.

May God grant YOU the courage to put *truth* before *error*, to esteem your Creator—His law and His way—more than you esteem the love and admiration of this world.

Then—and *only then*—will you achieve the real happiness and inner peace and joy that God intended.

Only when all peoples have been compelled by divine intervention to seek repentance of their own ways and customs and have begun to live by God's law and His way—will universal peace and happiness be brought to this earth.

You need to begin to *study* your Bible

as you never have studied it before!

"*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good*" (I Thes. 5:21).

If, by chance, you are uncertain as to the actual existence of a creative God, *study* all sides of the question. You can *prove* that God exists. There have been, and will be, articles in this magazine which will be of great help in that study.

*Pray* as you never prayed before. Ask God to show you *His way*.

*You can find God's truth if you really want to!*

When you have repented of your sins, accepted Christ as your Saviour, and are doing your best to *live by every word of God*, then you will be under God's own divine protection during the perilous times ahead.

But what about all the people who take this warning lightly? Who refuse to repent of following the popular traditions of men? Who refuse to obey their Creator and His laws?

Therein lies the cause of the *greatest battle in the history of all mankind*.

It is the battle of truth against error, of light against darkness, of the forces of good against the forces of evil.

This battle is raging at this very moment.

You should learn to *recognize the enemy*.

### Foe Described

When Jesus Christ trod this earth in the human flesh, He lived a life of perfect obedience to God's law—setting us an example (Jn. 15:10; I Pet. 2:21). He taught that we should all keep God's law (Mat. 5:17-19).

He taught that it was wrong to reject God's law in order to hold to the traditions of men (Mark 7:6-8).

He said that we should strive to become *perfect*—like God in every way (Mat. 5:48).

But He showed that very few would enter in at the "strait gate, . . . for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat" (Mat. 7:13).

Yes, Christ taught that *very few will be saved in this dispensation*.

He went on to warn, "*Beware of false prophets* which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 5:15-16).

This western world in which you live is a product of the "fruits" of modern day "Christianity." Look at the kind of society it has produced!

Christ, although liked by the common people, was never popular with the religious or political leaders. He was considered a radical and was finally condemned and crucified like a common

criminal. He told his followers, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Luke 6:26).

So God's true prophets and ministers today will not be esteemed by this world, but the *false prophets will be*. Let's remember that God's true servants suffered persecution and opposition wherever they went. At one time, Paul and Silas were accused of "turning the world upside down" (Acts 17:6).

Why?

Because they were preaching the good news (gospel) of the kingdom—or government—of God. This involved repentance of sin—which is the transgression of God's law (I Jn. 3:4). It involved accepting Christ as the Son of God—the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who will soon return to *rule this world* with a rod of iron (Rev. 19:14-16).

As Christ prophesied of false prophets, Paul warned the Ephesian elders, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30).

Here we find that false teaching was going to arise *even from within* the visible congregations of *God's true church*.

Several years later we find Jude writing to the saints that they ". . . should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). Already, men had perverted God's truth!

Saints were instructed to "contend" or fight for the truth which was "once delivered" but had already suffered at the hands of false prophets (Jude 4).

### Key to Victory

This, then, is the *Christian Battle*. It is to contend for God's truth which was "once delivered unto the saints."

*Only* when this truth dominates the entire earth can we have real peace and security among all peoples.

We who know God's truth have THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB ON EARTH TO PERFORM!

We have to fight against and subvert our own human nature which inclines us to disobey God. Then we must go out to help others—must expose, battle, and overcome the false teachings which cause all of this world's misery. Last of all, we must challenge and conquer the very power of Satan himself—for he will turn his full fury on God's true servants.

In all of this, we will require power and strength from God—or we would utterly fail in our own efforts.

(Please continue on page 12)

# True Spirituality

## What Is It—Do You Know?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**H**OW OFTEN do we hear one say, "He is *so* SPIRITUAL"; . . . or, "Those people are not very spiritual." What *is* true spirituality—do you know?

We need, just now, to be warned against being deceived into a false standard of spirituality. We need to examine the true scriptural standard.

### Four Things Usually Accepted As Sure Evidence

There are four things generally regarded as sure evidence of a spiritual mind.

1. Speech, noise, emotion, demonstration.
2. Knowledge of the Scriptures.
3. "Faith."
4. Rigid standard of righteousness.

It will prove interesting, and profitable, to take a brief look at each, and measure according to the scriptural standard.

1. The most commonly accepted evidence of spirituality is the way people talk, write, or demonstrate.

Some people have deliberately cultivated spiritual-sounding language. Or, perhaps, they have unconsciously acquired the habit of using "spiritual" sounding expressions. People say, "My, isn't Brother so-and-so *spiritual*?"

Many think a church service does not amount to anything unless there is more or less noise, mass enthusiasm, and a great deal of emotion worked up and visibly expressed. They never enjoy a sermon, no matter how edifying, unless the preacher is full of certain emotional enthusiasm, fluent in the accepted spiritual phraseology, and able to generate in his audience the usual emotional reactions and outbursts expected in this type of meeting. If such things are present, these folk enjoy themselves immensely, whether they learn anything really worth while or not.

Usually the advance announcements of such meetings assure the people of the "big time" they are going to have. And they go away talking about the "fine time" they enjoyed.

### Getting a Right Balance

This is not to discount or to criticize the natural emotional expression resulting spontaneously from a genuine spiritual experience, or the true spiri-

tual language springing naturally from an honest heart. Far from it.

Some people are naturally emotional. Some are not. We shall see from the Scriptures that emotion and spiritual phrases of themselves are not the essence of spirituality. They may be the natural result, the honest and spontaneous expression of it; or, if deliberately generated and "worked up," put on for show and effect, they may be only its counterfeit. And the sad part is that those who deal in counterfeit always *insist* they have the genuine. "By their *fruits*," Jesus said, we shall KNOW.

It is important that we get a right balance.

### Other Snares and Pitfalls

2. The second class is well indoctrinated. Usually these people do not believe in much, if any, noise or any spiritual manifestations. They have a great deal of head knowledge, but most of this class have a great deal of misunderstanding, and often they have queer personal theories and hobbies resulting from misapplied, wrongly divided Scriptures.

They love to try to trap and corner others with the Scriptures, and especially do they delight in it if they are able to corner some minister. Arguing Scripture is their one great interest in life.

These misguided people believe their arguments, contentions, and beliefs will win their eternal salvation, without real repentance, or living a surrendered, righteous life in Christ Jesus, showing the fruits of the Spirit in their lives.

### Saved by Faith Alone

3. And then there is the "faith" group. These say they are saved "by FAITH, and faith ALONE." They are not so much concerned about the Holy Spirit, and seldom mention such things as repentance, utter surrender, or any need of submission and obedience to God's will.

Their religion never works any miracle-changes in their lives. Since "Jesus died for our sins," we do not have to obey. "Just BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," is their sole condition to salvation. The invitation of the ministers of this group is "Give the preacher your hand, and the Lord your heart."

And when, later, you ask such "con-verts" what they did—what really hap-

pened—when they "gave the Lord their heart," they usually just look blank. They do not know. It really did not MEAN anything. It was merely a FORM. The churches of this class should be called social clubs—they are not soul-saving institutions.

### The Self-Righteous Christian

4. Finally, there are those whose spirituality consists of a rigid standard of righteousness. In fact they usually are so strict about following God's commandments that they fall into the error of keeping the strict LETTER of the law in their own strength. They are scrupulously honest, severely punctual, critically exact. But, as Paul said of the strictest sect of his day, they are "going about to establish their OWN righteousness," and have not "submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." (Rom. 10:3). And they are usually harsh, stern, critical, intolerant of those who do not live up to their particular ideas of the standard of righteousness.

### The True Scriptural Standard of Real Spirituality

Now, let us turn to God's Word, and humbly seek to learn what is GOD'S standard of spirituality.

Of the true spiritual mind, God says to us, through Paul, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5).

But HOW can you have the mind that was in Christ Jesus in YOU? Jesus says: "Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart) and knock: if any man hear my voice, and OPEN the door, *I will come in to him*." (Rev. 3:20). And Jesus meant exactly what He said! He will come in, through His Spirit, and literally LIVE His life of true righteousness in you, if only you will surrender all of SELF and let the blessed Saviour IN.

"For ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, IF so be that the Spirit of God *dwell* IN you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, HE IS NONE OF HIS." Unless His Spirit abides within you, living His life of true righteousness in you, you are not a real Christian! "And *if Christ be* IN you, the body is dead because of sin: but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." (Rom. 8:9-10).

When God first begets us as His chil-

dren, he takes us who have been proud, worldly, sensual, disobedient. His ultimate aim is to make us like unto Himself. This transformation (not *reformation*) is a tremendous undertaking. It requires a miracle.

God stands pledged, upon real thorough repentance, and faith in Christ (Acts 2:38) to start the performance of this tremendous miracle by putting His Holy Spirit literally WITHIN you! But God will work the complete change in your life ONLY if you are willing to SUBMIT to the process! The FIRST condition is real, deep, thorough repentance. You will have to be willing to accept correction and repeated chastisements at His loving hands, for "whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." (Heb. 12:6).

The Spiritual mind is the *surrendered, yielded* mind. It is the mind that has given up all wanting its own way. It is the mind that has been thoroughly CONQUERED in its rebellion against God. It is the mind that, henceforth, is *willing* to obey God, no matter what the cost, and which continually studies God's Word, not to argue and strive and corner others, but to *learn* more of God's will, and to WALK in it! It is a mind FILLED to overflowing with real LOVE for God and all fellow men—even one's enemies—and which has sympathy, patience, and kindness for others in their ideas and beliefs, their faults and mistakes, which speaks softly, gently, kindly; which seeks only to help and to serve. It is the mind that has DIED to SELF.

### True Spirituality

The real spiritual mind can say with the Apostle Paul: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; *yet not I*, but CHRIST LIVETH IN ME." (Gal. 2:20). When you can say that, then you have the mind that was in Christ Jesus.

The real spiritual mind is a SOUND mind! "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of *power*, and of *love*, and of A SOUND MIND." (II Tim. 1:7).

To those being carried away with a false and pseudo-spirituality, where real manifestations of the Spirit were being counterfeited by DEMONSTRATIONS of SELF in a fanatical emotionalism, Paul, correcting them, said: "Brethren, *be not CHILDREN in understanding.*" (1 Cor. 14:20.)

True, Paul said to these same Corinthians, "I would that ye all spake with tongues, BUT," he added, "*rather* that ye prophesied (preached): for *greater* is he that prophesieth (preaches) than he that speaketh with tongues." (1 Cor. 14:5).

True, Paul said to those overly-emotional Corinthians "I speak with tongues more than you all, YET," he continued, "in the church I had rather speak five

words *with my understanding*, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." (Verses 18-19). And also he said, "God is not the author of confusion," and "Let all things be done decently and in order." (Verses 33, 40).

Let us get a proper balance. Let us get things in the position of their relative *scriptural* importance.

"By their FRUITS," not by their tongues, their language, their emotion, their ability to argue, their empty profession of faith, their self-righteousness, said Jesus, shall we KNOW their true spirituality.

And the true FRUIT of God's Spirit is "Love" first of all, then "joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." *These things*, expressed in living character, determine true spirituality.

These things are the expression of "the LOVE of God, shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5),—and thus the Holy Spirit *in us* is simply GOD'S LAW *in action*, in our lives; for LOVE is the fulfilling of the Law. And that, and that alone, is true Christian spirituality.

### The Four Substitutes

REAL Spiritual-mindedness is the mind of LOVE, for God is LOVE.

So let us review our four SUBSTITUTES for spirituality in the light of God's Word.

1. "Though I *speak* with the *tongues* of men and of *angels*, and have not LOVE, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." (1 Cor. 13:1). Did you ever hear one speak with the tongues of ANGELS? Spiritual TALK, "tongues," or "manifestations," are only a lot of wind, or a noise like beating old tin pans, *if you have not* LOVE.

2. "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and ALL KNOWLEDGE:" and,

3. "Though I have ALL FAITH so that I could remove mountains, and have not LOVE, *I am* NOTHING." (v. 2).

4. "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not LOVE, *it profiteth me* NOTHING." (v. 3).

What is it to have LOVE? The next four verses tell. Here is TRUE spiritual-mindedness:

"LOVE is very patient, very kind." Are YOU? "LOVE knows no jealousy; love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never gladdened when others go wrong; love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient (1 Cor. 13:4-7; Moffat's translation).

Read those three verses again, substituting your own name wherever "LOVE" appears. Try it as a test on yourself. It will tell you how truly SPIRITUAL you are. Let us seek more real, genuine SPIRITUAL-MINDEDNESS!

## Man's Greatest Battle

(Continued from page 10)

We should look upon this job of ours as a BATTLE.

In Ephesians 6:10-20, the apostle Paul uses this symbolism in describing our struggle, "against the *rulers of the darkness of this world*, against *spiritual wickedness in high places.*" He tells us that our only offensive weapon is "the word of God." We must understand and be able to use this word effectively.

Paul told his young helper, Timothy, that he should, ". . . endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:3).

We, too, must be willing to *endure hardship* and to *sacrifice* for the work of God. We need to have more ZEAL for the struggle in which we are engaged!

How many of you have *really sacrificed* that this gospel might go out to all the world?

Men in this world will train long, hard, grueling hours, will often have to *sacrifice many of their ordinary comforts*, and will sometimes *even give up their jobs*—just to compete in the Olympic Games for what Paul calls a "corruptible crown" (1 Cor. 9:25). Are you willing to go *beyond* just "doing your bit"? Let's show God that WE REALLY MEAN IT!

Remember that *actions speak louder than words*, and that "faith without works is dead."

God Almighty uses your monetary support as a *test* of your Christian loyalty. These are Christ's words: "For where your treasure is, *there* will your heart be also" (Mat. 6:21).

How about your prayers? Your Bible study? Have you brought others to the truth by the example of your life.

You may not be called to give all your time, and talents, and energy—your very life—to God's work as Mr. Armstrong and others have. But what you can do, *God holds you accountable for*. Are you doing YOUR PART?

True, we "have a fight on our hands." But the stakes are high. They are *eternal life* in the soon-coming kingdom of God.

Let us fight with all our strength in this Christian battle that we may say with the apostle Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness . . ." (II Tim. 4:7-8).

## Times of the Gentiles

(Continued from page 6)

of Israel's punishments were a curse. This curse upon the Gentiles did *not* begin with the fall of Judah but years later. It was *after* the fall of Judah that God *first* began to deal with the Chaldean Empire. He allowed them ample time to prove they would not submit to his will.

Ancient Babylon was weighed in the balances and found wanting. *The destruction of the Chaldean Empire began the 2520 years of terrible punishment that has continued to this very day.*

Since we can determine the time of the fall of Babylon, we can determine the beginning of the seven times of punishment upon the Gentiles.

According to the latest and most accurate knowledge, Babylon fell in the autumn of 539 B. C. In a book on archaeology by J. Finegan, entitled *Light from the Ancient Past*, pp. 190-191, you can read this: "On October 13, 539 B. C. Babylon fell to Cyrus the Persian. The date is given by the Nabunaid chronicle which also tells that . . . Cyrus first entered the city of Babylon in person on October 29. The fall of Babylon is narrated not only in the Nabunaid chronicle but also in the inscription on the famous cylinder of Cyrus."

So Babylon fell in October, 539 B. C., and 2520 years later is October 1982. That's when the seven times of punishment would be fulfilled!

*That is less than thirty years from now!*

Yes, these times are very close to completion, very close to the second coming of Jesus Christ to rule the nations and to teach them the ways of peace.

But what is going to happen between now and the time that this punishment upon the Gentiles is finished?

### What's Prophesied?

Here is a bird's-eye sketch of what will take place *in less than thirty years*—in your life time, this very last generation that is destined to live into two worlds!

Remember what Jesus said in Luke 21:24? That Jerusalem would be trodden down of the Gentiles until the very completion of the times of the Gentiles!

Since Zechariah 14:1-3 shows that Jesus Christ will return in order to deliver Jerusalem from the Gentiles, it is plain that **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST WILL OCCUR SHORTLY BEFORE THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES ARE FILLED!** (Isaiah 27:13; I Cor. 15:52.)

*Before* Jesus returns there is to occur a *great tribulation* not only upon the

church but upon Israel—America and Britain, the democratic peoples of the world. Jeremiah 30:4,7 speaks of it as the times of Jacob's troubles, a period such as there has *never* occurred in history, a time when our own people—possibly you, if you haven't turned to God and implored His guidance—will be taken captive and made slaves because *this nation has won its last great war!* Mark says, "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be" (Mark 13:19).

The times of Jacob's troubles and the great tribulation *can't be two different periods* but one event when *both* Israel and part of the church are to be persecuted and enslaved.

The tribulation of the middle ages was only a type, a forerunner of the terrible end-time tribulation. This final tribulation *and* the time of war between Russia and Europe which follows will last approximately *seven long years* until the second coming of Christ. It includes not only the three and one-half years of tribulation, but the time of trumpets described in Revelation when the Communist hordes are locked in battle with the coming union of ten Fascist nations in Europe ruled by a great church. This united Europe will be a final restoration of the Roman Empire and will attack America and the democracies of Northwestern Europe.

Yes, these events are **DESTINED** to come to pass despite the scoffers. They are sure because God Almighty says that he will bring them about to teach us how wrong our ways have been—unless we as individuals first repent and turn to Him, in which case he has promised that we may escape.

### FAMINES to Precede War

The prophet Joel, in the first chapter of his prophecy, verses 2-7, describes something else that will occur in these United States and Canada, upon God's people Israel everywhere—a great drought and famine such as you have never seen before. This terrible famine will last possibly *three long years* (Joel 2:25).

When we shall be so weakened by this terrible drought and starvation at home, our nation will be destroyed and conquered by a revival of Fascism in the coming great war.

Now if you will add these years of famine, tribulation and captivity, they will amount to at least *ten years* just prior to the ending of the times of the Gentiles. That would mean that these events would probably begin about 1972, after which preaching the true gospel will no longer be possible.

*This is a very significant date—1972.*

It is only 19 years from 1953, the year that the "World Tomorrow" broadcast first reached Europe! If you read the February issue of the "Good News" you will recall that Mr. Armstrong wrote that January of this year, 1953, marked the completion of the first 19 year cycle which began in January 1934 when the "World Tomorrow" broadcast first went on the air carrying the gospel of the Kingdom to North America.

And Mark wrote that this gospel must first be preached and published in all the world **AND THEN SHALL THE END COME!** (Mark 13:10). This final work of carrying the true gospel of the kingdom of God to the world is a fulfillment of prophecy!

Yes, it seems that God is allowing us another 19-year cycle to **COMPLETE THE CARRYING OF HIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM TO THIS SICK AND DYING WORLD.** Since the beginning of January, nearly *six months of these 19 years have already passed.* There is a tremendous job to be done in the very short period that lies ahead of us.

This gospel must go to the **WHOLE WORLD!**

Are you doing your part?

Have you completely surrendered your will to Him? Are you praying and studying daily as you should?

Are you honestly paying your tithes to God for the furtherance of His work?

We **ALL** have a tremendous task to do in these few final short years of this present world. If each of us does his part, with God's guidance and strength we **SHALL** carry this gospel of the Kingdom to *all the world* in time!

## Days of Creation

(Continued from page 8)

and day, darkness and light.

All have continued since creation. We are not confused as to what they are.

No place in the Scripture does God imply that He took anything but a natural week of ordinary days to bring life and order to the earth.

Evenings and mornings have continued, the week has continued, the Sabbath set apart for rest at creation has continued, all pointing back to that first creation week. The truth is plain and without Scriptural contradiction. There is no room to believe in the ages which evolutionists require, when you accept the Scriptures as they are, explained not in the fog of human imagination but in the light of the Word of God and in accordance with nature, the handiwork of God.

# ON THE CAMPUS

Following are articles written by students of Ambassador College on student activities to give you the story of their jam-packed lives on the campus

## Ambassador Club

by Jim M. Kracht

Ambassador College has taken a new step, one that is proving to be most interesting and valuable in training future representatives of Christ.

The Ambassador Club has set out to blaze new trails in the techniques of acquiring public speaking abilities.

Two hours every Tuesday the members (men students only) enjoy their evening dinner while listening to and taking part in discussions on current topics. The topics chairman calls on several members to speak about two minutes extemporaneously on a topic assigned on the spot.

Next comes the four main speakers of the evening who deliver carefully prepared speeches of six minute duration. These, as well as the topic discussions which they follow, are almost equally humorous as informative.

After each speaker is seated an evaluator criticizes the speech. The reasons for this type of speaker's performance is to point out the errors that are not apparent to the speaker and encourage him to eliminate them and to improve manner of speaking. Not only does the speaker himself profit and improve as a result of the constructive criticism, but each member of the club is able to take note of all the effective as well as the ineffective traits of a good speaker. Thus they are able to use the criticisms as a mirror for detecting their own faults in public speaking.

The results are often amazing. Some members have improved greatly after making only two or three speeches before the club. This success is due to the zeal and seriousness of the members and officers.

After the last speaker and his evaluator have finished, a poll of opinion is taken to determine who made the best talk, the most improved talk, and who gave the best criticism of the evening.

Trophies are presented to them by those who were adjudged best at the previous meetings.

Since visitors are always welcome at meetings, the members are able to see through the guests' eyes when the president asks them for their impressions of the evening.

A timer also gives the length of speech of each participant—the speakers, evaluators and the overall evaluator who

gives a general review of the entire evening.

The Ambassador Club has been started for a very serious purpose. That purpose is to develop the personalities and speaking abilities of future ministers who must carry the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the entire world.

These meetings are proving to be worth much more than the time spent in them. Already the Ambassador Club is taking its place among the other vital subjects which are taught here at Ambassador College.

## Second Concert Heard At College

by Isabell Kunkel

A unique program of organ and the world's finest recorded music was arranged for the listening enjoyment of students and invited guests by the Department of Music, under the direction of Mrs. Martin and with the help of members of the radio class and of Mr. Armstrong. The time: April 25, 8:00 P.M. The Penny-Owsley Music Company of Los Angeles generously supplied a fine large electric Hammond organ.

Mr. Karl Bonawitz, a noted organist, played from memory a number of pieces for the first part of the program. These were selected to demonstrate the infinite variety of tones which it is possible to produce with an electric organ. In "Monastery Bells" we heard bell-like tones; "God of Our Fathers" demonstrated the trumpet effect; "Flight of the Bumble Bee" showed how speed with clarity of tone could be produced; "The Spinning Wheel" by Mendelssohn imitated the whirring of a spinning wheel. Other pieces were "Bless This House," "Fugue" by Bach, "Danny Boy," "Oriental Sketch" and "American Fantasy."

Mr. Bonawitz also asked us for request numbers. Four were named, every one of which he played from memory. Profuse applause from the audience persuaded him to play a delightful encore.

Parts Two and Three of the program consisted of a concert of recorded music, reproduced on professional and custom-built equipment, with two large speakers providing a startling "third dimension" of sound. It reproduces with utmost clarity every tone from the lowest to the

highest, and amplifies tones which are totally lost by ordinary phonographs in astonishing realism.

Before each record was played, Mrs. Martin gave a short summary of the history and subject of each musical number with occasional notes about the composers. "Dance of the Hours" was from the opera "La Gioconda" by Ponchielli; in "Anna Russell Sings" several types of music from opera to "blues" were satirized; "Les Toreadors" by Bizet ended the second part of the program.

During a 10 minute intermission, refreshments were served.

To begin Part Three of the program there were two operatic pieces and a selection from Gershwin's operetta "Porgy and Bess." The program was climaxed by a favorite of many music lovers: "The Cloudburst" from Ferde Grofe's "Grand Canyon Suite." It is also one of Mr. Armstrong's favorite descriptive pieces. The thunder produced by the orchestra made the windows rattle and for the first time, we "heard" lightning flash! It is truly amazing what effects can be produced by a skillful composer. It was a perfect number to complete the program.

## A Spring Field Trip

by Elise Herrmann

"Ah," I breathed happily. "What a perfect day for a field trip!"

And it was, for the sun was shining and everywhere I could see beautiful flowers and smell the mingled odors. Our large yellow bus sped up the winding road to Glendale's Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

There was an air of quietness as we slowly drove up the driveway. On every side were rows and rows of graves. It sobered one to think that someday those people sleeping so quietly among the trees, would leave their carefully made vaults and stand before God in the judgment.

High on a hill we stopped in a garden adorned with graceful statuary. One group greatly interested me, for it was named "The Mystery of Life." It portrayed life in every phase from the tiny babe to the withered old man. It was exquisite in every detail, but as I left I wondered that a man with so much talent could not have looked a bit farther and found that life comes from

(Please continue on page 16)

# Does It Matter Which Days We Observe?

Here is an eye-opening answer to a very  
controversial question!

by Herman L. Hoeh

## PART VIII

**A**BOUT THREE years ago an elderly man approached me one day and said, "I have been puzzled and confused all my life. I used to believe that the apostle Paul taught the church in Galatia not to observe any holidays. But recently I read a verse in which Paul apparently told the Christians at Rome that it didn't matter which days they observed if they kept them to God.

"Now my question is this: *How can I know* what is the real Bible teaching? It seems to me that Paul contradicts himself."

Yes, just HOW CAN WE KNOW?

Millions have worried about this question but have never heard the real answer. There is a rapidly growing sect which teaches that Christians don't have to observe any days whatsoever. But there are many others who believe just as firmly that we should observe religious holidays, only it doesn't matter which we observe if we keep them as best *we* understand by our own human reasoning.

But the question still remains: How can we *know* what the Bible says?

### Esteeming One Day Above Another

Let's notice what the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 14:5, 6.

"One *man* esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be *fully persuaded* in his own mind." Romans 14:5, 6.

By taking these verses out of their setting, people make Paul say something altogether different from what he intended. Does he say to observe Christmas, Easter, Lent, Good Friday, Sunday, or the Festival of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven?

Does he say here that Jesus by his death did away with the very days He kept during his whole life?

Does Paul say "God esteemeth one day above another" and "God esteemeth every day alike?" It doesn't say "God," but "one MAN esteemeth one day above another." This tells us what certain MEN thought, not what God says!

We are not to be *judged* by what *men* think, but by the word of God! John 12:48 reads: "The word that I

have spoken, *the same* shall judge him in the last day." Jesus is not going to judge you by what any *man* believes, but by the words *He* spoke!

Next, notice that these saints at Rome, having differing opinions, were forbidden to *judge one another* as unworthy of Christ. "Who are you that judges another man's servant? to his own master he stands or falls. Yes, he shall be helped up: for *God is able to make him stand.*" (Rom. 14:4)

Paul is *not* sanctioning nor condemning any particular days, but warning the saints not to *judge* one another and cause strife for having differing opinions about things *they did not yet understand clearly.*

The Lord was the Judge of their deeds. "He that regardeth the day, regardeth it *unto the Lord.*" The last part of this sentence—"and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it"—is not in the inspired original Greek.

### How to Know

"Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Does this give license to believe whatever you want? God commands: "Lean not unto thine own understanding." (Prov. 3:5) How are you going to be fully assured in your own mind UNTIL YOU KNOW WHAT GOD SAYS IN HIS WORD? "The holy scriptures . . . are able to make you wise to salvation" Paul wrote Timothy. (2 Tim. 3:15) By studying the word of God to prove all things, and by holding fast that which is good (1 Thess. 5:21), YOU BECOME FULLY PERSUADED IN YOUR OWN MINDS concerning what *God* says.

### "Able to Stand Before Him"

God is able, said Paul, to make those saints stand before Him in the judgment, *by reading to them the knowledge by which they will be judged.* It was for this very reason that Paul wrote those saints at Rome, some of whom were weak in the faith, not having acquired perfect knowledge. He says: "For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, to the end that you *may be*

*established* (Ro. 1:11)."

It is so plain. Here were converts at Rome, still weak in the faith, who were divided in their regard of days. Paul told them not to sit in judgment of one another, but to follow peace, because *God* would judge them, after setting them aright through more perfect knowledge which Paul was going to preach to them. In the meantime they were to act in accordance with the best they knew from *God's* word, not *man's* word.

This did not give them liberty to do as they pleased. They were to obey God or else perish if they disobeyed after the knowledge of the truth had come. For to him that *knows* to do good and doesn't do it, it is sin. (James 4:17)

### What Were These Days?

But what days was Paul referring to?

By reading these verses in their setting, rather than taking them out of their context, let's determine the answer. Paul is writing to the saints at Rome, both Jew and Gentile. He admonished them to receive those who are weak in the faith (Ro. 14:1), not to dispute with them over unimportant matters and sit in judgment on them. Some of these recently converted Gentiles, being weak in the faith, refused to eat meats, subsisting on vegetables mainly.

The reason for this is explained in 1 Corinthians 8. Most meat that could be bought had been offered to idols. Therefore some, with conscience of the idol "ate it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being *weak* is defiled. But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse (1 Cor. 8:7, 8)."

So here were saints who had not yet learned that there was no harm in eating meat offered to idols previously by others provided it was done to God with a clear conscience. These Gentiles at Rome had been converted and *had given up idolatry*, but still held superstitious beliefs in their minds, thinking that the idol was something *real.*

But why should Paul have broken into his dissertation about eating meat or re-

fraining from eating it?

Because in connection with the old pagan idolatry, *were numerous days observed as idolatrous festivals.* These days were consecrated to deities of the state religious cults and were "unlucky" because of the influence of the gods! These civil and religious days were "regarded as unsuitable for many purposes, both public and private: for battles, levies, sacred rites, journeys and marriages. We are told that they owed their unlucky quality to the pronouncement of the Senate and pontiffs." (From *Rest Days* by Webster, p. 171.)

As many as *one third of the days* of the old Roman calendar were marked as "unlawful for judicial and political business . . . and . . . on which the state expected the citizens to abstain, as far as possible, from their private business and labour."

No wonder Paul spoke of "every day!"

Here at Rome were recently converted Gentiles who had given up idolatry, but who still believed idols were real beings, and hence would not eat meat offered to them. They also continued to regard superstitious beliefs that certain days were better than others, or that all days were alike—unlucky. These Christians *no longer observed these days*—that would have been sin. But they still regarded or judged some days to be above others, as though the day had natural qualities of good or bad about it. It was a common superstition of the time, hard for new Christians to root out.

And how many "worldly" as well as religious people still have similar beliefs today! Such as "unlucky" *Friday the thirteenth!*

Paul was going to Rome to enlighten their honest minds so they would give up this foolish regard of heathen days. It is merely a plea to tolerate honest beliefs held in ignorance.

### So These Weren't God's Days After All!

There is nothing here referring to the Sabbath or the holydays of God which Paul commanded to be observed by the Gentiles. In I Cor. 5:8, Paul says, "Let us *keep* the feast."

Here and in I Cor. 11:20-34, Paul is instructing the Corinthians how to keep the passover and the festival of unleavened bread.

The Holy Spirit inspired Luke to write in Acts 20:6 that the days of unleavened bread occurred in far off Philippi! The disciples sailed away "after the days of unleavened bread."

In I Corinthians 16:8, Paul told the Gentiles he was intending to be at Ephesus, a Gentile city, the day of Pentecost. But there is nothing in Romans 14 which says we are to observe the pagan holidays—Christmas, Easter, Lent, Sunday—which crept into the apostate churches after the death of the apostles.

## ON THE CAMPUS

(Continued from page 14)

the Giver of all life, our ever living Creator.

Soon we were ready to leave the garden as we were to see a stained glass window called "The Last Supper." Impatiently I listened to the narrator as he told us the story of this remarkable work. It seems the notable men realized that Da Vinci's original in Milan, Italy, could not last much longer, and wishing to preserve its beauty, they gave a young Italian lady, Rosa Caselli Moretti, the privilege of reproducing it in glowing stained glass. The audience gasped in astonishment at its beauty, for even the wine in little goblets seemed to sparkle in the dusky room. In the window you could see the cracks in the tile floor and even the scales on the fish were visible.

My mind went back to the first passover supper which Israel kept in Egypt,

and then I thought "something is missing." And it was. For here Jesus and his disciples were keeping the passover and there was no passover lamb. Perhaps I was a bit disappointed, but then all men do not understand the truth. No doubt many men of that time did not even connect the passover in Egypt with the last supper.

Greater surprises were in store for us for we climbed up a winding road to another building and saw the original painting, "The Crucifixion," by Jan Styka. This is the largest painting in America. It is forty-five feet high and one hundred-ninety-five feet long and it is magnificent. It seemed that all we had to do was take a few steps and we would have been transported to Palestine at the most eventful time in the history of mankind. The dark clouds hung low, there was a mob of angry people, far down the hill was Jerusalem and then you could see the temple. There was an air of tense expectancy in the peoples' faces and it even seemed the lowering heavens would burst.

*But men will be men and God has COMMANDED us not to make "any graven image, or any likeness of ANYTHING that is in HEAVEN above or that is in the earth beneath . . . thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them."* Exodus 20:4,5.

The many dead were forgotten when we went in the park to eat a sumptuous picnic lunch and then went across Pasadena to Huntington Library. Late in the afternoon I sat in the exotic oriental garden and listened to laughter, a bird's song and the hum of the bees. But before we left I walked across a little red bridge that spanned a deep green pool, followed a trail to the rose garden and then home.

It was a day to be remembered and our appreciation goes to Professor Walker, who plans such interesting outings for Ambassador College.

### The PLAIN TRUTH

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