

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1959



RARE 1000-YEAR-OLD GREEK MANUSCRIPT of the New Testament added recently to the Ambassador College Library collection. This carefully preserved copy of the four gospels was painstakingly written by hand on vellum or sheepskin. The Manuscript is opened to a portion of the gospel of Mark. The text is clear and accurate. The cover of the Manuscript, shown in foreground, is green silk brocade with a red and silver pattern. The 1000-year-old Manuscript originated in a Greek monastery in South Italy.

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VOL. XXIV

NO. 6

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By the Radio Church of God

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A former U. S. Congressman writes:

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"My work for the past two years has entailed much travel by automobile, largely within the listening radius of radio station WLAC, Nashville, Tennessee. While traveling, I have come to listen to your evening message. In addition to the great spiritual inspiration you have provided me, you have interested and educated me further relative to modern Israel. I have read your two booklets, '1975 in Prophecy' and 'The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy,' with lots of interest. These two booklets have whetted my appetite for more information of this type, and of the type you proclaim in 'The World Tomorrow' broadcasts. You have been and are a great blessing and inspiration to me. You have made me hunger and thirst for more knowledge so that I might rightly interpret the Word of God, especially as it relates to us in this time of the end."

Man from Georgia.

"Spellbound with interest"

"We have two little girls, almost four and five years old now. The older one is spellbound with interest in 'The Story of the Bible' and can tell it back to us in detail. You can be sure we are well pleased that she has grasped so much of the knowledge of God. When we are waiting for the next chapter of the Bible Story we sometimes go back over the first chapters with our children, and they become better acquainted that way with the characters and truths. We have never understood the Bible like this before, and so many names that were formerly meaningless have come alive to us. The stories make sense and teach us a lesson to apply to ourselves."

Lady from Elizabeth, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"Surely this must be God's true work because ever since I was a youngster of around 20, I have prayed for salvation. That was and is my number one prayer. Almost two years ago I happened to tune in your broadcast for the first time. I was terribly afraid of what I heard. I was so afraid I even felt physically sick. Reluctantly I tuned in again the following night, and the following. I felt miserable. I felt torn apart, and yet I just had to listen and send for The PLAIN TRUTH, 'The Bible Course', and all of the little booklets. I felt as if something was pulling me towards this work.

"Now as I look back, I realize it was the answer to my prayer of many, many years ago. For I had prayed for eternal salvation and this work has opened the book of rules I must follow to get that eternal salvation."

Lady from Paulden, Arizona.

Obedience pays off

"Since we have been paying our tithes I have never seen so much difference. We have paid almost all our debts and things sure are better now. Our five children are supplied much better, for which we really are thankful. Pray for us that we will do God's will more each day."

Man and wife from
Crab Orchard, Kentucky

Yes, obedience to God does pay off in spiritual happiness and material well being!

I was shocked!

"Last night by chance I was fortunate enough to discover your very interesting program. Even though the signal was very faint at times, I was able to hear enough to make me fifteen minutes late for work. I sat in our parking lot with the radio on completely absorbed in your remarks relating Germany to Assyria, and the United States and Great Britain to the original Hebrew tribes.

"I had never heard Germany linked to modern day prophecy in such a major role before. I was especially shocked, because only that day I had been reading Walter Lippmann's current series on the German crisis, and he had mentioned in effect, 'Woe to us if the Chancellor and his followers should lose control.' Just a few hours later, news came of his resignation from his post, and on the heels of that announcement came your message. To say the least, I am very interested in hearing more on the subject from you, either on the radio or in print."

Man from North Chilo, New York.

"God Opened My Eyes"

"My life has become a full and joyful thing since I have started studying God's word. I didn't realize my life was so empty before. I'm so thankful God opened my eyes and gave me this chance. I've had to make lots of changes and even sacrifices, but thank God it's worth it a million times over. We will always have to continue making changes in our character. It takes time and patience, doesn't it?"

Lady from Grants Pass, Oregon.

"I'm starving, but am being filled"

"One evening I came home from work and the radio was on—I thought it was the news. Well, I sat down and listened. Then I jumped up and said to my wife, 'That is news, the best I have heard in all my life.' The very words I read in the Bible! It was you speaking. I didn't take anything for granted. I continued to listen to you, and with the Word of God you proved to me you preach the truth. I hungered and God has fed me through you. That is a wonderful blessing for you and me. I'm starving but am being filled. God bless

(Please continue on page 20)

REVOLUTION in the Americas ... WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Through the past months and years, several Central and South American countries have undergone REVOLUTION! What does it mean? Some observers say it signals GOOD NEWS for the United States. Others are gravely concerned. Here's the plain truth about CUBA, and the hidden enemy on our doorstep!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

WHAT'S happening in the Americas? Cuba in turmoil, Panama invaded, strife between Guatemala and Honduras, with such major nations as Argentina, Colombia, and Venezuela, all having undergone recent revolution! What does it all mean?

The Man in the News

Cigar smoking, bearded, wearing surplus U.S.-made Army fatigues, and noticeably enjoying the triumph of his life, Fidel Castro, Cuba's new strong man, wooed the State Department and citizenry in April of this year.

Fidel Castro—hitherto unknown except to a few relatives and intimates in the mountain fastness of Cuba, had received the acclaim upon his visit here of thousands of sympathizers, and required a heavier guard than Russia's Anastas Mikoyan.

What happened? *Why* was a former plantation worker suddenly swept to the heights of popularity, acclaimed by the world, and received into the welcoming arms of the U.S. State Department in his military fatigues?

Most already know the story of Castro's first abortive attempt to incite a revolution in Cuba, and his long, hard drive to turn defeat into success. He has been acclaimed as a miracle man for his genius in leading a ragged, motley group of poorly equipped revolutionaries against tanks, planes and machine guns. No one believed it could happen. But it did.

Fidel Castro suddenly leapt into the news when the world learned Cuba's long-time boss, Fulgencio Batista, had fled with his millions and his family into exile.

During the rebellion, Castro's men had hijacked American owned and op-

erated airliners, threatened American citizens, kidnapped American technicians, and threatened boldly that any intervention from the United States would mean "200,000 'Gringos' will die!" ('Gringo' is a contemptuous term used for North Americans by Latins.) He had openly spat hatred toward the United States, railing at them for supporting Batista's regime, for selling him U.S. made tanks, planes and guns. He openly declared himself to be neutral in the struggle between Communism and Democracy, saying, "Why should Latin America be with either side (in the cold war) . . . They (the Americans) have shelters against atomic attack; we do not even have a miserable hole in which to hide. Why not say these truths? Why not say that Cuba has participated in all the wars and when the wars were over, its (U.S.) sugar quota was taken away?" (In actuality, Cuba contributed no troops in either world war; and made vast profits by the sale of sugar, and after the second world war received a slightly higher quota. *Newsweek*, May 4, 1959).

However, after having declared himself neutral before Cubans, he said, to the United States, ". . . we are against Communism. I do not agree with it."

In Cuba, Castro shouts defiance at the United States—railing against U.S. support of Batista. In the United States, he said, "I think the citizens of the United States are very nice and noble people . . . Why am I going to hate the people of the United States?"

Is Cuba Pro-Western?

To many, it appeared the man in the news, with fatigues, beard, cigar, accent and sunglasses, was talking out of both sides of his mouth at once!

Many have hailed Castro's revolution as a triumph over international Communism. Many believe Cuba to have been "freed" in one way or another. But has it, really?

Castro has *indefinitely* put off the restoration of democracy. He has curtailed elections, a Congress, civil justice, pending a "deep surgery" social revolution he has entertained for some years. His now infamous "war-crimes trials" have served as a warning to the populace. Notice! Castro shot to death those who were supposedly holding Cuba in the iron grip of a dictatorship. Now Castro says any "counter-revolutionary" measures (which simply means *any* spoken, written or other effective political opposition to himself) *could bring the same penalty!*

Congressman Charles O. Porter of Oregon, staunch friend of Fidel, said, "I do not think Castro is a dictator yet, but I do see an ominous trend."

A Two-Sided Struggle?

Most gullible Americans have been duped into believing there exists only TWO SIDES in the present world conflict. They are Democracy and Communism. Therefore, believing this—it automatically convinces most people that ANY political movement opposed to Communism MUST OF NECESSITY BE DEMOCRATIC!

Nothing could be farther from the truth!

For years, we have been showing you, through the pages of the *Plain Truth* magazine and over the *World Tomorrow* program, the real behind-the-scenes struggle taking place on America's doorstep. There is ANOTHER arch-enemy of Democracy engaged in a world-wide effort to submerge the free world under

the yoke of a dictator *right now!*

Fidel Castro is strongly NATIONALISTIC! He also leans toward the Communistic, or Socialistic ideals! National Socialism IS NAZISM! *Listen* to the *documented proof* of Fascist inroads into Central and South America!

Argentina

"Throughout the Americas, especially in Argentina, German agents have built important new plants, and gained control of mines, banks, railroads, aviation lines, chemicals and steel works. Fritz Mandl virtually controls the munitions industry in Argentina on behalf of I. G. Farben. Axel Wenner-Gren, the Swedish multi-millionaire adventurer, and intimate friend of Marshal Hermann Goering, has set up Krupp and I. G. Farben fronts throughout South America, and especially in Argentina. Alfredo Moll, who has been described as the 'grey eminence' of the Nazis in Buenos Aires, is the son-in-law of the president of the Central Bank of Argentina. Moll is director of the firm of Anilinas Alemanas, branch of the I. G. Farben trust in Argentina.

"Testifying before the Kilgore Committee on September 12, 1944, Sims Carter, Assistant Chief of the Economic Warfare Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, revealed:

'When the German guns are silenced in Europe, the principal German industrial combines plan renewed activity from bases in Argentina.'

"The plan by which the German General Staff has operated in South America was drawn up many years before Hitler took power in Germany. If the German plan prevails, it will continue to operate many years after the smashing of the Hitler regime. This plan is directly aimed at the eventual German conquest of the United States." (From *The Plot Against The Peace* by Sayers and Kahn).

Mr. Benjamin Rea and I visited Argentina in 1957. We reported to readers of *The Plain Truth* in several articles the startling conditions existing there, and in other important South American countries. *Since* that time — Nazi inroads have continued to grow!

Our visit with Mr. Pascual Gambino,

President of the "Union Industrial Argentina," or Argentina's Industrial Union, and his answers to our questions were published in the October, 1957 issue of the *Plain Truth*. We showed how many hailed the deposition of strong man Juan Peron as an end to Fascism in Argentina—but that Mr. Gambino clearly stated "NO" when we asked whether the defeat of Peron restricted the influx of German capital and industry, and German specialists into Argentina.

The "Ausland Organization" (meaning "outland organization") is a worldwide Nazi organization dedicated to the spread of Nazism, and the policies of the German General Staff. Kurt Riess, in his book, "The Nazis Go Underground," says "One of the countries in which the A.O. has worked with particular success is Argentina. There it has been able to operate without any disguise or front. All of the more than 200,000 Argentine Nazis are members, not of an Argentine suborganization of the Nazi party, but of the German party itself, and hold membership cards signed by Robert Ley, leader of the German Workers Front—which means, quite obviously, that Berlin considered, and still considers, Argentina not so much an independent foreign country as a German *Gau* (District, or Province).

Mr. Riess went on to expose the rising tide of Fascism in the school systems of Argentina. He said, "In them the children of German immigrants not only learn the German language but are taught Hitlerism pure and simple. . . . Hitler's picture hangs in every classroom. 'Heil Hitler' is the obligatory greeting . . . They number among their former pupils a great many of the most active Nazi agents in South America today . . . we will see more and more German schools in Argentina."

Brazil

Brazil has not escaped the rising power of revived Nazism. Mr. Rea and I also reported having seen the site of Alfried Krupp's new steel mill near Sao Paulo, Brazil. We reported the growing industrial power of Brazil, and showed the German technicians, industrialists and economists who had flocked to Brazil, carrying pan-Germanism into

this greatest and largest of the South American countries.

Official investigations disclosed as early as 1941 and 1942 that in Brazil the chief centers of Nazi activities were the Farben concerns of Allianca Commercial de Anilinas Ltda. and A. Química Bayer of Rio de Janeiro. The Brazilian Farben executive, Hammers, was a leading agent of the German Military Intelligence (p. 23 "The Plot Against The Peace").

Uruguay

Long-time close friend of the United States, Uruguay did a complete about face recently by a political upset in which radical right-wing candidates made a virtual clean sweep in the national elections.

As Mr. Rea and I reported in 1957, of all the South American "republics," Uruguay was the one closest to the United States politically. However, since that time the whole scene has changed. Uruguay is now beginning to hear the anti-American cries that have characterized many of the other countries south of our borders.

Paraguay

Supposedly the "last of the Dictatorships" this small but important country is headed by strong man (German heritage) Alfredo Stroessner. Alarmed by what was happening in Cuba, Stroessner decided to carry out some purges of his own *before* a revolution could occur.

His hatchet-man for the blood bath turned out to be one Ante Pavelich, a fanatical Croat, and Yugoslav Fascist. Pavelich's name ranks among the vermin in his blood-soaked infamy of the horrifying atrocities in his past. "Poglavnik" under Hitler's regime for Croatia (which is the equivalent in Yugoslav for "Fuehrer"), Pavelich ruled Croatia during early days of Nazi occupation, and was directly responsible for the extermination of 800,000 of his own countrymen. He escaped to Argentina after the war, and began working for Stroessner last year. Mr. Curzio Malaparte, in his book, *Kaputt*, reported that "Ustashi" (Secret Service) members under Pavelich in Croatia had at one
(Please continue on page 20)

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

This 18th installment reveals how Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong learned the truth about the resurrection—and that it never pays to try to convert relatives!

IN ALL my experience since conversion one oft-repeated incident has brought sorrow and regret. Many times a certain individual has been used to bring us light, or truth, or help, or certain advancement or stimulus to the work of God, only to lose out spiritually and be discarded, once his usefulness was over.

Resurrection Not on Sunday

It was about this time, summer, 1927, my wife and I had learned an exciting, shocking truth. The resurrection of Christ did not occur on Sunday morning!

The crucifixion was not on so-called "good Friday." These I had found to be mere traditions, totally unsupported by any evidence, and completely refuted by the sole historic record—the Bible.

I had learned—and found completely PROVED—that Jesus was in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea *three days and three nights*. Jesus Himself said so (Matthew 12:40). It was the *only SIGN* He gave as a miraculous PROOF of Messiahship.

The usual argument employed to discredit Jesus' statement, that this was an idiomatic expression in the original Greek meaning only three *parts* of days, of *either* a day or night, did not stand up. We had the same three days and three nights duration expressed in Jonah, inspired in Hebrew which knows no such idiomatic twist—or *idiotic* twist. Also many other passages verified the full 72-hour duration.

The crucifixion was on Wednesday. The resurrection was late Sabbath afternoon, just prior to sunset. This is proved conclusively, not only by all the Scriptures on the subject, which are many, but also by astronomy, and by the Hebrew calendar. The reader, if not familiar with this truth, is invited to write for the booklet titled "*The Resur-*

rection," and also, to learn the true origin and full truth about Easter, ask for the booklet titled "*Easter*." Both are free, of course.

From the beginning of the new Spirit-led life, I wrote, in article form, the thrilling new truths being unfolded in this continuous almost night-and-day study. This discovery of the true dates of the crucifixion and resurrection were written in an article captioned "*Foundation for Sunday Sacredness Crumbles*."

I had found that opponents of God's Sabbath can invent and contend with some fifty-seven varieties of arguments to explain why they *don't* keep the Sabbath. But they have only *one* argument for observing Sunday—the supposition of a Sunday morning resurrection.

Of course no Scripture anywhere tells us to observe the day of the resurrection. That, too, is a man-made argument.

Actually, there is absolutely *NO* Bible *authority* for Sunday observance. The *only* authority for it is that of the Roman Catholic church—a fact I believe any Catholic priest will confirm. Protestants, whether knowingly or not, acknowledge the *authority* of the Roman Catholic church in observing Sunday.

With a Sunday resurrection illusion shattered, the last *supposed* foundation for Sunday observance had crumbled.

Disheartening Disappointment

This article, "*Foundation of Sunday Sacredness Crumbles*," I believe, was never published. I did not write the articles, in those days, with the intention or expectation of having them published. I had been a trained advertising-copy and magazine-article writer. It simply came naturally to put into article form these intriguing, fascinating truths for my personal enjoyment and record.

But, exciting as these new truths were to me, I realized fully I was *new* in the truth—a novice spiritually—a "babe in

Christ." I deemed it wise to have this newly discovered truth about the day of the resurrection verified by others more experienced in Biblical understanding than I.

It was but natural to look upon the man whose prayer God had so miraculously answered in healing my wife as a "man of God." So, even though I felt sure this truth was proved, I wanted to be doubly sure. Also I sincerely wanted to share this wonderful truth with the man whom God had used in sparing my wife's life. So I walked down to the old Billy Sunday tabernacle, out past 82nd Street, where this man was caretaker, one evening, very shortly after my wife's healing.

This "man of God" promised he would study my article and give me his opinion. Then a few nights later I returned to his living quarters in a corner of the giant tabernacle.

For several minutes other subjects occupied the conversation.

"But did you study into my article about the day of the resurrection?" I asked, since he avoided mentioning it.

"Well, yes, Brother," he replied, "I took it to our pastor and we went over it together."

"Well, did you find any error in what I wrote?" I persisted.

"Well, no, Brother," he admitted, "we couldn't find anything wrong with it. It does seem to be according to the Scriptures, but Brother, we feel that studying into *that* kind of subject is likely to be *dangerous*. It might get you all mixed up. We feel it would be better for you to just forget all about that—just get your mind clear off of that. There are *more* important things for you to think about and study into. It's best to just keep your mind on Christ."

"But," I rejoined, suddenly disillusioned, "if the resurrection was on the Sabbath, and not on Sunday, the only

reason anyone has for Sunday observance is gone. Don't you think we might be breaking the Commands of God and sinning, if we ignore such a truth?"

"Well now, Brother," he tried to reassure me, "that's just the trouble. You see how it could get you all upset. All the churches observe Sunday. We can't

start to fight all the churches. Now we are saved by GRACE, not of works. We think there are *more important* things in salvation than which *day* Christ rose on, or which *day* we keep. This could just get you all mixed up. It could be *dangerous*. Better just get your mind off of such things."

I walked back to our home on Klickitat Street in Portland, grieved and sorrowfully disillusioned. I had had a lot of confidence in this man. Now here he was, *admitting* I had brought him a new TRUTH, proved by the Bible, yet *rejecting* this LIGHT—and, more, advising a newly converted man who had confi-

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

WABC—New York—770 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun., E.S.T.; 11:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

WNTA—Newark, N.J.—970 on dial—9:00 a.m. Sun.—7:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.—9:00 p.m. Sat.

WLS—Chicago—890 on dial—1:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Sun.; 10:30 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—10:30 a.m.; 11:15 p.m., Sun., E.S.T. 10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

WLAC—Nashville, Tenn.—1510 on dial—7:00 p.m., daily; 6:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat., E.S.T.—10:30 a.m. Sun.

CKLW—Windsor, Ontario—800 on dial—6:00 p.m. Sundays.

KLZ—Denver, Colo.—560 on dial—10:45 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sat.

XERF—1570 on dial—9:30 p.m., C.T.S. every night.

XELO—800 on dial—every night, 8:00 p.m., M.S.T., 9:00 p.m. C.S.T.

XEG—1050 on dial—every night, 8:30 p.m. C.S.T.

WCAE—Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on dial—6:30 p.m. Sundays.

WPIT—Pittsburgh, Pa.—730 on dial—7:00 a.m., daily.

KOME—Tulsa, Okla.—1300 on dial—9:00 p.m., Sunday; 6:30 a.m., Mon. thru Sat.

WFAA—Dallas, Tex.—570 on dial—6:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat. 820 on dial—8:30 p.m. Sun. (Note frequency difference)

KGBX—Springfield, Mo.—1260 on dial—10:30 a.m. Sunday; 6:15 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.

KSTL—St. Louis, Mo.—690 on dial—11:00 a.m. Sun.; 7:00 a.m. Mon. thru Fri.

WEW—St. Louis, Mo.—770 on dial—1:00 p.m., Sun. and Sat.

WKYB—Paducah, Ky.—570 on dial—12:00 noon, Sun. thru Sat.

WKYR—Keyser, W. Va.—1270 on dial—5:30 a.m., daily.

KDYL—Salt Lake City, Utah—1320 on dial—8:30 p.m. daily.

KFYR—Bismarck, N. Dak.—550 on dial—7:30 p.m. every night.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST

KGO—San Francisco—810 on dial—9:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.—10:00 p.m. Sun.

KABC—Los Angeles—790 on dial—9:30 p.m., Sun.; 7:25 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.; 8:00 p.m., Sat.

KRKD—Los Angeles—1150 on dial—1:30 p.m., Sundays; 7:00 a.m. Mon. thru Fri.

KBLA—Burbank—1490 on dial—7:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. daily.

XERB—1090 on dial—7:00 p.m. every night.

XEMO—San Diego, Cal.—860 on dial—7:30 a.m. daily.

KARM—Fresno—1430 on dial—6:30 p.m. daily.

KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—10:30 p.m. every night.

KPDQ—Portland—800 on dial—8:30 a.m. daily.

KWJJ—Portland—1080 on dial—10:00 p.m., Sundays; 9:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

KUGN—Eugene—590 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.

TO EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA

RADIO LUXEMBOURG—208 metres. Mondays and Tuesdays: 23:30 Greenwich time.

RADIO MONTE CARLO—1466 kc.; 6035 kc. and 7140 kc.; 7 a.m. M.E.T. Saturday (in Russian) and Sunday (in English).

RADIO TANGIER INTERNATIONAL—1232 kc. & S. W. Saturdays 16:30 Greenwich time. Sundays 10:45 Greenwich time (in Spanish).

TO SOUTH AFRICA

RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES, MOZAMBIQUE 10:00 p.m., Saturdays; 10:30 p.m., Mondays and Tuesdays.

RADIO ELIZABETHVILLE (Belgian Congo)—OQ2AD—7150 kc., 9:30 p.m. Fridays.

TO ASIA

RADIO GOA—60 metre band, 9:30 p.m. Mondays; 9:00 p.m. Fridays.

RADIO BANGKOK—HSIJS—4878 kc. Monday thru Friday: 10:35-11:05 p.m.

RADIO TAIWAN (FORMOSA)—840 kc. 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.

RADIO OKINAWA—KSBK—880 kc. Sundays: 12:00 noon. (Time in Japanese to be announced.)

ALTO BROADCASTING SYSTEM—PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

9:00 p.m. Sundays—DZAQ, Manila—630 kc.; DZRI, Dagupan City—1040 kc.; DZRB, Naga City—1060 kc.; DXMC, Davao City—900 kc.

TO AUSTRALIA

2AY—Albury—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
2CH—Sydney—Sat., 10:15 p.m.
2GF—Grafton—Sun., 9:30 p.m.
2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
3AW—Melbourne—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 p.m.
4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
4KQ—Brisbane—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
4TO—Townsville—Fri., 10:15 p.m.
4WK—Warwick—Tues., 9:30 p.m.
6BY—Bridgetown—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
6IX—Perth—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
6MD—Merredin—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
6WB—Katanning—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
7HT—Hobart—Wed., 10:25 p.m.

TO SOUTH AMERICA

RADIO AMERICA—Lima, Peru—6:00 p.m. Saturdays—1010 kc. 7:00 p.m., Sundays—
HOC21, Panama City—1115 kc.
HP5A, Panama City—11170 kc.
HOK, Colon, Panama—640 kc.
HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 kc.

The World Tomorrow in Spanish

RADIO LA CRONICA—Lima, Peru—7:00-7:15 P.M. Sundays

RADIO COMUNEROS—Asuncion, Paraguay—8:00-8:15 P.M., Sundays

RADIO SPORT—CXA19—Montevideo, Uruguay—4:00-4:15 P.M., Sundays

dence in him to reject THE WORD OF GOD!

Arriving home, I happened to turn to Hosea 4:6, where God says that because we have rejected His knowledge, He will reject us.

TRUTH, or Consequences

A week or two later I walked back out past 82nd Street to the huge old Billy Sunday tabernacle. This thing had weighed heavily on my mind. This tall, uneducated, plain and simple man had been an instrument in God's hands not only in saving my wife's life, but also in opening our eyes to the truth of God's healing power. I felt deeply grateful. I hoped that even yet I might help rescue this man from the consequences of rejecting God's revealed knowledge.

I found him in the big auditorium. He appeared dejected, downcast, worried.

"Brother," he said, on looking up and seeing me, "Brother, something terrible has come over me. God has left me. *He doesn't answer my prayers any more.* I don't understand what has happened."

Poor man! I understood what had happened.

He had been a trusting and deeply sincere, if simple, man. God had used this man. God used him to bring my wife and me the knowledge that God actually performs miracles for those who trust Him—He heals—if we obey and believe. And how many other people God had helped through this man's prayers I did not know.

Evidently, until God used *me* to test him by bringing to him a new truth, he had not deliberately rejected truth nor disobeyed God's commands *knowingly*. God looks on the *heart*, and until this man followed his preacher in deliberately *rejecting* light and truth from God which led to wilful disobedience, his heart was honest and sincere in his simple way.

But he had rejected God's knowledge. And now God had rejected him!

His prayers were no longer answered.

He was now guilty of *disobedience* of God's Law. And God reveals through John that what things soever we ask, we receive of Him *because* we keep His *commandments*, and DO those things that

are pleasing in HIS *sight*. This man no longer complied with the divine conditions. Yet, if ever I met a man who had the "gift of healing" spoken of in I Corinthians 12:9, this man had had it.

God had used him to bring to us a truth. We accepted it, and began to *walk* in it. Then God used me to take to him a truth. He acknowledged that it was the truth. He had seen it *proved*. Yet he rejected it, and walked in disobedience instead of in the light! God used this man no more.

Of course he had MUCH to learn, had he continued as an instrument in God's hands. True Christians must continually *overcome*, and GROW in grace and the *knowledge* of Jesus Christ.

The servant of God cannot stand still. Either he advances, and *grows* spiritually against opposition and obstacles, or he falls by the wayside to be rejected. It is not an easy road.

This incident just described is but one of many of its kind. Later I was to encounter many more whom God used to help me and His work, only to see them endure but a while, and fall aside. Several of these have been among our closest and most loved personal friends. These experiences have provided our greatest suffering in God's service. They were pictured by Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed. It seems the majority who start out on this straight and narrow road of opposition, persecution, trial and test, self-restraint, continuous attitude of repentance, overcoming, growing, fail to endure until the end.

It has grieved Mrs. Armstrong and me deeply to see so many for whom we were grateful—who had helped us and God's work—whom we learned to love so much, turn aside finally and drop out of the race for eternal life.

"Let him that thinketh he standeth *take heed*, lest he fall!"

Don't YOU Make THIS Mistake!

This year 1927 was a very eventful year in my life.

As soon as I swallowed my bitterest pill of rebellion, surrendered to *obey* the Mighty God through faith in Jesus Christ, this new Christian WAY became the most happy, joyful experience of my life. Studying the Bible became a pas-

sion. I plunged into it with a fierce zeal.

The all-day sessions at the Portland public Library did not stop with my capitulation to the truth following the six months' angered study to end my wife's "fanaticism."

No longer was it an intensive study driven by anger and determination to have my own way. Now it was an enthusiastic study of eager anticipation, literally *thrilling* to every new discovery of spiritual "light" and Biblical truth.

Now a passion swept over me to "get our families saved."

With the best intentions in the world, I set out on a vigorous campaign. To me, it was the loving and intense desire to *share* the wonders and glories of salvation and Bible knowledge with those we felt we loved most. But to most of them, it was an unwanted effort to "cram my crazy religion down their throats."

I did succeed, apparently, in talking one sister-in-law into a certain start. I had to learn later it was a false start. She was baptized, either when I was, or very shortly afterward. But, as too often happens when a high-pressure salesman talks one into something he doesn't really want, she turned against it all shortly afterward.

I had to learn, however, that, even though I had believed I was a pretty good salesman in my earlier business experience, I was unable utterly to "cram my religion down my relatives' throats." My efforts only aroused hostility. They said I was "crazy."

This is a universal mistake committed by the newly converted. Especially is this true where a husband or wife yields to God's truth without the other.

It nearly broke up our marriage—even though Mrs. Armstrong did NOT attempt to inject her new religious belief into me. In our case the marriage was saved only because I accepted the challenge to study into it myself, confident I could prove she was wrong. But most mates will not study into it. Most unconverted mates, especially if the converted one tries to talk the other into his or her religion, will break up the home.

In the more than thirty-two years since my conversion, I have known of dozens and scores of marriages that

have ended in divorce *because the newly-converted mate tried to talk the unconverted one into it.* I have never heard of a case where the unconverted mate was talked into accepting it.

Of all things evil and harmful a newly-converted Christian can do, the very WORST is to try to talk your husband or wife into your religion. **WHAT-EVER** else you do, let me *plead* with every such reader, **NEVER** commit this tragic sin. If you love your husband or wife, *don't do it!!* If you love your Saviour who died for you, and now lives for you, **DON'T DO IT!!!**

Remember these Scriptures: "No man can come to me," said Jesus, "except the Father which hath sent me, draw him" (John 6:44, 65). Again, Jesus said: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came *not* to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, . . . and a man's foes shall be they of his own household. . . . He that loveth father or mother" . . . (or wife or husband) . . . "more than me is not worthy of me. . . . And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me" (Mat. 10:34-38).

God made every human a free moral agent. Thank God!—no one has power to force on *you* any unwanted religion.

Every individual makes his *own* decision. A religious difference between husband and wife is a serious handicap. The Bible *forbids* a converted person from marrying an unconverted.

But if such difference already exists, do not make matters worse by *talking* religion to your mate. Do all your *talk-ing* to God in prayer. Let your mate *see* your happy, pleasant, cheerful, joyful, loving **WAY** of life—not *hear* your arguments or nagging! Allow your mate complete religious latitude and freedom—whether to be converted, religious, irreligious, or atheistic!

I am glad I learned that lesson early. I have had to maintain certain business connections with many people, since being plunged into God's work. I must maintain contacts with radio men, publishers, professional men. I get along splendidly with them. A big reason is that I never talk religion to them.

I never try to talk *anyone* into accept-

ing Bible truth or being converted. I go *to* the world over the air, and in print, and everyone is free to listen, or read—or to dial out or not read. No one gets our literature unless he personally requests it. We try never to force God's precious truth on anyone. That's **GOD'S WAY!!**

Do you know how the Apostle Paul won individuals to Christ? Not the way people attempt to do it today. He said "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save *some*." When he talked to an unconverted Jew, do you suppose he spoke as a Christian thinking he is "witnessing for Christ" would do today? Do you suppose Paul said to the unconverted Jew: "Have you received Christ as your personal Saviour? Oh, *won't* you just kneel with me right here, dear brother, and give your heart to the Lord right now?" Or, do you suppose he said: "Look here, my Jewish sinner-friend, you've on the way to hell. Your religion is all wrong. Every day you reject Christ as your Saviour you are crucifying Him afresh. You are worse than a thief or a murderer. I'm going to keep after you, and pester you with my arguments, and drum them into your stubborn ears, and beat them into that stiff rebellious mind of yours until I *force* you to become a Christian."

No, that is not the way Paul spoke to unconverted Jews. Paul said: "Unto the Jews I became *as a Jew*" (I Cor. 9:22, 20). Paul spoke to others *from their point of view!* He talked to a Jew just like *another Jew*—from the *Jewish viewpoint*—showing sympathy and understanding of the *Jews'* way of looking at Christianity. They were—and mostly are today—hostile to the idea of Jesus being the promised Messiah. Paul did not rouse hostility—he put it down. He got on the inside, so to speak, just as *one of them*, so that they were *sympathetic* toward him, not hostile. He became *as a Jew*, "that I might gain the Jews." Even so he gained only a small minority, yet it was a large number.

Perhaps you have had your eyes opened to the fact that sin is the transgression of God's Law. Most professing Christians have been taught, and consequently sincerely believe, that "the Law is done away." Paul was inspired

to write that the carnal mind is hostile to God and to God's Law; "it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). If you say to your unconverted mate who is hostile to God's Law, "You're just a rebellious *sinner*, and your church is just one of these false worldly churches. You've got to *repent*, and obey God's Commandments if you are going to be saved"—you have not only aroused hostility, you have yourself *been* hostile, and you probably have broken up your marriage.

How did Paul talk to such people? Listen: "To them that are without law, *as without law*, that I might gain them that are without law."

One of the first principles of successful advertising I learned early in my career is that to get results you must *first* learn the attitude of your reading audience toward whatever product or service you are advertising. You must not antagonize those whom you expect to persuade. You must approach them from *their* point of view—not from *yours*, especially if your viewpoint is contrary to theirs. To win them to *your* point of view, you must approach them from *their* viewpoint. Otherwise you only arouse hostility.

I know that these words are addressed to a very large number who have made this terrible mistake. That is why I have devoted so much space to this point.

If you believe God's truth, and your husband or wife does not, **NEVER TALK RELIGION** to him or her. If your mate normally thinks and speaks only of material and worldly things, then you must speak of material things to your spouse. If the *World Tomorrow* broadcast has, probably because of your own aggressiveness in trying to get your mate to listen, become a sore spot, go off to some private room to hear the program. Keep the volume turned down. *Make every effort NOT to antagonize* your husband or wife.

And again, when you *talk* about it, talk to God in prayer. Let your mate see your *good works*, in a manner that he or she will naturally approve. Avoid every hostility. Be *pleasant*. Keep *cheerful!* Be *happy!* Radiate **JOY!!** Give **LOVE** and warm affection!!! Do everything to cause your husband or wife to *like* you! **THAT IS THE CHRISTIAN WAY!!**

The REASON Behind Today's Religious Confusion!

Do you know WHY today's "Christianity" is so divided? Where is God's TRUTH being proclaimed? Read the startling answers in this important sequel to the series on the Reformation!

by Roderick C. Meredith

HUMAN ANNIHILATION is nearer than we think! In a world torn by *strife* and *hatred*, man has now devised *several frightful ways* by which he can DESTROY all living things!

Year by year, this condition grows WORSE—not better! What is the *meaning* of these times?

In his first inaugural address, President Eisenhower solemnly stated: "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 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, the EXTINCTION of all life is at hand!

UNLESS God intervenes, we are headed for a time of *darkness* so much blacker than the Dark Ages that there can be no comparison!

The *results* clearly indicate that men do NOT know the way to bring *peace* to the world. We are living in a so-called "Christian" western world. Yet it is a world CUT OFF from God, groping in the dark, living under the constant threat of *world suicide!*

Why has our "Christianity" utterly FAILED to halt the mounting wave of *personal crime* among individuals—and international GANGSTERISM among many of the world's leaders? *Why* do the organized church denominations have *no real answer* to these problems?

Has God FORSAKEN His People?

Fearful of the imminent use of *horrificing weapons* of mass destruction, many people are wondering: "Has God

forsaken us?" The answer is that *we have forsaken God*. And we have forsaken Him FAR MORE than most of you even begin to realize!

Nearly two thousand years ago Jesus Christ came to this earth with a *message* from God the Father. He preached the good news of the kingdom—or *government*—of God (Mark 1:14). He also came to found His Church.

Jesus said: "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mat. 16:18).

Notice that Jesus did not say "churches" but *church*—ONE Church. He called it the "little flock" (Luke 12:32).

Jesus taught His followers to *obey* God's spiritual law contained in the Ten Commandments. He said: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Mat. 5:19). Setting an example of perfect obedience to God's laws, Jesus told His disciples to become PERFECT in character as is God Himself (Mat. 5:48).

Later, He warned His followers of ill-treatment and persecution by the world. "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service" (John 16:2).

But Jesus commanded His servants to continue preaching *His* message to the END of the age. Just before ascending to heaven, He commanded: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the

end of the world" (Mat. 28:19-20).

What most people completely fail to realize is that the true servants of God *were persecuted* and *were KILLED* down through the ages for preaching Christ's message! God's truth was NEVER accepted by the world!

Jesus had warned: "If they have kept my saying (they *crucified* Him instead!), they will keep yours also" (John 15:20).

Rather than *believing* and *obeying* Christ's message, this world has *persecuted* His servants and His true Church down to this day!

Early Apostasy

As we have *proved* in the Reformation articles, a startling CHANGE took place in nominal Christianity soon after the death of the original apostles. PAGANISM was introduced into an apostate "Christianity," and God's TRUTH was *stamped out* by clever argument and political pressure and, when necessary, by *physical force!*

We remember the historian Wharey's comment: "Christianity began already to wear the garb of heathenism" (*Church History*, p. 39). Hurlbut states: "The forms and ceremonies of *paganism* gradually crept into the worship. Some of the old *heathen feasts* became church festivals with change of name and worship" (*The Story of the Christian Church*, p. 79).

You should realize that these *heathen practices* are STILL BEING OBSERVED by Catholic and Protestant churches alike throughout the "Christian" world!

Describing the development of this paganized Roman Catholic system, the historian Hurlbut comments: "The church gradually usurped power over the state, and the result was not Christianity but a more or less corrupt *hierarchy* controlling the nations of Europe,

making the church mainly a *political machine*" (*The Story of the Christian Church*, p. 80).

Do you readers realize that in spite of these startling admissions by their own church historians, most Protestant ministers still attempt to prove their historical descent from Christ and His apostles through the Roman Catholic Church? As we saw last month, they called her their "mother" church!

Yet, this apostate system had departed about AS FAR from the teaching and practice of Jesus Christ and His apostles as it would seem possible to imagine! The historian Plummer directly acknowledges this fact: "And as soon as the revival of letters caused the contents of the New Testament and the teachings of the fathers to be known, it was seen that what passed for Christianity at the close of the 15th century was *scarcely recognized* as such, when placed side by side of what we know of Christianity at the close of the apostolic age" (*The Continental Reformation*, p. 11).

Remember that Jesus said: "I will build MY Church." In Ephesians 1:22 and other scriptures, Christ is described as the *living* HEAD of the true Church. Do you imagine that He was the Head of this apostate, paganized system which had utterly departed from almost every remnant of His true teaching and practice? Would He cause His faithful, commandment-keeping Church to descend through this foul system?

Failure of the Reformation

We found in the Reformation series that the early Protestant reformers—and their later followers—completely FAILED to recapture the faith and practice of Jesus and His apostles. We learned how both Calvin and Luther came at various points of truth from a background of Roman Catholic rearing, training, and education.

It seems that they found a few truths, only to introduce other peculiar errors of their own devising. And we found abundant historical records of how the early reformers *cruelly persecuted* those who disagreed with their teachings—even to the point of *taking their lives!*

Perhaps the most *basic reason* why these early reformers and their Protes-

tant followers have not been able to understand the spiritual truths of the Bible and to believe and practice the *literal teachings of Jesus is one FALSE CONCEPT* they have persistently maintained. They knew that Jesus said He would build His Church, and that it would not perish. Since they mistakenly felt that it would be a BIG, ORGANIZED, DENOMINATIONAL BODY, they immediately jumped to the conclusion that the Roman Catholic Church must be the connecting link between them and Jesus!

Therefore, much of their reasoning was based upon the early "traditions" and practices of that church—which they assumed to have been untainted by human reason. They continually looked to the "early fathers" of this church for guidance on doctrinal questions.

Remember that both Luther and Calvin were *reared* in Catholic homes, *trained* in Catholic schools, and *educated* for the Roman Catholic priesthood! They and their followers had grown up in a *Catholic* world. They were literally SATURATED with Catholic doctrines, concepts, philosophies. As Almighty God shows in His word, they were spiritually *drunk* on the false doctrines of this paganized Catholic system!

No wonder they didn't get back to the "faith once delivered"! They looked to the example of the early Catholic Church as to what that faith ought to be like. They could only see the present evils of the Catholic system in their own time. Little did they realize that the entire system was *completely* and *TOTALLY cut off from God—from His Church—from His guidance!*

Thus these Protestant reformers—and their later followers—have FAILED to restore the true MESSAGE of Jesus Christ to this earth! They have only introduced *more religious confusion* than already existed! So God has been forced to label the whole system "Babylon the Great"—or *great confusion!*

Today's world, then, remains in al-

CORRECTION: In introductory sections of two recent installments of Mr. Meredith's thesis on the PROTESTANT REFORMATION it was stated that Martin Luther translated Romans 1:17: "The just shall live by faith *alone*." This was an oversight and not part of the original thesis. Luther's insertion of the word "alone" is actually found in Romans 3:28.

most total *ignorance* of Christ's real message—of the *purpose* of God, of the *laws* of God, of the *meaning* of the prophesied events which are being rapidly fulfilled at this very moment! But could this fantastic world-wide deception actually be possible? Could this be God's will?

A Counterfeit "Christianity" Prophesied!

Our modern religious CONFUSION was prophesied hundreds of years ago in the Bible itself! Jesus Christ warned that *many* false preachers would come in His name—but would DECEIVE the people by a false message. He said: "For *many* shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall *deceive* MANY" (Mat. 24:5).

Yes, *hundreds* of differing denominations have appropriated to themselves the *name* of Jesus Christ—but they have *denied* His message, and they have substituted PAGANISM with its beliefs and practices for His way of life! And they have deceived the MANY—not the *few!*

The apostle Paul was inspired to warn of this great falling away from the truth: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; AND THEY SHALL TURN AWAY THEIR EARS FROM THE TRUTH, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Tim. 4:3-4). Paul knew that after His death and that of the other apostles, the false ministers *would* come in with all of their heathen practices, heathen religious festivals, and pagan philosophies. He knew that the world would be turned from the truth to *fables—fairy tales!*

He warned of men in the last days, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (II Tim. 3:5). Paul knew that at the end of this age men would cease to recognize God as a POWER in world affairs to be reckoned with—and that they would deny His *authority* in their individual lives.

The modern "form" of a so-called Christianity is a PAGANIZED form! On the outside of the package it is labeled "Christianity." But *inside* are contained the old pagan philosophies, traditions, heathen festivals, practices and false

concepts of God and the way of God.

Today's "Christianity" is *totally* DIFFERENT from the Christianity of Jesus Christ! Many recognized church historians admit this fact—seemingly oblivious of the tremendous *import* of what they are saying.

This Is a Deceived World!

A recognized and respected scholar, Dr. Rufus Jones, states: "If by any chance Christ himself had been taken by His later followers as a model and a pattern of the new way, and a serious attempt had been made to set up His life and teaching as the standard and norm for the Church, Christianity would have been something VASTLY DIFFERENT from what it became". (*The Churches Debt to Heretics*, p. 16). Dr. Jones, a Protestant scholar, recognizes that Jesus' kind of Christianity is *not being practiced* in our modern world today!

Let us candidly inquire: What is *wrong* with JESUS' kind of Christianity? Did Jesus Christ know what Christianity ought to be like? Just who DOES have the authority to set the standards for Christianity?

The real *answer* to this dilemma is that Christ Himself prophesied that the world would be DECEIVED by Satan the devil and his false ministers. We find Satan described as "that old Serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which *deceiveth* the WHOLE WORLD" (Rev. 12:9). It seems hard to believe but the Bible says *this whole WORLD has been deceived!*

Speaking of the Babylonish false religious system which developed during the Middle Ages, the apostle John says in Revelation: "The inhabitants of the world have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication" (Rev. 17:2). Through the spiritual wine—or *false doctrines*—of this paganized system, the inhabitants of this *entire* EARTH have been made spiritually DRUNK!

Because of this spiritual confusion—this *spiritual drunkenness*—most people on earth today are not able to see spiritual things clearly. They are like a drunken man with blurry vision when they try to read the Bible. It doesn't make sense. They get confused. They may ask their minister—but usually

only get an evasive answer or pretty platitude which doesn't really answer the deep spiritual question in their heart.

The Bible just doesn't seem to make SENSE to people. They don't *understand* it. They don't understand the theme in its laws and teachings—and they certainly don't understand the *prophecies* of the Bible!

Satan's Counterfeit of the Truth

Almighty God has permitted Satan the devil to implant his religion in the minds of men here on earth. He started doing that clear back at the tower of Babel. He continued it through the ancient Chaldean mystery system developed by Nimrod and his harlot-wife, Semiramis. That system has spread over all the world so that many of the *same customs* and *practices* of our so-called western "Christianity" are found in varying forms among the orientals and the pagan idolaters of the far-flung tropical islands!

This same Chaldean mystery system—with its pagan philosophies, its pagan religious holidays and symbols—was brought in by stealth into many of the early Christian church congregations. Carnal minded church leaders accepted this paganism which the natural mind of man seems to love so much. They *pretended* it was Christianity—and forced it into an apostate Christianity they were beginning to develop out of those congregations and individuals who did not wish to keep intact the *way* and *truth* of God.

This heathen mystery system finally took over COMPLETELY in the early Catholic Church until it became, as we have seen, simply "baptized paganism." When the Protestant reformers were little children, they grew up as part of this system. They were taught it by their parents, friends, and teachers. They *believed* in it, and were even trained for its priesthood!

Both Luther and Calvin later *denied* that they had withdrawn from the historic Catholic Church! This was because they felt that it was *God's Church!* Its basic *tenets* and *practices* they left UNCHANGED. And even without realizing it, the pagan philosophies and false concepts of God imparted by this system guided and influenced the development

of Protestant religious teachings and outlook.

Now, in this age, YOU have grown up supposing that all these churches are *God's Churches*. You have probably thought: How can all these churches be wrong?

They CAN be wrong, because God says: "For ALL nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Rev. 18:3). Yes, ALL nations have been made spiritually drunk through Satan's deception coming down through the ancient Babylonish mystery system, into Roman Catholicism, and since to our modern Protestantism!

Truly, Satan HAS *deceived* "the whole world"! The Bible MEANS what it says more than we have realized.

May God help you see this TRUTH! You are not going to have long to debate about it, frankly, because we are nearing the END of this age of man going his own ways on earth.

Perhaps the *absolutely real* threat of HUMAN ANNIHILATION will force some of you to face spiritual REALITIES in a way that you have never been willing to do before!! God grant that it may be so before it is too late!

If you are willing to admit that you may have been *wrong*, then, what should you do?

What You Should Do

First of all, you should review what was brought out about Christ and His Church in the first part of this article.

Jesus said: "I will build MY Church" (Mat. 16:18). He did not say *many* churches—but only indicated *one* church—His Church! He called that Church the "little flock." He said they would be *scattered* and *persecuted*. Recall that in John 15:20, He said that they would not keep to the truth of His Church or accept it any more than they had accepted Jesus' own teachings. And they *crucified* Jesus Christ!

Remember that Jesus taught OBEEDIENCE to God's Law based on the Ten Commandments (Mat. 5:17-19; 19:17). He told His servants to continue preaching that same message. He commanded them to go into all nations: "teaching them to observe ALL things *whatsoever I have commanded you*" (Mat. 28:20).

In His revelation to John, Christ de-

scribed the last-generation remnant of His Church as those people, "which keep the *commandments*, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 12:17). He describes His persecuted saints as follows: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the **COMMANDMENTS** of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12).

If you want to know the **TRUTH**, if you want to be protected from the hellish times of world cataclysm that lie just ahead, then *you had better seek for and find that Church!* You had better find the true Church of God—the only Church Jesus built—the Church of which He is the living Head!

Has there been a small, scattered, persecuted Church which keeps *all* of God's Commandments and which Jesus Christ is using as His "body" today in doing His work in preaching His gospel to the world?

Yes! There *has been* and *is*. But first you need to *prove* this—and then you need to *do something about it!*

Proofs of God's Church

All of the Scriptures already mentioned should apply to God's true Church—not *just part of them*. And God's Church will be keeping *all ten* of the Ten Commandments contained in God's spiritual law. You need to be especially sure of this point, and *study* your Bible to find out more about God's law yourself! For, as we have seen, the true Church is commonly identified as that people "which keep the *commandments* of God."

Another thing to bear in mind in regard to the true Church being scattered and persecuted is that you can't "join" that Church like you would some social club! In New Testament times, people were only considered members of God's Church after they had obeyed the inspired command: "**REPENT**, and *be baptized* every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). So you have to *repent* of your sins and of your entire rebellious, self-willed way of life before God will put you into His Church!

After repentance and baptism, you are to practice—as we have seen—

obedience to God's law as a way of life. You are to live by **EVERY** word of God and to follow the literal example and teaching of Jesus Christ.

Another outstanding characteristic of God's Church is its willingness to *admit error* and to *change*. Each human is commanded to *change*—to **GROW** in grace and in knowledge (II Pet. 3:18). Since the Church is only the sum total of its members, it too must continually be willing to repent if there is some minor error God has permitted to creep in, and to *grow* in grace and in knowledge.

Therefore, the true Church will be a Church continually **GROWING** into new truth and knowledge and understanding! Its members will "hunger and thirst" after righteousness (Mat. 5:6). Because of this humble, repentant, yielded attitude, it will be *filled* with love and zeal and a continually deeper **UNDERSTANDING** of God's will and of the meaning of Bible prophecies in relation to the times in which we live.

These things are so because God's Church is yielded to and led by His Spirit! And Jesus said: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you **INTO all truth**" (John 16:13). *Only* God's true Church really has these characteristics! And therefore **ONLY** God's true Church is filled with the *knowledge*, the *understanding*, and the *love* of His Spirit!

The Name of God's Church

In addition to being a small persecuted Church kept completely separate from the pagan doctrines, religious holidays, and heathen philosophies fostered by "mother" Rome, and in addition also to the fact that it keeps *all ten* of the Ten Commandments of God, and that it has the *right spiritual attitude* and willingness to repent, to change, to grow—the true Church should also have the *name* God intended His Church to bear as one of its identifying signs.

God's true Church was **NEVER** named after some religious leader, or some particular doctrine, or some type of church government or method of doing things! The Scriptural teaching shows that it was *always* named after God Himself! It is *His* Church. He owns it. He possesses it. He *rules it*—through His Son Jesus Christ who is also God,

and a member of God's kingdom. Therefore, in *twelve places* in the New Testament it is called "The Church of God."

In Acts 20:28, Paul told the Ephesian elders to feed "the Church of God" as he was speaking to them perhaps for the last time. Both of the letters to the Corinthian Church are addressed to "the Church of God which is at Corinth."

Speaking of the church congregations collectively Paul writes to the Thessalonians: "For ye, brethren, became followers of the *churches of God* which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus" (I Thes. 2:14).

In **EVERY** case when the title is given in any official sense, the *name* for the Church is "The Church of God." That is the *inspired NAME* of God's Church!

However, since most churches have at least a few points of truth, some of them have *falsely* appropriated to themselves the name "Church of God." But they are **NOT** His Church because they do not keep His commandments, do not have His Spirit, and are not doing His *work*.

Find Out Where God is WORKING

Just as important as having the correct *name* and possessing the other characteristics we have discussed, the true Church must be doing the *work of God* on earth today!

It must be preaching Christ's true message — His *commandments* — His *way of life*. It must be preparing the way for God's kingdom—or *government* —to come and *rule this earth* before man destroys himself.

This Church is the one which will be *warning* the peoples and nations of the world of the specific **PUNISHMENTS** which Almighty God is *already* beginning to mete out. God's true Church, then, will really **UNDERSTAND** and *proclaim* the warning messages contained in Bible prophecy as God's *last witness* to a rebellious world!

Do *you* know where to find that Church?

You are *now* **READING** one of the warning messages from the true Church of God—the *body* of Christ—the *instrument* God is using to preach His message! If you do not already know, the day will come when you **WILL** know that

(Please continue on page 32)

NEW TRANSLATION of Bible Being Prepared!

Work is already under way on a fresh, clear translation of the inspired Greek text of the New Testament!

by Herman L. Hoeh

HERE'S really big news!

Not only is the true gospel now being published and preached around the world and behind the Iron Curtain in several languages, but the groundwork is being laid for the *written* Word of God—the Holy Bible—to be accurately, plainly and clearly translated from the inspired Greek New Testament into English!

It is time there is a translation which makes the truth of the New Testament plain, readable, clear. It is time we return to the *inspired* text of the New Testament as the apostles themselves wrote it.

What about the Revised Standard Version?

The past few years have witnessed a great commercial campaign to *sell* the Word of God—for profit. Of course, publishers of the Bible justly need to be compensated for their work. The laborer is worthy of his hire! But is the Revised Standard Version—yes, and many another rendering—really an accurate translation of the Word of God as He inspired it to be written by the apostles?

What about all those verses which are being left out of modern renderings of the Bible?—the last verses in Mark's gospel—the account of the woman taken in adultery in John 8. And what about the conversation of Philip and the eunuch in Acts 8:37?—and the numerous deletions in Luke's resurrection account in chapter 24?

Are these and other verses really in the Word of God?

And what about the minor readings which modern translations *add* here and there to the text? Do they really belong there?

And how can we be sure that the well-known King James Version has not added verses that never were in the Greek original, or deleted verses that

should have been left in the text?

Yes, it is time we knew *what* God inspired—and what the Bible *means* in accurate readable English!

What Ancient New Testament Manuscripts Are Like

On the cover of this issue of the PLAIN TRUTH you see what a Manuscript of the four gospels in Greek—over 1000 years old—looks like. It is the latest edition to the Ambassador College Library. The Manuscript is, of course, written by hand on vellum—which is treated sheepskin. The Greek letters are written in red and black minuscule [small letters] script in two columns comprising 222 leaves. This Manuscript is complete and in an exceptional state of preservation.

Each of the columns and every line was ruled by hand with a stylus in order to keep the lines and the margins straight. Imagine the tremendous

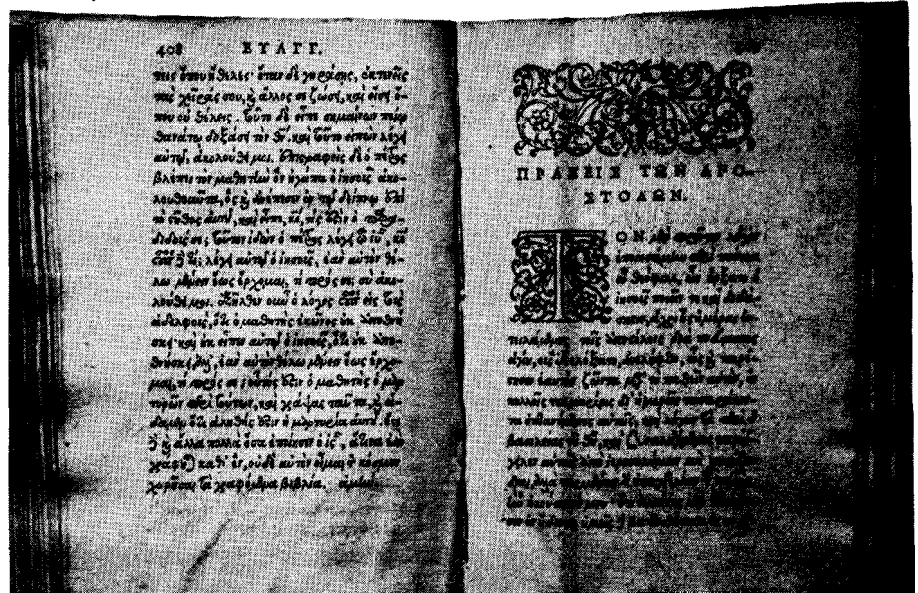
amount of work which anciently went into copying the Bible by hand before the invention of printing.

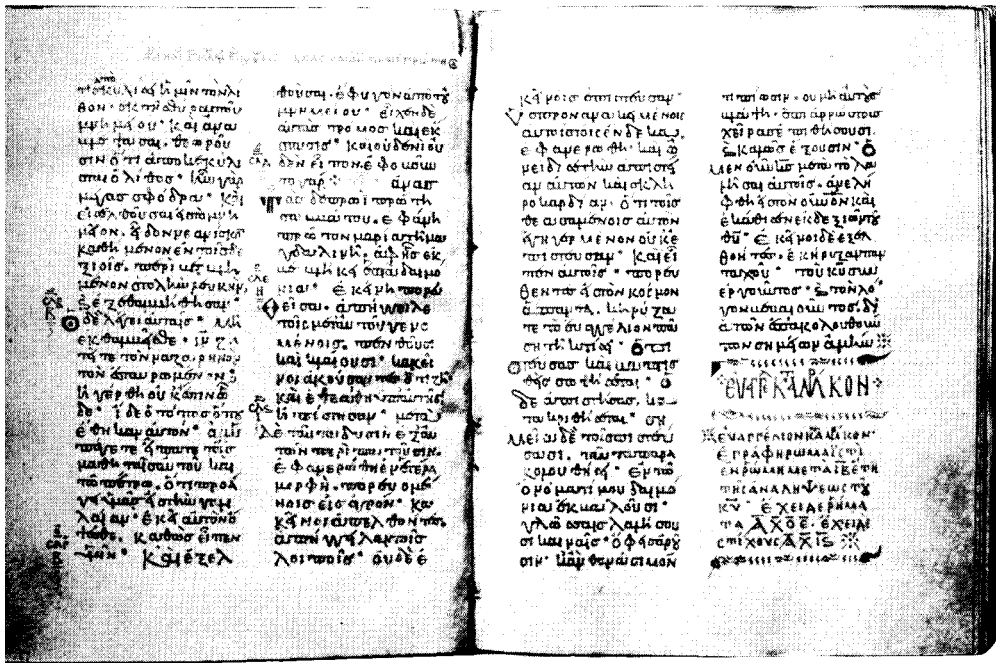
The decoration of this Greek codex is remarkable for its strapwork interlace decoration. Such work is not common in Greek manuscripts. In the pictures accompanying this article you can notice the beautiful decorations, all hand-done, which are in red, blue, yellow and white. This codex, like many others, is bound by wooden boards—covered with green silk brocade with red and silver thread patterns. This particular codex was apparently rebound six centuries after it was originally produced.

This imposing codex of the Greek New Testament is one of the many valuable volumes which are in our Ambassador College Library. Every scholar and translator needs to have these tools such as these with which to work. It might interest our readers to know

When the King James Translation was being prepared, the English scholars of that day utilized principally the editions of the Greek New Testament published by the famous printer Robert Stephens. Here is an illustration of

his neatly printed edition of 1546, showing the last chapter of John and the first chapter of Acts. Notice the beautiful decorations introducing the book of Acts.





some of the remarkable volumes which have been made available to our Library over the past years.

Manuscripts in Ambassador Library

Besides having the various Greek and Latin texts which all the critical scholars have prepared over the centuries since

the days of Erasmus (1500 A.D.) we have photographic plates of several of the most ancient Greek texts of the New Testament which are located only in the world-famous libraries at London and Rome.

Especially helpful are the numerous ancient versions—early translations of

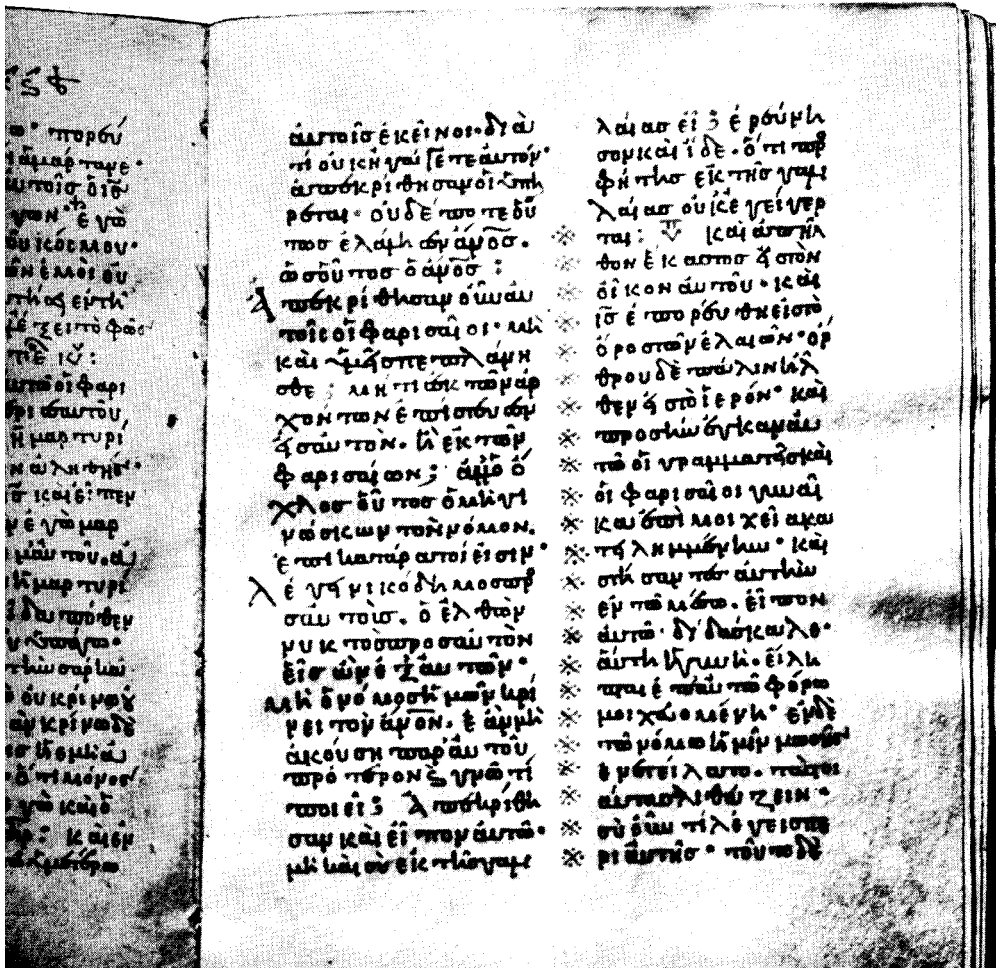
Some modern versions of the Bible incorrectly leave out the last verses of Mark, beginning with chapter 16, verse 9. These verses preserve the original inspired ending of the gospel according to Mark and appear in this 1000-year-old Manuscript. Although the overwhelming number of manuscripts have all these verses, modern scholars unjustifiably delete them because they are often missing in corrupted manuscripts copied in Egypt.

the Greek text into Syriac, into Latin, Ethiopic, Arabic, Persian, Coptic and others. Many of these very ancient translations—made before there even was an English language—give invaluable aid in proving what the original text of the New Testament was and in proving the source of later corruptions which appear in Latin versions and in Greek manuscripts made in Egypt.

Besides knowledge of Greek and other languages, every translator needs to have access to all the editions made in his own language—English. In addition to Wycliffe's two early English translations, the Ambassador Library contains the beautifully printed *Matthew's Bible* of John Rogers—who used the pseudonym of Matthew—printed in Antwerp in Holland in 1537. Perhaps the outstanding volume is Cranmer's *Great Bible*—a giant volume full of minute worm-holes published in 1566! Then there is the *Geneva Bible*, published by English reformers in Geneva, Switzerland in 1583.

It is striking to note that many of these early English translations were printed on the Continent of Europe because it was not safe to publish them in England due to religious persecution! This is especially true of *Tyndale's New Testament*.

An unusual volume in our library is



A controversial part of the gospel of John is pictured here. This is the story of the woman taken in the very act of adultery, found in John 7:53 to 8:11. This section is incorrectly deleted from the Revised Standard Version. This early Manuscript contains these verses, as do the overwhelming number of accurately copied manuscripts. The verses are marked off in the margin by large red asterisks to draw attention to the reader that this section was not customarily read aloud in church services.

the first edition of the King James Version in Roman type, published in 1612. A picture of one of its pages is shown with this article. Notice the vast changes in spelling and punctuation which have taken place since the first copies of the King James version were published.

Coupled with these we also have the valuable translation into English of the Rheims-Douay Version made by the Roman Catholic Church before the publishing of the King James Version.

This does not begin to mention the rare volumes on the Old Testament.

Who has Preserved the Greek New Testament?

But to return to the fundamental question. Whom has God used in the preservation of His written Word?

Jesus said: "Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law until all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). Has this happened? Was Jesus right? Or has the law—the Old Testament—been hopelessly lost and corrupted?

Luke quotes Jesus as saying: "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than one tittle of the law to fail" (Luke 16:17). Modern critics declare Jesus was wrong. They think the Old Testament has not been accurately preserved. But are they right?

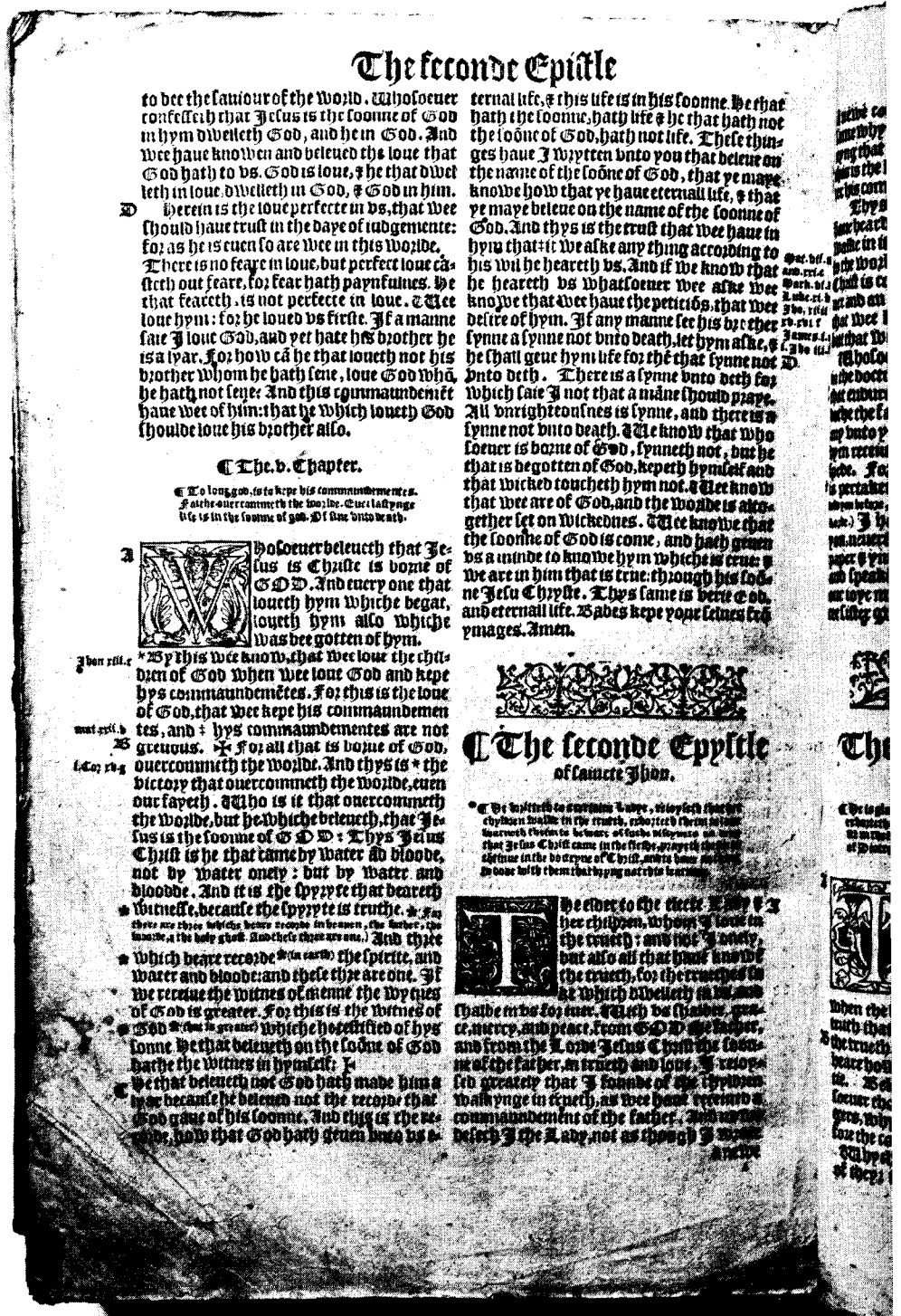
And what about the New Testament? Has it been hopelessly corrupted? Can we ever be sure what the words of Jesus really were? Notice what Matthew 24:35 and Mark 13:31 and Luke 21:33 declare: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

What words, those!

Jesus' Words—the very words recorded by the apostles in the New Testament—shall NOT pass away!

Of course the modern critics prefer to quote Jesus as saying: "Heaven and earth cannot pass away, but my words shall pass away!" But these critics are wrong! Jesus is right. His words have not passed away. The critics have merely been unwilling to look for His Words where He said they could be found! They have, instead, looked elsewhere so that they would not find Jesus' Words.

Notice where we ought to look for



A copy of the Great Bible—the bulkiest edition of the Bible printed—is part of the Ambassador Collection. This Bible, published in 1566, was printed in Old English black letters. Notice the minute worm-holes bored through the pages! The page here reproduced shows I John 5:7, lower lefthand column, in small type, as not part of the original inspired Greek New Testament. This spurious verse crept into the English Versions from the Latin Vulgate. It has no right in John's epistle.

the text of the Bible as originally inspired in Greek. Let us read it from the Revised Standard Version which the modern critics have themselves translated: "Then what advantage has the Jew?"

Yes, what special responsibility did God give to the Jew? Notice:

"Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews are entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? (Please continue on page 18)

Manuscripts and Rare

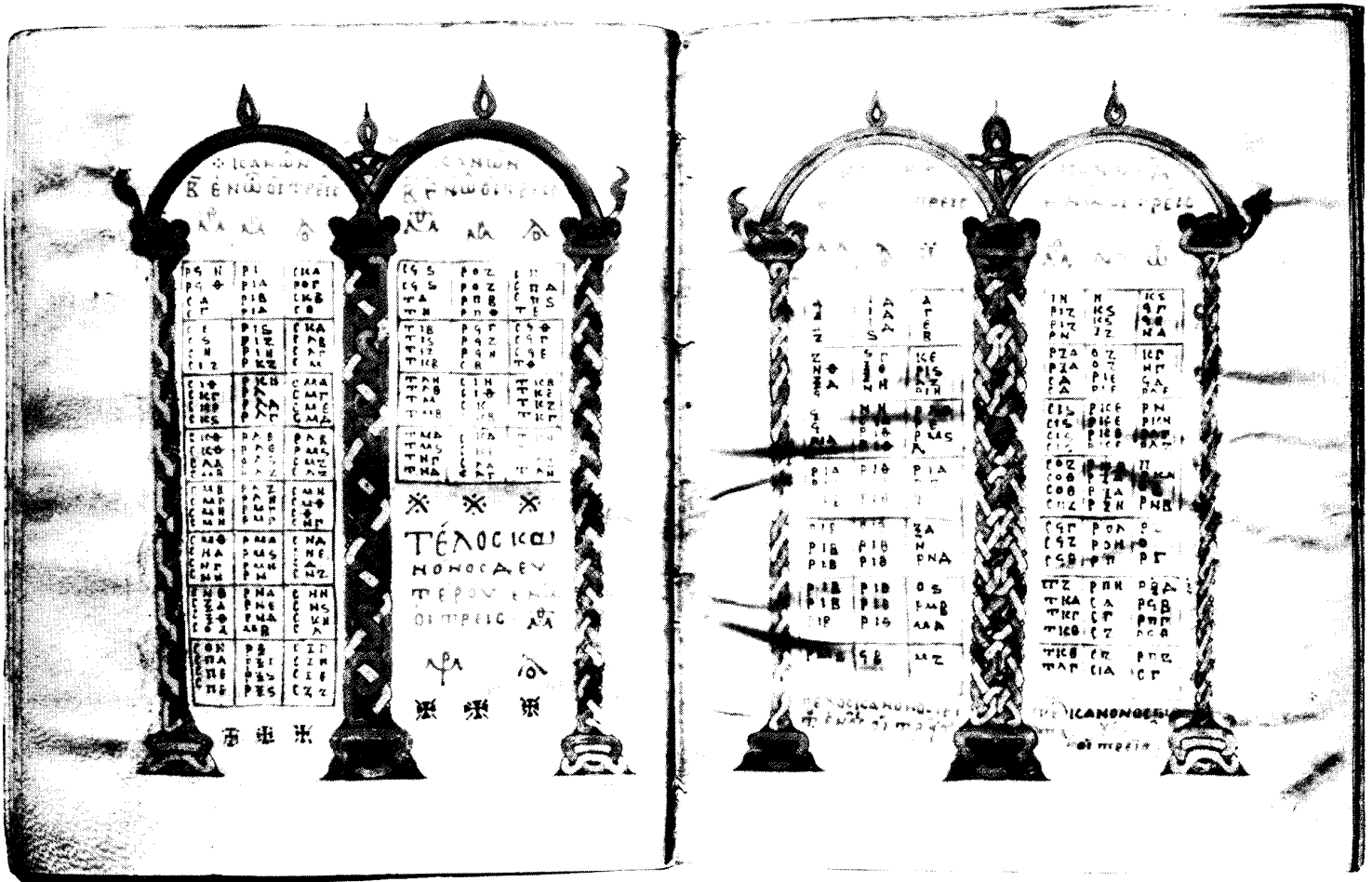
from the Ambassador College Library



The Bible is the Word of God. But God gave His Word to men to preserve. Human beings can and do make mistakes in copying any one manuscript. But a comparison of many different manuscripts quickly shows up an error which an individual scribe might have made in copying the Bible.

In the forepart of the Manuscript are these tables of the Eusebian canons, listing designated parallel portions of the four gospels. These pages are beautifully hand decorated with double red and yellow arches sup-

ported by columns. The columns, capitals and pedestals on each of these pages are composed of interlaced straps drawn in red, blue, yellow and white.



Right, first page of Matthew's gospel reproduced from first edition of the King James Version printed in Roman type. Notice how the spelling and punctuation has changed in the last 350 years since the first editions of the King James Version appeared. Yet the original Greek text of the New Testament—which has been preserved by the Greek Church—has remained fundamentally unchanged in 1900 years!

Books Collection

Right, Walton's Polyglott, a page of various readings that have been introduced into the manuscripts over the centuries by scribal errors.

Center, right, the Tremellius and Junius Latin Version, published in Geneva in 1630. Each of the capital letters is hand decorated.

Bottom row, center, the Greek Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Old Testament printed by J. Someren in Amsterdam in 1673.

Lower right hand corner, a word-for-word translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into Latin, published by Christopher Platin between 1568 and 1573.

Below, a copy of a leaf of the Codex Sinaiticus.

CHA. VI. ACCORDING TO THE EVANGELIST MATTHEW. For he saith, I will be with you, and will go with you, until the end of the world. And he saith, I will be with you, and will go with you, until the end of the world. And he saith, I will be with you, and will go with you, until the end of the world. And he saith, I will be with you, and will go with you, until the end of the world.

CHA. VII. For he saith, I will be with you, and will go with you, until the end of the world. And he saith, I will be with you, and will go with you, until the end of the world. And he saith, I will be with you, and will go with you, until the end of the world. And he saith, I will be with you, and will go with you, until the end of the world.

Left, a page from Luke of Douay Version published in 1609 by the Catholic Church.

Below, a page of the gospels from the Codex Alexandrinus, a part of the collection of the British Museum.

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GENESIS. Liber Genesis. In principio, cum veritate sacra Pagina. In principio, cum veritate sacra Pagina. In principio, cum veritate sacra Pagina. In principio, cum veritate sacra Pagina.

LIBER GENESIS. HEBRAEAE BEREITH. ID EST. In principio, cum veritate sacra Pagina. In principio, cum veritate sacra Pagina. In principio, cum veritate sacra Pagina. In principio, cum veritate sacra Pagina.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO S. MATTHEW. The Gospel according to St. Matthew. The Gospel according to St. Matthew. The Gospel according to St. Matthew. The Gospel according to St. Matthew.

New Translation

(Continued from page 15)

Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every man be false, as it is written, "That Thou mayest be justified in Thy words . . ." (Romans 3:1-4).

To the Jews were committed the oracles of God—the written record of God's revelation delivered through Moses and the prophets, the Old Testament. The Jews are the preservers of the Old Testament. But what if the Jews did not believe and did not practice the things written in the law, the prophets and the psalms? Does their

rejection of the truth nullify the faithfulness of the written Word of God which they are required to preserve? "God forbid," declared the King James Version. "By no means," reiterates the Revised Standard Version.

So the Jews—by the very admission of these critics—have preserved the Old Testament faithfully!

But the Jews rejected the New Testament—refused even to accept it. To whom did God send his New Testament message for preservation for us today?

To the Greeks!

Notice Paul's statement that the Jews originally had the advantage over the Greeks because the Jews received the oracles of God (Romans 3:1-4). Now,

however, declares Paul, "there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him" (Rom. 10:12). No difference? Why?

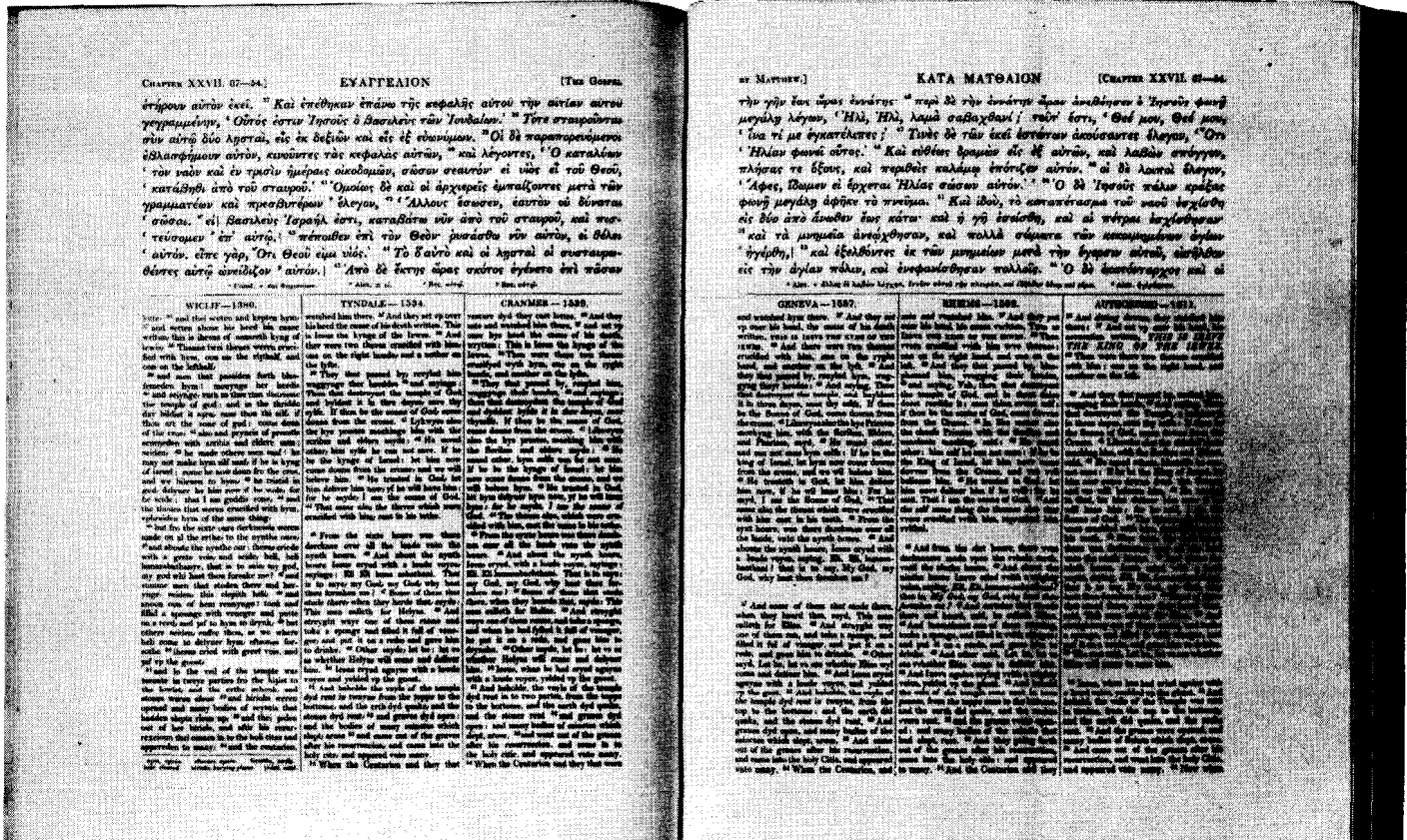
Continuing with verse 14: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent?" To whom was the New Testament message sent? "To the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). So the Greeks, too, received "the word of God" (Rom. 10:7).

Let us read further: "But I say, 'Did not Israel know?' [That is, did Israel recognize the New Testament message?] First Moses saith, 'I will provoke you to jealousy by a people that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.'"

Why? Because the Jews refused the New Testament oracles which now were

The Text of the Greek New Testament is often clarified by comparing it with early Versions in other languages. The two pages illustrated here are from Walton's Polyglott, published in 1557. They contain the controversial ending, Mark 16:9-20, which belongs in the Bible. Notice that the Greek, the Syriac and the Persian, at the left, and the Latin, the Arabic and the Ethiopic, at the right, all have this ending! Notice that these versions are each translated into the Latin.





sent to the Greeks! Notice: "But Esaias is very bold, and saith, 'I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.'" God manifested Himself—He gave His oracles, the New Testament message—to the Greeks through the preaching of the gospel. "But to Israel he saith, 'All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people'" (Rom. 10:19-21).

How plain! When the Jews rejected the message of Jesus Christ, God raised up the apostle Paul to go to the Greek world. The Greeks would hear! They did hear! They received the oracles of Jesus Christ—the New Testament! They have preserved it! Jesus declared: "My word shall NOT pass away"—and it has not passed away. The Greeks have to this day PRESERVED for us the New Testament as originally committed to them!

Critics Reject the Greeks' Text

It will come as a surprise to many of our readers. But the modern critics refuse to accept the manuscripts which the Greeks have preserved. Over 95% of all New Testament manuscripts have been preserved by the Greeks. These

Every English translation must rely somewhat on previous English translations for form and style of expression. From the *English Hexapla*, published in 1841, we have before us here all the early translations of the New Testament, from the days of John Wiclif (1380) to the time of Tyndale, Cranmer and King James (1611).

with the manuscripts basically used in the King James Version. Yet the modern critics in their wisdom turn in their Revised Standard Version to the corrupted 5% of Greek copies found in Egypt and the Latin world.

They claim in their pompous wisdom that out of these contradictory and corrupted manuscripts—no two of which agree closely on many important verses—they can derive a New Testament text! All they have done is discover how the Greek New Testament had been corrupted in Egypt by the fourth century! No wonder they have so many footnotes in their revision!

It is time we have our eyes opened to the facts!

It is time we "come out of Egypt!" How many times God has had to call His people out of Egypt! And still, like the children of Israel, people want to "turn back again into Egypt" (Acts 7:39).

The modern critics are merely following in the footsteps of the early Egyp-

tian critics, like Origen, who tried to "correct" the New Testament in their "wisdom."

The Text of the Protestant Reformers

For centuries, during the Middle Ages, the only Bible accessible to Western Europe was the Latin Vulgate Bible. It was the work of the scholar Jerome, who prepared it from many old Latin translations—which differed among themselves. This Bible is the progeny of Rome.

Rome has preserved the Latin translation of the Bible. She has not preserved the New Testament in its original Greek. Rome is not the Mother of the inspired Greek New Testament.

Rome is, however, the Mother of the "Western Text" of the Greek New Testament. This text is so corrupt that even modern scholars will hardly use it. Yet from those corrupt Western Greek manuscripts originating from Rome came the Old Latin translations and eventually the Latin Vulgate!

Is it any wonder that Rome is the

"MOTHER OF ABOMINATIONS"?

For nearly 14 centuries the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible dominated the Western World. Then, just before the Protestant Reformation, numerous Greek texts began to be circulated among scholars in Western Europe. Soon Erasmus and Cardinal Ximenes, Stephen and Elzivir and Beza published texts of the New Testament in Greek. *In a few instances these Greek New Testament texts contained additions from the Latin Vulgate which these scholars translated into Greek.* A striking example is I John 5:7 which occurs in no Greek manuscript preserved by the Greeks. It made its appearance from the Latin Vulgate.

These Greek texts were vastly superior to the Latin versions previously circulated. From these texts the early English translations came—including the renowned King James Version of 1611. *Very few basic errors appear in the King James Version*—though it is by no means a perfect or clear translation.

But the work of the Protestant Reformers was not continued by the critics. The critics gradually ceased to search out the official Greek text preserved in various parts of Greece, *particularly in Mount Athos—the Holy Mountain*—where the bulk of New Testament Manuscripts are still located. Instead they have turned away from the bulk of these accurate New Testament manuscripts of Greece to the corrupted texts of Rome and especially Egypt! These faulty texts have been used for nearly all modern translations of the Bible during the past 75 years—and especially in the Revised Standard Version.

Need for Converted, Scholarly Translators

Dozens of Modern English Translations of the Bible have made their appearance. Many are works of educated, scholarly men. But not one of these translations has been the work of fully CONVERTED men of God who *understand* the Bible!

Notice why the Bible is not plain and simple to the educated critics: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: *neither can he know*

them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:14).

The Bible is a book of spiritual truth. Spiritual truth cannot be understood by the natural mind. One has to receive the Spirit of God—be converted—in order to understand the Bible.

Educated, scholarly critics who were born—as all human beings are—with a natural mind have only half the tools necessary to produce a proper translation of the Bible. On the other hand, uneducated, untrained individuals, though converted, are also unable to really translate the Bible. It takes *both* attributes—education, scholarship, ability to understand foreign languages AND a spirit-filled converted mind. Without both it is impossible to make plain and clear the Word of God.

It will probably take no less than two years for us to have completed such a translation of the New Testament, from the original Greek, ready for our vast audience. Yes, this is Big News!

REVOLUTIONS

(Continued from page 4)

time presented him with the macabre gift of 40 pounds of human eyeballs. His exploits in Croatia are practically unparalleled. Constantin Fotitch, in his book *The War We Lost* enlarges on the infamy of the "Poglavnik" of Croatia.

Today, Ante Pavelich is heading an organization of secret police and informers to help Stroessner keep an iron hand on Paraguay!

And In ALL South America!

In Peru, Dr. Friedrich Bank and Guillermo Corvejo, executives of the Farben Compania General de Anilinas, were both key agents of the German Military Intelligence.

In Chile, Werner Siering, manager of the Farben Bayer concern, reorganized the German Military Intelligence Service in Chile in 1935 and was Secretary of the Chilean Nazi Party.

In Venezuela, where another recent upset in government occurred, and where assaults against Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife reached their most violent peak, Alfred Becker and Arnold Margerie, executives of the

Farben La Química Bayer in Caracas, supervised German Military Intelligence and Nazi Party operations throughout the Caribbean area during the second world war.

In Ecuador, L. E. Brueckmann, head of the Farben concern of Brueckmann and Company of Guayaquil, doubled as Nazi Consul; and his fellow Farben executives, the manager Herr Tetke and the treasurer Herr Ruperti, were leading Nazi Party organizers in Ecuador.

Communism Not Only Enemy

When are we going to wake up to realize Communism is not THE ONLY enemy of Democracy? It is an enemy—and a very dangerous one—but it is not the ONLY one!

Little do the peoples of this world realize what is actually PROPHESED to happen to the United States and the British Commonwealth in the near future!

Your Bible says a revived FASCIST system is going to beat the Communists to the punch!

It says GERMANY, at the head of a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE, will attack us FIRST—unless we repent on a NATIONAL scale! But such a repentance will not come. The Bible says so. If you want full details on just WHAT will happen, and HOW—write for Mr. Armstrong's amazing booklet "1975 IN PROPHECY" immediately. It's absolutely free of charge.

CUBA Should Be a Warning!

The seething unrest of our Latin neighbors is MORE than meets the eye. For generations, the tentacles of pan-Germanism have been reaching into every portion of Central and South America. Radical college-type Rightists such as Castro are hailed as a release from dictatorship by many. But what are the *facts*? Is Cuba *really* free from a dictator?

Letters to Editor

(Continued from page 2)

you and the work of God you are doing. I want to start sending you my ten percent and offering."

Man from Pearl River, Louisiana.

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER EIGHT

ESAU SELLS JACOB HIS BIRTHRIGHT

ABOUT three years after his wife Sarah had died, Abraham began to think more and more about Isaac getting married. At that time Isaac was forty years old, and Abraham knew that Isaac might pick a wife from among the Canaanites, who were idol worshippers.

Abraham therefore told his chief servant to take men and camels and provisions and go to Mesopotamia, Abraham's native land, and bring back a wife from among Abraham's own people. (Genesis 24:3-4.) It was the custom then, as it still is in some countries, for the parents to choose whom their children would marry.

Abraham felt sure that there were many of his own tribe still in Mesopotamia who worshipped God, because his brother, Nahor, had settled there at the time Abraham had left for Canaan many years before. (Genesis 22:20-24.) And Abraham knew that God wanted the people of his tribe to marry only those of the same tribe from which he came.

Abraham's Servant Finds Rebekah

After several days' journey to the northeast, Abraham's servant and his caravan arrived in the evening at a well just outside the city of Nahor. (Gen. 24:10.)

In those days the women went to the wells to draw water. Abraham's servant prayed that among the women coming to that well would be one that would be a good wife for his master's son.

Abraham's servant also prayed that God would point out a good wife for Isaac by causing the woman to want to draw up water for him and his caravan. But what

woman would want to draw up water to fill ten thirsty camels?

Even before the servant's prayer was finished, a beautiful young woman approached the well. A little later, as she drew up water, Abraham's servant came up to her and asked for a drink of water.

At once the young woman held out her water jar. (Gen. 24:11-15.)

"Drink, my lord," she said.

"This could almost be an answer to my prayer," thought the servant, "because she is willing to give me a drink. But surely she won't want to go to any more trouble than that."

Perhaps you can imagine how surprised Abraham's servant was when he heard the young woman say, "I will draw water for your camels, too! I'll be glad to give them as much as they can drink!"

This was a direct answer to the prayer he had made to God only a few minutes before.

Abraham's servant was sure that this was the woman for Isaac. He wanted to honor her, so he gave her a gold ring and gold bracelets of great value. (Gen. 24:22.)

When the servant asked the young woman her name, he received another surprise.

"I am Rebekah," she told him. "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son."

Nahor was Abraham's brother, so this young woman was a second cousin to Isaac! It was good news to the servant to learn that he had found a woman who was of Abraham's people, and one who probably knew about the one true God. The servant thanked God at once for helping him.

Laban Invites Him In

Rebekah ran to her home to tell her family what had happened, and to show them the ring and bracelets. When her Brother, Laban, saw the costly jewelry and heard Rebekah's story, he ran to the well to invite Abraham's servant in. (Gen. 24:29-31.)

The servant was glad to be invited in, but first he made sure that his camels were unloaded and fed and given straw to lie on.

Abraham's servant and the men with him were given water to wash their feet in. This was a custom in those days, and still is in those lands where the traveler's sandal-covered feet become dusty and weary.

Then food was set before them. But the servant would not eat until he had told them why he had come there. (Verse 33.)

The servant told Rebekah's family about what had happened to Abraham since he had left Haran many years before. He told how Abraham had obeyed God in the lands where other people would have nothing to do with God, and how Abraham had become wealthy and the happy father of an obedient son, Isaac.

When the servant told them about his prayer for a good wife for Isaac, and how Rebekah had fitted right in with things he had asked for, Rebekah's father and brother agreed that God had led Abraham's servant to Rebekah.

If you think it was strange that Rebekah had little or nothing to say about all this, we must remember that in those times wives were often picked in a much different way. But in this case God had a hand in the matter, and so it was certain to turn out right.

"We believe it is God's will that Rebekah become Isaac's wife," Rebekah's father and brother said to the servant. (Verse 50.)

The servant was so pleased to hear this that he again thanked God. Then he had gold and silver jewelry and beautiful clothes brought out for Rebekah, and costly presents for her family. (Verse 53). Then, at last, they all enjoyed a happy feast.

Next morning, Rebekah's family asked if she could stay a few more days at home. Abraham's servant reminded them that because God had so quickly led him to Rebekah, no part of the matter should be put off. Rebekah said she was quite willing to leave at once, so the caravan set out with Abraham's men and camels and the camels carrying Rebekah and her nurse and maids.

The people of Rebekah's family were sorry to see her go, but they were happy that she was to have a good man for a husband. (Verse 61.)

Isaac Meets His Bride

Several days after that, as Isaac was meditating while out walking in a field, he looked up to see a caravan approaching. He went out to meet it, hopeful that this was the one his father had sent out. (Verse 63.)

When Rebekah saw a man approaching, she asked who he was.

"That is Isaac, the man you are to marry," she was told.

Rebekah quickly put on a bridal veil, and alighted. (Verse 65.) The servant presented her to Isaac, who was so struck by her good manners and her beauty that he fell in love with her at once.

They were married shortly after that, and both were very happy. (Verse 67.) Through them, God moved one step nearer starting the nation that would do some very important work in the world through all succeeding generations.

At this time Abraham was one hundred and forty years old. He was probably



Isaac gazed at Rebekah and knew at once that he loved her.

quite content to leave matters to Isaac, who managed his father's business well.

Thirty-five years later, at the age of one hundred and seventy-five years, Abraham died. (Gen. 25:7.)

We know that Abraham had eight children, all of them sons. If he had other children, the Bible doesn't mention them. (Gen. 25:1-4.)

Two of those sons, Isaac and Ishmael, buried their father in the same cave where Sarah had been buried. (Gen. 25:9-10.)

Thus ended the life of one of the most important men who ever lived on the earth. Because of his obedience to his Creator, Abraham became wealthy and lived a long time.

There was one thing God promised him that Abraham didn't receive, however, even though God always keeps His promises. Can you guess what that thing was?

It was everlasting life in God's kingdom, which will come to earth only a few years from now. At that time Abraham will become one of the mightiest rulers along with others who obey God. (Hebrews 11:8-14.)

In that time, strange as it may seem, many of you who read these words will get to meet Abraham and talk with him.

Although Isaac and Rebekah were happy, the years passed without their having any children. As time went on, they became more and more disappointed. At last Isaac asked God to send them a child. (Gen. 25:21.)

God answered Isaac's prayer, and after twenty years of marriage, Isaac and Rebekah realized that at last they would soon become parents.

At the same time, Rebekah became ill with unusual pains. She prayed to God about the matter. God told her, probably in a dream or a vision, that she would give birth to two nations. One nation would be stronger than the other, she was told, and the first one born would serve the other.

This must have been hard for Rebekah to understand at the time. But God gave her strength to continue in her condition until she became a mother—of twins!

The twins turned out to be boys. The first one born was called Esau. The second was named Jacob. (Gen. 25:22-26.)

As they grew, it was plain to their parents that they were very different in manners and habits, even though they were twins.

Esau loved to hunt and roam about, as did his uncle, Ishmael. Jacob wanted to follow his father's kind of life by raising flocks and crops. Isaac liked the delicious meat that Esau brought home, and so Esau became his favorite son. Rebekah's favorite was Jacob because he chose to do the things that kept him close to home. (Verses 26 and 27.)

Esau Sells His Birthright

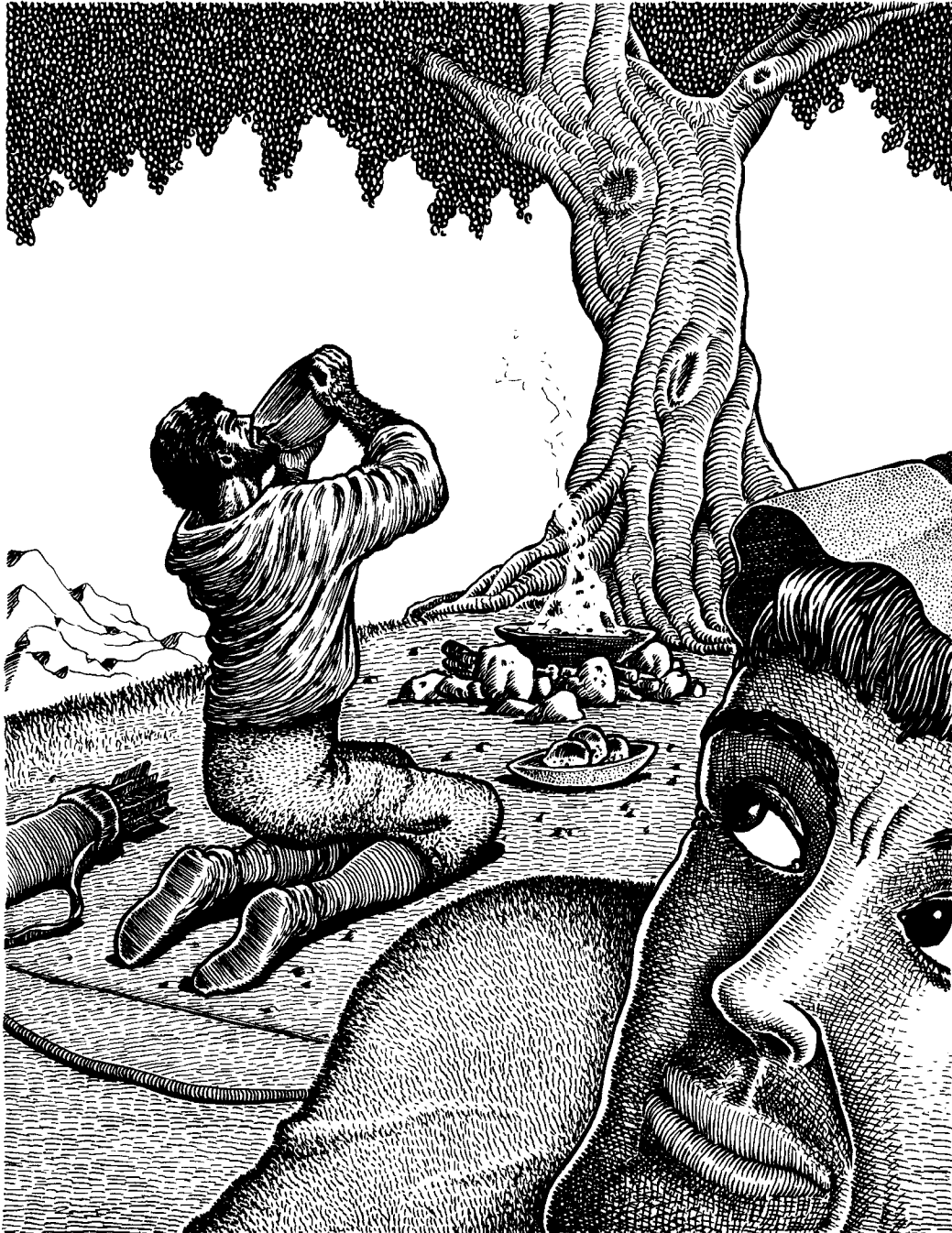
One day Esau went on a long hunting trip. He went so far away that by the time he returned he was staggering with weariness. On arriving home, he saw that Jacob had prepared a savory lentile soup. Esau was so weak and the soup smelled so good that he begged Jacob to give him some at once lest he faint from hunger.

Now it was a custom in those lands that the first son born in a family would receive many more gifts and rights than any children born later. And because Esau was born first, he naturally had what was called the birthright. This meant that if the father died, the birthright owner would inherit a larger share of the father's property than any other children in the family. In this case, it also meant that the oldest son would receive the greatest share of the promises God made to Abraham and those who came after him.

Jacob knew the great value of the birthright, and he selfishly wanted it. Here, he thought, was a chance to get it, so he said to Esau:

"I will give you all you want to eat if you will in turn promise to sell your birthright to me." Jacob smiled shrewdly.

Jacob smiled triumphantly to himself as he watched his brother bolt down the food that cost Esau his birthright.



Esau was so hungry that he thought he would faint any minute from lack of strength. In this condition, his birthright didn't seem very valuable to him. Food was mostly what counted at the moment. Just the delicious aroma of the steaming lentiles bubbling in garlic and butter was enough to sway Esau in deciding what to do.

"I promise to sell you my birthright for those lentiles," Esau told Jacob. (Verses 29-33.)

Then he greedily bolted down the bowl of soup and the bread Jacob handed to him. After a while his strength returned and he strode away, not caring very much about the great price he had paid for something to eat. (Verse 34.)

Isaac and Rebekah didn't know about this matter at the time. Otherwise, Isaac especially would have been greatly displeased, because Esau was his favorite son.

Years later, Esau did bring grief to his parents by marrying two wives. In those days it wasn't unusual to have more than one wife. But the worst part of this matter was that the wives Esau took were Canaanites. The Canaanites had very little knowledge of God. Most of them worshipped idols. (Gen. 26:34-35.)

Nevertheless, Isaac loved Esau more than he loved Jacob.

Jacob Steals the Blessing

One day when Isaac was well past a hundred years of age, and had become feeble and blind, he called for Esau and said to him:

"I'm getting old. Death could come to me at any time. Before that happens, I want to ask God to bless you. Take your bow and arrows and go out after a deer. Then cook the meat as I like it. After I have eaten, I shall give you the blessing that should be upon the son who has the birthright."

If Esau had been honest, he would have told his father that the birthright really belonged to Jacob. Instead, he set out to hunt for venison. (Gen. 27:1-4.)

Rebekah heard Isaac talking to Esau. She wanted Jacob, her favorite son, to receive the blessing Isaac would ask from God. She believed that Jacob was much better fitted to be Isaac's heir. A plan came quickly into her mind, and she hurried to Jacob to tell him about it.

"Do as I say, and you will receive the blessing your father is about to ask upon Esau," she said to Jacob. "Go out to the flocks and get two young goats. I'll cook them just the way your father likes meat cooked. Then take the food to him. He'll eat it and then give you the blessing before Esau returns!" (Gen. 27:5-10.)

To Jacob this didn't seem to be a very good idea. He knew there was too much difference between him and his brother. For one thing, Esau was a very hairy man. In fact, hair was so thick on his body that his skin felt almost like that of a goat. "I can't

trick my father so easily," Jacob argued. "When he feels my smooth skin, he'll know I'm not Esau. Then I'll probably receive a curse instead of a blessing."

"Don't worry about that," his mother said. "I'll take care of matters. Just go get those kids. If there's a curse, let it be on me, not you."

Jacob didn't know just what his mother intended to do, but he thought that if she were willing to take the blame for anything wrong, then he should be willing to do as she asked. Therefore he brought two kids in from the flocks. Before long, Rebekah made from them a meat dish cooked and seasoned just the way Isaac liked it.

Next, she took a coat that belonged to Esau and put it on Jacob. And over his hands and his neck she wound the soft, hairy skins from the young goats that had just been slaughtered.

"Now take this meat and bread to your father," she said to Jacob. (Verses 11-17.)

Jacob must have felt that this was a rather wild scheme to get a blessing. Nevertheless, he went to Isaac's tent and tried to sound like Esau by calling "Here I am, father!"

"Who is it?" asked Isaac.

"I'm Esau," Jacob replied. "Sit up and eat this meat I've brought for you. Then give me the blessing you promised."

Isaac was surprised that Esau should return so soon from hunting.

"How is it you have brought a deer back so quickly?" he asked.

"God showed me where to go to find one," Jacob lied. (Verses 18-20.)

Isaac was puzzled. This didn't seem to him to be Esau's manner of talking.

"Come near so I can place my hands on you," Isaac said.

Jacob stepped close to the bed. Isaac reached out and moved his aged hands over the hairy goat skins on Jacob.

"Your voice is like Jacob's, but your hands feel hairy like Esau's," said Isaac. "Are you really Esau?"

Again Jacob lied by saying that he was Esau.

"Give me the food, and I shall eat it and then bless you," Isaac promised. (Verses 21-22.)

Jacob suddenly felt great relief, though at the same time he felt guilty because of lying and because of tricking his father with the goat skins. Quickly he put the steaming meat before Isaac, and brought bread and wine. (Verse 25.)

When Isaac had finished eating, he asked Jacob to come close and kiss him. When Jacob did so, Isaac noticed that the robe Jacob was wearing smelled like the grasses and aromatic herbs of the fields. It would naturally smell that way, because it was Esau's robe, and Esau spent so much time in the open. Thus there was no doubt left in Isaac's mind that this person was Esau. (Verses 26-27.)

Isaac then asked a blessing upon Jacob, in which he said:

"God, give to my son, who smells of a field you have blessed, many well-watered, fertile fields. Give him plenty of grain and fruit of the vines. My son, I ask God to cause people to serve you and nations to bow down to you. Rule over your brothers. May a curse be upon any who will try to put a curse upon you. And may a blessing be upon any who would bless you." (Verses 28-29.)

Esau Comes in From the Field

Having received the blessing, Jacob left at once. And only in time, too. For meanwhile, Esau had shot a deer and had cooked some of it for Isaac.

"I have returned with the dish of venison you asked for," Esau called out as he came near Isaac's tent. "Sit up, father, and eat it." (Genesis 27:30-31.)

Blind Isaac was just leaning back on his pillow, content in thinking that he had performed an important duty before his death. The sound of Esau's voice caused him to sit up suddenly. In that moment he knew that something was not as it should be. He found himself trembling so hard that he could scarcely speak.

"Who are you?" Isaac asked.

"I'm Esau, your first-born son," Esau replied. (Verse 32.)

"Then where is the one who brought food to me and just now left?" inquired Isaac. "He said he was Esau. I asked God's blessing on him. And God will bless him!" (Verse 33.)

Esau was so stunned to hear what his father said that he almost dropped the food he was holding.

"Ask a blessing on me, too, my father!" Esau begged.

"But your blessing has been stolen by your brother," Isaac told him.

"So it was Jacob who did it." Esau exclaimed bitterly. "He has cheated me twice. First he took my birthright. Now he has stolen my blessing. Can't you ask God for anything for me?" (Verse 36.)

"I have asked for all good things for Jacob," Isaac said. "I can't ask for the very same things for you."

"But surely there is something for me, your first-born son!" Esau cried out in a shaking voice. Then he broke down and wept aloud, even though he was a strong man. (Verse 38.)

Isaac felt much pity for his favorite son.

"Here is what shall be for you, Esau my son," Isaac said. "God shall give you and those who live after you a land far away from the best things this earth has to offer. You will have to hunt and fight even for what you get. You and your people will

serve your brother and his people. But there will come a time when you will be free of them." (Verses 39-40.)

Esau should have been thankful for at least some of the things his father asked for him. Instead, he was very angry because Jacob had received the greater blessing.

Esau Plots to Murder Jacob

"My father Isaac will soon die," Esau thought. "Then I will kill Jacob for what he has done to me." (Verse 41.)

In his anger, Esau must have told someone what he planned to do. His mother heard about it, and was afraid for Jacob. She told Jacob what Esau intended to do, and begged Jacob to leave the country at once and go stay with her brother back in the land of Mesopotamia at Haran, where she had been born. (Verse 42.)

"But I don't want to go away from here," Jacob argued. "This is my home and my country."

Rebekah became so worried about Jacob's safety that she thought up a plan to get him away from home. In the first place, she knew that Jacob would probably do anything his father told him to do. Therefore she went to Isaac about the matter, but she didn't tell Isaac her real reason for wanting Jacob to leave.

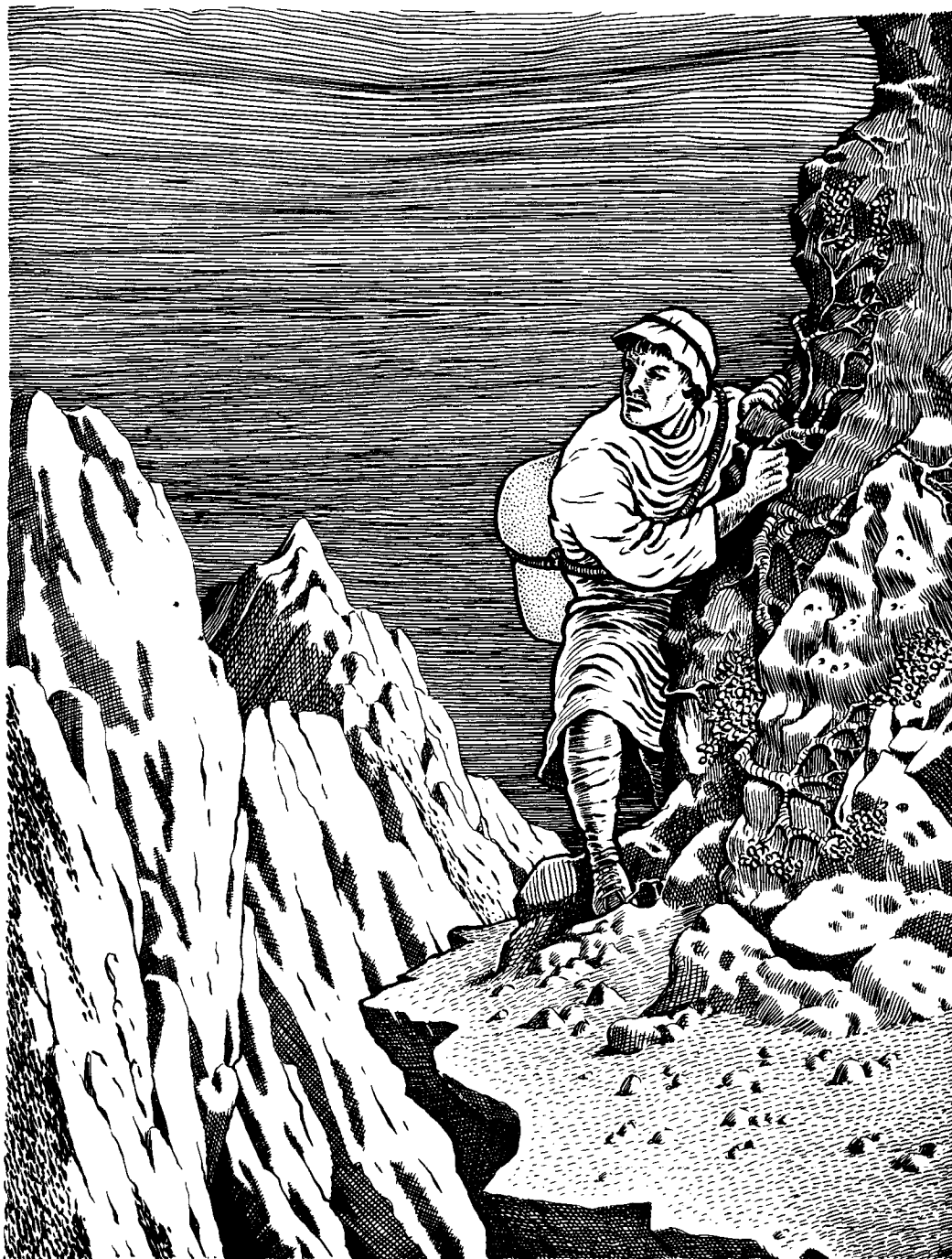
"If Jacob lives here much longer, he is very likely to marry a Hittite woman," she told Isaac. "I think you should send him to Haran to choose a wife from our own people before he is trapped by some woman from among the heathen idol worshippers around us."

Isaac had been greatly disappointed before because his favorite son, Esau, had taken wives from among the people who didn't worship God. He didn't want Jacob to do the same thing. Probably Jacob had no idea of doing such a thing. But Rebekah had put the thought into Isaac's mind, and Isaac became worried. After some time he called Jacob to him.

"Do not take a wife from the Canaanites," Isaac told Jacob. "You should choose a wife from your own people. Your mother thinks you should go to her home in Haran and stay a while. Perhaps you will find a wife there. May God bless you and cause you to have many children and much good land when you return!"

Jacob then started off for Haran by himself with only the few provisions he could carry. It wasn't easy to cross the desert alone. But he was anxious to escape from his angry brother, Esau.

Instead of taking the most direct road to Haran, Jacob chose side trails that made his journey more difficult. By doing this, he hoped to make it impossible for his brother to catch up with him.



Fearing that his angry brother would pursue him,
Jacob chose difficult side trails on his way to Haran.

(To be continued in next issue)

Religious Confusion

(Continued from page 12)

THIS IS THE WORK OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH!

The message now being proclaimed *around this earth* on "The World Tomorrow" broadcast and in the PLAIN TRUTH magazine is the work of the Church Jesus Christ built—and of which He is the living, executive Head!

For over twenty-five years, the work of this Church has grown in power. We have been daring, as NO OTHER CHURCH on earth, to proclaim *definite, specific* prophetic events to occur—and *they have been HAPPENING!*

So that some may *repent* and be spared, God is using this Church to *warn* the peoples of this world of their mounting SINS before He intervenes to PUNISH and to send the *seven last plagues* just prior to Christ's second coming. God help YOU to *understand* and to *heed* this warning!

Have you noticed that this magazine and "The World Tomorrow" broadcast are both sponsored by the *Radio Church of God?*

That is because *this* Church is GOD'S Church! He is using it to do *His* work. And so it carries *His* name!

It is not the Church of God at Corinth—or any particular place. Nor is its main effort in scattered churches of God in some area like Judea, as Paul called the churches there. Rather, God is now using it primarily as an *evangelistic* instrument over RADIO and then through the printed page.

So this Church is called the *Radio Church of God*. For those who are converted members, it is spoken of in a spiritual sense as just the "Church of God." And it is just that! For no other Church on earth can rightly claim this name!

Take HEED to the Truth!

The warning MESSAGE of God's Church is being fulfilled *daily!*

Scoffers will not have long to scoff! For the *specific* prophesied events which this Church *alone* proclaims will soon be demonstrated as a physical REALITY! There will be *no reasoning or argument* about this. You will SEE and FEEL these things happen!

The REASON God has allowed today's *religious confusion* is so that after 6000 years of human misrule—bringing us now to the verge of WORLD SUICIDE—man might at last "have enough" of his *own* ways, his *own* political schemes, his *own* religious theories.

After a time of *great punishment* which he has brought on himself, man will at last be really *willing* to learn of *God's* ways and laws, and to accept *His* rule through Jesus Christ so the world can at last have *peace!*

God's Church has NEVER had *many* different *names, doctrines* and *practices*. He has only *permitted* this "babylon" of religious confusion to develop so that man might be able—under Satan's deceiving influence—to try out every conceivable type of religious theory he might lust after.

This is so that man might—in plain language—once and for all get his "belly full" of the foolish ideas and reasonings of *carnal, human, erring MEN*. Then, perhaps, he will be willing to *obey GOD!*

Now you know *why* there exists such religious confusion. Now you know WHICH is the true Church of God!

This is YOUR life!

May the Almighty give you an open mind to further *prove* and *believe* His TRUTH! That *truth* is given in abundance every month in this magazine. *Study* these articles. Look up the scripture references in *your own Bible*.

Listen to "The World Tomorrow" broadcast regularly and *check up* in the same way *in your Bible*. Write for *every booklet* that is mentioned. They are all *free!*

Pray for UNDERSTANDING, and for a *willing heart!* Be sure to OBEY the truth as you prove each point.

This is the most important business of your life! The END of this age is *very near!*

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

When you send in your change of address notification, *please send in your old address* with the new one. This is very important. Our files are alphabetized by cities and names often cannot be found without your old address.

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