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THE PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



BEHIND THE POPE'S HISTORIC
VISIT TO AMERICA

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ABOUT OUR COVER

On a whirlwind tour of the United States during the first week of October, Pope John Paul II drew massive crowds of excited onlookers. It was also the biggest "media event" in American history, measured by coverage in the nation's newspapers as well as television. For the significance of the pope's visit to America and his emerging role as the world's "moral spokesman," read the article beginning on page 4.

Dirck Halstead — Liaison

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Personal from...

Who Is Lord? Caesar or Christ?

Now politicians trying to take over and run the Worldwide Church of God are saying that I, as an apostle, have no voice or authority in how Church funds are expended, but only in what they term "ecclesiastical functions"—while on the other hand Mr. Stanley R. Rader, because he was not yet ordained, has no authority in the Church's "ecclesiastical" affairs.

In other words, the politicians are trying to tell us on what basis the Church of God must be organized.

This Church was founded in 31 A.D. by Jesus Christ. The present era of that same Church was founded in the autumn of 1933, according to the biblical pattern as ordained by the Almighty God. The present era was started in Oregon, not in California. Yet California politicians are now trying to tell us how it should be administered.

First, although it is organized according to God's pattern in the Bible, it is not a secular organization, but a spiritual organism.

In I Corinthians 12, the Word of God tells us that in addition to spiritual GIFTS, "there are DIFFERENCES OF ADMINISTRATIONS, but the same Lord. . . . But all these [spiritual gifts] worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he [God] will. . . . For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? . . . But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him [not politicians]. . . . And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles . . ." (verses 5, 11, 14-15, 18, 28).

In Ephesians 4 these ranks are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. They are for the Church's WORK (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Very evidently these officers are listed as ranks in authority. For example, only four prophets are mentioned in the New Testament, and not one set any church doctrines or beliefs. Not one exercised any authority. There are no prophets in the Church today, and no record of any for 1900 years.

The word "apostle" means, literally, "one sent forth"

with the gospel message. However, Matthew 16:18 and 18:1-2, 18 show that an apostle carries top authority on the human level, under Christ. For example, he is in authority over finances for spreading the gospel though financial details may be delegated to one under him.

When the Church of God was founded in 31 A.D., it was founded, NOT on any form enforced by civil political government, but founded on the apostles (New Testament) and prophets (Old Testament), Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). The living Jesus Christ was the HEAD of the Church. It was a spiritual organism, not a secular organization. From the very beginning it was opposed by civil political government. Its original membership of 120 (Acts 1:15) started that day of Pentecost. That same inaugural day, God added about three thousand members to the church—all baptized that day.

For some two years the membership, under the leadership of the apostles, and of Christ from heaven, multiplied.

Jesus had commissioned His apostles to be sent forth proclaiming Christ's gospel message of the Kingdom of God. In spite of *political secular government*, they started going into all the world with this Kingdom message. By what means? By the means then available to them—afoot, and by sailboat. They certainly did not consult the political governments regarding their manner of going forth into all the world with the gospel.

After two years, severe opposition set in. Much of it was by false apostles, but these soon sought political government persecution and opposition against proclaiming Christ's gospel. Peter, John, Paul and others were thrown into jail overnight—but God by supernatural power released them. Though persecuted, even as the same Church is today, the Work of proclaiming the Kingdom of God went on.

In our day Jesus Christ prepared and raised up Herbert W. Armstrong as His chosen apostle to carry on the proclaiming of the gospel worldwide, and ministering to the membership in local congregations.

In our day we live in a totally (Continued on page 44)

WHAT IS THE TRUE GOSPEL?

Jesus brought big news—the most important news announcement ever reported to man. It is the advance news of how world peace will come.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Some may wonder, what possible connection could there be between the problems of governments and the message of Jesus Christ?

Neither religion nor government nor education has found the cause of the frightful evils in today's world, nor have they found the solutions to the tragic problems of suffering humanity. They fail utterly to point the way to or to produce peace! The evolutionary theory gives no explanation for the real vital problems of today's very sick world. It offers no solutions. But the gospel of Jesus Christ—if they only knew what it is—does give the rational and true explanation, and it outlines the solution that will be made!

But, one may ask in bewilderment, doesn't everybody know what is the gospel of Jesus Christ? Hasn't it been preached for more than 1900 years?

Incredible or not, the answer is an emphatic NO! Christ's gospel was not proclaimed to the world for over 18½ centuries!

That, I know, is a staggering statement. It may sound absurd.

People will ask, "But haven't they preached Christ to the world? Haven't they pleaded BELIEVE ON CHRIST and ACCEPT CHRIST? Haven't mil-

lions believed on Christ? Haven't millions accepted Christ—professed Christ? Do not millions call their religion after His name—the Christian religion? And isn't Christianity one of the largest religions on earth?" Quite true.

Christ Is Not the Gospel

But preaching Christ is not preaching Christ's gospel! Christ was the messenger who brought the gospel—the messenger God sent with a MESSAGE for all mankind—and that message is the gospel. The very word "gospel" means "good news."

Jesus Christ, the person, is the greatest, most important person ever to walk on this earth. But He, as a person, is not the gospel. The miracles He performed are not the gospel. The things Jesus did are not the gospel. What He preached—the tremendous good news He announced—is the GOSPEL.

Tune in your television set any Sunday morning, and you'll see the weekly religious diet and hear nearly all preachers telling you about Christ—urging you to believe on Christ—to accept Christ—telling you what a wonderful person He was. They will be called "gospel programs." They will talk about getting

out the gospel. But Christ the person is not the gospel! I know that sounds incredible—because they call what they are saying "the gospel."

Millions of viewers and listeners have ASSUMED they were hearing the gospel. People have heard all their lives the preaching about Jesus Christ the person which has been called "the gospel." People have simply taken it for granted that they were hearing the gospel. So they accept what they have heard as the gospel when, in actual fact, they have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ—the message—the news announcement.

Believers Wanted to Kill Christ

What they have accepted without question as the gospel offers no solution to humanity's sufferings, frustrations and indescribable evils! The true gospel Jesus brought proclaims the solution to the world's troubles, but men rejected that gospel and crucified Jesus for preaching it!

There were those who BELIEVED ON Christ, just as millions do today—millions who have not heard His gospel!

Notice! Read it fully in the Bible. It's an eye-opener—for the Bible doesn't SAY what you've supposed.

Jesus was speaking in the Temple at Jerusalem: "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31).

Understand it! Jesus' word was His message—the gospel He was teaching. He was saying, in other words: "If you continue DOING what the gospel teaches, you will be my disciples."

But they refused to *believe* what He taught—His gospel—or to do what He taught. They believed on Him—they believed in His identity—they believed He was the Messiah—the Christ—but they did not *BELIEVE HIM*—what He said!

Continuing, "... but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father . . ." (verses 37-38). These very people who *BELIEVED ON HIM* sought to kill Him because *they hated what He said*—His gospel—the very solution to mankind's troubles—the way that will usher in peace, prosperity, happiness and every good state.

These who believed on Him continued to argue. Then He said: "But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God . . ." (verse 40). Jesus continued: "... I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me" (verse 42). Further: "And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not" (verse 45). Millions today believe on Christ, but do NOT believe His gospel in most cases because they have never heard it. They have heard of Him—of what He did—but not His message of the solution to all man's troubles and how to gain eternal life in joyful happiness, abundance and accomplishment.

A Messenger and His Message

You will have noticed, above, how Jesus stressed the fact that God, His Father, had sent Him. What He taught, He had received from God.

Notice now this prophecy in Malachi: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me . . ." (Malachi 3:1). He is speaking here of John the Baptist (Mark 1:2), but primarily as a type

of another to prepare the way before His second coming (Malachi 4:5-6).

Continuing, "... and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in . . ." (Malachi 3:1). Jesus came as a messenger—the messenger of the COVENANT. This is speaking of the New Covenant. Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant, an agreement between God and the people of Israel, which set them up as one of the kingdoms on earth named after their earthly father, Israel (Jacob).

This prophecy leads us directly to the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in Mark 1:1: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mark 1:1-4).

This shows John preparing the way before the *beginning* of Jesus' announcement of His gospel. The next nine verses describe John's baptizing and his announcing of the coming of the Messiah, the baptism of Jesus and Jesus' head-on confrontation with and conquering of Satan, by which He qualified to restore on earth the government of God.

Then, verses 14-15: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching . . ." What? What gospel? "... preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled. . . ." How fulfilled? Jesus had just qualified to restore and rule that government. It could not have been announced sooner—"the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Believe what? He said we must believe the gospel—the good news of the Kingdom of God.

But since late in the first century, that gospel has not been preached to the world! Almost nobody today knows *what* the Kingdom of God is! Millions think it is a church! Other millions think it is some ethereal nothing "set up in men's hearts." Some have even thought it was the British Empire. (For a full explanation, write for the free, eye-opening

booklet *Just What Do You Mean . . . the Kingdom of God?*)

The word "gospel" means "good news." It was an advance NEWS announcement. It was tremendous, wonderful news—the biggest, most important news ever announced to mankind! Yet it has been suppressed! Your Bible says ALL NATIONS have been deceived.

The leaders in Judaea and Galilee in Jesus' day rejected that wonderful news. Many of those who *BELIEVED ON CHRIST* rejected it, sought to kill Him for teaching it, as shown above, and finally did have Him killed. The apostles who went out proclaiming that wonderful news were martyred for preaching it—with the possible exception of John. After 3½ years of Jesus' ministry and preaching to as many as five thousand men at a time, only 120 were still accepting the gospel and continuing in it by the time of His ascension to heaven—forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3, 14-15). Soon a great persecution set in during the time of the apostles' preaching (Acts 8:1). After the Romans took Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Roman persecution virtually snuffed out all true gospel preaching. For the next 18½ centuries, Christ was preached to the world, but NOT HIS GOSPEL!

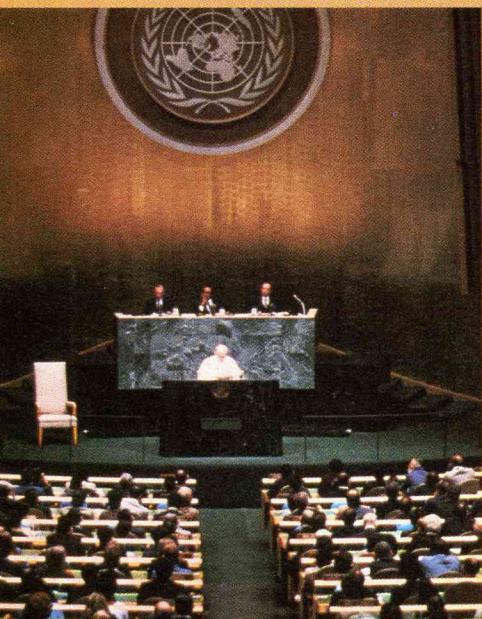
What Is That Kingdom?

Just what is a kingdom? If I tell you that King Hussein is the king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, you understand what I mean. It is not some nonexistent, ethereal nothing in Hussein's heart.

A kingdom is a government. It is ruled by laws. The function of government is to administer and enforce those laws.

Did you ever hear of a nation or its government without laws? Of course not! The Kingdom of God once ruled this earth. It ruled with the laws of the Creator God. As long as it ruled, the whole earth was filled with peace, with HAPPINESS and JOY. Then that government was taken away, and I do not mean in the time of ancient Israel—but all that is another story.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is a NEWS announcement about GOVERNMENT
(Continued on page 42)



BEHIND THE POPE'S HISTORIC VISIT TO AMERICA



Millions of people were swept off their feet by the magnetic personality of John Paul II. After only one year in office the Polish pope is emerging as the moral leader of the hero-starved Western world. Where does he go from here?

by Gene H. Hogberg

It was one of the most extraordinary weeks in American history. Rarely had any individual, visitor or native, commanded such crowds. Everywhere Pope John Paul II went—to Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Des Moines, Chicago,

THE POPE'S WHIRLWIND TOUR OF AMERICA (counterclockwise from top right): Vendor sells souvenirs (including 'pope buttons') on the Mall in Washington, D.C.; John Paul II is welcomed by President and Mrs. Carter and Vice-President and Mrs. Mondale at the White House; the pontiff delivers an address to the U.N. General Assembly in New York; he greets tumultuous crowds in motorcade in Boston; the pope is greeted at the United Nations Secretariat building by U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

Clockwise from top left: Dirck Halstead—Liaison, Gene Hogberg—PT, Gene Hogberg—PT, Steve Liss—Liaison, Lochon—Liaison, Faverty—Liaison (center)

Washington, D.C.—millions of people strained for fleeting glimpses of the man who captured the imagination of Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

The pope's mere physical presence seemed to mesmerize the huge throngs. Often it took only the slightest gesture of his hands or the utterance of a quaintly mispronounced word to draw rounds of thunderous applause.

The jam-packed seven-day affair also turned out to be the biggest media event in the nation's history. Coverage by the news media was phenomenal. Over 14,000 journalists were accredited to report on various aspects of the pope's "pilgrimage" to the U.S. from October 1 through 7. I was part of that sea of reporters, and the following is a firsthand observation.

"Moral Leader" of the West

From the point of view of the Vatican, the timing of the pope's trip to America could not have been better.

The United States and, for that matter, the entire Western world is suffering from a gaping void of leadership. The political giants that dominated the postwar world have nearly all faded from the scene. Widespread antiauthoritarian, antiestablishment views have reduced the appeal of and the respect for political office in recent years. Government scandals have further taken their toll.

Into this vacuum is stepping, by subtle yet well-orchestrated design, the leader of the oldest Christian professing body. This visit did not occur by happenstance.

"All this reflects conscious decision and a major development," wrote the editors of *Time* magazine, analyzing the pope's performance in the United States. "John Paul, who is perfectly aware of his charisma, is quite deliberately converting the papacy into a personal office. . . . It is a strategy . . . well adapted to John Paul's personality and the world's eagerness for leadership."

Almost losing themselves in the emotional impact of the pope's trip, the editors of *Time* added: "The Pontiff is emerging as a kind of incandescent leader that the world so hungers for . . . He was [in America] a man for all seasons, all situations, all

faiths, a beguilingly modest superstar of the church."

Many other editors, reporters, and even television news anchormen—all of them normally an unfazed, hard-bitten bunch—were also swept up in the emotions of the day. Not a few appeared to temporarily lose their usual reportorial objectivity by which they scrutinize other important personalities.

The pope was somehow different, beyond the journalists' cutting edge and probing pen. They had no yardstick by which to gauge him, so they just joined in the euphoria. For example, one well-known columnist, himself a Catholic, said that "John Paul embodies the real meaning of charisma, which is from the Greek and indicates the presence of God. His manner is quite effortless. . . . He says exactly what he believes, and we're starved for that."

Another journalist, James Reston, one of America's most respected news analysts, asked himself (in a column entitled "God Lives in Boston") why the visit of John Paul engendered such an outpouring of enthusiasm. He answered: "It is due, I believe, to the disenchantment of so many people with the secular world. . . . Pope John Paul II has emerged, above all the contending races and nations, as a solitary figure—but with the ability to speak with great moral authority.

"Accordingly it's no wonder that he has emerged, not only as a spiritual but as a political force in the world. For all the other political and economic gods have failed, and he is speaking to the widespread sense of regret in the Western world about the spiritual heritage it has lost."

Yet perhaps the nearly universal appeal of the 59-year-old Polish pope was best expressed not by a leading journalist but by a middle-class Philadelphia woman. While waiting six hours on a Philadelphia sidewalk to get a glimpse of him, she exclaimed: "We don't have heroes, and he is what we need—a hero."

U.N. Message

Nearly everyone, from the small up to the great, was so awed by the man that few, it seems, paid particularly close attention to what the pope said, especially during the first half of his

trip, when he addressed himself primarily to world and national rather than church-related issues. This was very much in evidence with regard to John Paul II's speech at the United Nations on October 2.

During his 62-minute discourse at the General Assembly, the pope showed he understood his audience well, displaying here as everywhere else a savvy for selecting the appropriate message for each group.

He was fully aware that Third World countries, the socialist and communist camps and the so-called nonaligned nations dominate the activities of the General Assembly. To them, therefore, the pope shed, as it were, his clerical garb and displayed his "humanistic" side (he was once a teacher of philosophy at the Catholic University of Lublin). He interspersed his carefully chosen words (he writes his own speeches) with patently Marxist egalitarian themes. Remarked Murray Kempton of the *New York Post*: "There were curious echoes of Karl Marx's arraignment of the 19th Century capitalism."

The pope went far beyond criticizing the materialism that permeates American life. He aligned himself in spirit with the demands of the developing nations for restructuring the world economic order.

Later in that day, in a mass at Yankee Stadium, John Paul drove his point home deeper, stating: "The poor of the United States and the world are your brothers and sisters in Christ. You must never be content to leave them just the crumbs from the feast [a reference to the parable of Lazarus and the rich man.] You must take of your substance and not just your abundance in order to help them."

In this very political address, the pope asserted that the standard of living of the rich countries was being maintained by "draining off a great part of the reserves of energy and raw materials that are meant to serve the whole of humanity."

Throughout the first two days of his visit the pope repeatedly returned to this "exploitation" theme. This same theme reverberates often in the halls of the General Assembly, where "excessively rich" (the pope's words) countries—specifically the United

(Continued on page 40)



THE ARAB WORLD IN PROPHECY

Events soon to occur in the Arab world will bring mankind to the very brink of annihilation! Here is the story—and the good news beyond.

by Keith W. Stump

Who are the Arabs? Is the Arab world mentioned in Bible prophecy? Today the Arab world is an area of

vital concern to nations around the globe. Both political and economic considerations place that vast region—stretching from the Atlantic

to the Indian Ocean—at the very focal point of world attention. Could Bible prophecy overlook the Arabs? Assuredly not!

The Arab peoples are destined to play a significant role in the development of future world events. They will be at the very center of a series of crises which will plunge the Middle East into a major war—ultimately drawing in all the nations of the earth!

What Is an Arab?

But first—just what is an Arab? This question has plagued scholars for centuries. Peoples of many different ethnic groups, often exhibiting widely differing physical characteristics, consider themselves or are considered by others to be "Arabs." Experts place the number of "Arabs" in the world today at well over 100,000,000.

The Arabic term *al-Arab* originally referred only to the wandering Bedouins (*Badawis*) of the Arabian Desert. The Bedouins consider themselves to be the original Arabs and the only true Arabs remaining today. Scattered from Morocco to Iran—but concentrated in the Arabian Peninsula—the Bedouins maintain a lifestyle which has changed little since the time of the Old Testament.

But the meaning of the term "Arab" has changed over the centuries. During the Moslem military conquests of the seventh and eighth centuries A.D., widespread Bedouin intermarriage with the indigenous peoples of conquered North Africa and other areas of the Middle East served to blur earlier ethnic distinctions.

To this day, no standard or "official" definition of an Arab has yet been agreed upon, or is likely to be. The best criterion of who is an Arab is probably *language*. Therefore many use the term "Arabic-speaking peoples" instead of "Arabs" to designate a linguistic group composed of many diverse peoples.

Where Did the Arabs Come From?

Nations are merely families grown big. In general, the Arab peoples are descended from one man—Ishmael (called *Ismail* by Arabs), the son of the biblical patriarch Abraham (or *Ibrahim*). The Arabs themselves acknowledge this. The story is found in

the book of Genesis, beginning in chapter 16.

Abraham's wife Sarah was unable to have children. Sarah suggested that Abraham take Hagar the Egyptian, her handmaid, and obtain an heir by her. Abraham agreed, and Hagar conceived a child.

As could be expected, friction soon developed between Sarah and Hagar. Sarah began to treat Hagar harshly. When she could take it no longer, Hagar fled into the desert. There an angel appeared to her, telling her to return to Sarah. The angel declared: "Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael [meaning "God will hear"]; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction" (Genesis 16:11). The angel also revealed that her progeny would be multiplied exceedingly, that it would "not be numbered for multitude." So Hagar returned and soon afterwards presented Abraham with a son.

Thirteen years passed. God then appeared to Abraham and announced that Sarah—then age 90—would soon bear Abraham a son! Abraham was incredulous. Moreover, he had grown to love Ishmael greatly and desired that he be his heir and receive the birthright blessings. "O that Ishmael might live before thee!" Abraham entreated God.

But God replied: "Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him . . ." (Genesis 17:19). But God understood Abraham's concern for Ishmael's future, and assured him: "And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation" (verse 20).

After the birth of Isaac, Hagar and Ishmael were cast forth into the desert at the insistence of Sarah. There God miraculously preserved them and reaffirmed His promise to make of Ishmael a great nation (Genesis 21:18). "And God was with the lad," the account continues, "and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran [the modern Negev Desert]: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt" (verses 20-21). One or two additional wives were later added.

As God had prophesied, Ishmael became the father of 12 sons, whose names are recorded in Genesis 25:13-16: Nebajoth, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadar, Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. Ishmael also had one daughter, called Mahalath or Bashemath (Genesis 28:9; 36:3), who married Esau, the son of the patriarch Isaac.

A Great Nation

Ishmael died at the age of 137 (Genesis 25:17). As God had promised, his twelve sons grew into a "great nation"—today numbering scores of millions!

The specific genealogies of each of the modern-day Arab tribes, subtribes, families and clans are virtually impossible to trace back in every case to their ultimate biblical origins. But some of the major lines of descent are known. For example: From Ishmael's son Kedar (*Qaidar* in Arabic)—dated approximately 1840 B.C.—can be traced a line of descent to Adnan (or *Qais*)—122 B.C.—and from him (21 generations further on) to Mohammed (A.D. 570-632) of the Koreish tribe, the founder and prophet of the Islamic faith.

Though Ishmael is considered to have been the progenitor of the majority of the Arab world, there are indications of some intermingling of Ishmaelites with other related peoples—specifically the Joktanites and Keturahites.

Joktan (called *Qahtan* or *Kahtan* by the Arabs) was the son of the patriarch Eber (Genesis 10:25), who lived many generations before Abraham and Ishmael. This Joktan—whom authorities consider to have been the ultimate father of all southern Arabs—had 13 sons, named in Genesis 10:26-29. One of them, Jerah (*Yarab* to the Arabs), is believed to have founded the kingdom of Yemen in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula. Some authorities believe his name was the origin of the

word "Arab," the meaning of which is thought to be "arid."

Yarab's brother Hadoram (*Jorham* to the Arabs) is believed to have founded the Hejaz, an important kingdom along the western coast of Arabia, containing the cities of Mecca and Medina. According to Arab history, the daughter of Mudad, a descendant of this Jorham, became one of the wives of Ishmael. It is from that union that Ishmael's illustrious son Kedar is said to have come.

Another of Joktan's sons, Hazarmaveth, is claimed by the present-day tribesmen of the Hadhramaut (a region in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula) as their ancestor.

The other line with which the Ishmaelites are said to have intermarried is that of the Keturahites. The Keturahites were descendants of Keturah, whom Abraham married after the death of Sarah. Abraham and Keturah had six sons (Genesis 25:2), whose progeny, like that of Joktan, gradually became incorporated into the house of Ishmael.

Thus, after making due allowance for mixture with Joktanites and Keturahites, the Arabs may be regarded as essentially an Ishmaelite race.

In Bible usage, the name *Kedar* is often employed as the collective name of all the nomadic Arab tribes generally, as Kedar apparently had been the largest and most conspicuous of all the Ishmaelite tribes. The tribe's importance can be inferred from the mention of the rich "princes of Kedar" in Ezekiel 27:21 and elsewhere.

The prophet Isaiah, in his "burden [or denunciation] upon Arabia" (Isaiah 21:13-17) prophesied the demise of the "glory of Kedar"—a reference to the invasion of Arabia by Sargon in 716 B.C., during the wars between Egypt and Assyria. The glory of Kedar did fail, and the Arabs slipped for many centuries into obscurity.

The Conquests of Islam

Through the period of the Medo-Persian kingdom and on into Roman times, the Arab tribes lived in semi-isolation from the rest of the world, breeding camels, goats and sheep in

the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula. Their principal interest appears to have been fighting wars among themselves—an activity designed not so much with the intent of eradicating or enslaving rival tribes but rather to break the wearisome monotony of watching animals graze in the vast emptiness of the desert.

When it came to religion, the Arabs were idol worshipers. The great temple of Mecca—overseen by the influential Koreish tribe—was said to have contained 365 idols.

Ironically, it was from the Koreish tribe that Mohammed arose early in the 7th century A.D.—six centuries after Christ. He succeeded in abolishing the idolatry long prevalent in Arabia and bringing his fellow Arabs a new faith, *Islam* ("Submission to God"), based on belief in one god, Allah. Moreover, Mohammed's

"The Arab peoples are destined to play a significant role in future world events."

teachings forged the divided Arab tribes into a socially and culturally united people. Islam provided them for the first time with a powerful unifying force, making it possible for them to aspire to greatness as a nation.

A little history will be useful here to show how the stage has been set over the centuries for the prophetic events which lie just ahead.

Following Mohammed's death in 632, the leadership of the Moslem nation passed to a succession of *caliphs* ("successors"), ruling initially from Medina. They completed the unification of the Arabian Peninsula and began to push outward, eventually bringing the entirety of the Middle East under their rule.

In the early 7th century, the Near and Middle East were divided between two great rival powers: the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire

(called *Rum* by the Arabs) centered at Constantinople, and the Sassanid Empire of Persia. These two adversaries had exhausted each other by long and destructive wars, and thus were "sitting ducks" for the vigorous new Islamic power sweeping out of Arabia.

To the frenzied cries of *Allah Akbar!* ("God is Great!"), camel-mounted Arab tribesmen swept with lightning speed into neighboring territories, taking Syria in 635, Iraq in 637, Palestine in 640, Egypt and Persia in 641. Jerusalem was taken in 638. Not since the days of Alexander the Great had such swift and far-reaching conquests been seen. "The Believers smote and slaughtered till the going down of the sun," recorded one contemporary Arab historian, "and the fear of the Arabs fell upon all kings."

The supreme office of caliph, originally elective, soon was made hereditary—first in the Omayyad family (from A.D. 661 to 750) and then in the Abbasid family (750 to 1258). The Omayyad dynasty, ruling from Damascus, was responsible for the conquest of the remainder of North Africa and most of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal). In the East, Omayyad armies swept over Central Asia toward India and China. In less than 100 years, the Omayyads had built an empire larger than that of Rome at its height. Millions were added into the fold of the Moslem faith.

It was the great Omayyad caliph Abdul Malik, incidentally, who constructed the great Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem in 691-692 on Mount Moriah, the former site of the illustrious Temple of Solomon.

The Abbasid dynasty, ruling from Baghdad, consisted of 37 caliphs, among them the famous Harun al-Rashid (786-809) of *Arabian Nights* fame. The first two or three centuries of Abbasid rule marked the Golden Age of Islamic culture and literature. While Europe lay engulfed by the "Dark Ages," the Arabs kept the torch of knowledge burning throughout their far-flung domains.

Increasingly, however, the Abbasid caliphs grew soft, succumbing to the ease of sedentary palace life and



Wide World

COMING MIDEAST WAR will pale previous conflicts into insignificance. Above: Israeli soldiers hold position in Gaza Strip region during June 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Both sides are better equipped militarily today than ever before.

losing their martial vigor. Internal weaknesses resulted in a gradual breakdown of the political solidarity of the Moslem Empire and its disintegration into autonomous or semi-autonomous states. Eventually Baghdad itself was conquered by invaders, and the Abbasid caliphs became mere figurehead or "puppet" rulers.

In addition, the Islamic faith itself became split and fragmented into dozens of sects, sub-sects and offshoots, as it remains to this day. In fact, modern Islam is as divided as modern Christianity!

War and Independence

Early in the 16th century, the majority of Arab lands came under the sway of the Ottoman Turks, ruling from Istanbul. For the following four centuries there was no independent Arab state. The Arabs bristled under the corrupt and despotic rule of the Ottomans.

During World War I the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) sided with the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary against Britain. An opportunity thus presented itself to Britain. The British believed that a rebellion of Arabs against their Turkish overlords would enable Britain, while

fighting Germany, simultaneously to defeat Germany's ally Turkey. Britain consequently encouraged and gave assistance to a rebellion of the Arab tribes.

The rebellion was proclaimed in June 1916 by Hussein ibn Ali, the illustrious Sherif of Mecca (a descendant of Mohammed) and self-proclaimed "King of the Arabs." In exchange for his revolt against the Turks, Hussein received a promise from Britain to recognize the independence of the Arab countries after the war.

Assisted by the legendary T. E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia") in the field, the "Revolt in the Desert" was successful. With Turkey's defeat, Ottoman rule in Arab lands came to an end.

But the free and united Middle Eastern Arab empire promised by Britain did not materialize. The majority of Arab lands were instead given to Britain and France to rule as mandates. The Arabs felt betrayed, claiming Britain had duped them, had made false promises and had shown bad faith. After centuries of Ottoman rule, they were now to be ruled by Europeans!

Eventually, however, various inde-

pendent Arab states did at last emerge. Iraq became independent in 1932; Syria and Lebanon in 1941; Transjordan in 1946; Egypt in 1951. In Arabia, King Ibn Saud of Nejd (central Arabia) succeeded in conquering the Hejaz in 1925, and in 1932—after uniting other areas under his control—formed the soon-to-be oil-rich Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Calls soon began to issue forth from various quarters for these newly independent Arab states to unite into one giant Arab Nation. Many Arabs began to look back with a sort of nostalgia to the first few centuries after Mohammed, when Islam was politically united as a single world empire, extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indus River. Why not, they asked, seek to re-create the political and theological unity of the early Islamic caliphate—beginning with the unification of the Arab world? The possibilities would be tremendous, they suggested.

Elusive Dream

This idea (called "Pan-Arabism") of a single united Arab Nation with one flag and one capital was not new. Throughout the centuries, the goal of a single political entity embracing all Arabic-speaking peoples has been a widely held dream among Arabs. But it has proved to be as elusive as the mirages of the desert. Indeed, the pages of Arab history brim with stories of tribal feuds, national conflicts and personal rivalry among Arab leaders.

The common historical origin, common faith, language and culture of the Arab peoples—factors that would seem at first glance to provide an excellent basis for Arab solidarity—prove to be a mere facade of unity. In actuality, the Arab peoples are deeply divided by often fierce political, ideological, economic, theological and territorial rivalries. Though the desire for unity is strongly felt, there are wide and almost irreconcilable differences among Arab nations over the manner in which that goal is to be achieved.

Even more hopeless has been the centuries-old quest for the wider-scope ideal of Islamic unity. Multiple millions of non-Arabic-speaking

peoples also follow the Moslem faith, including those of Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Indonesia, and parts of India and Africa. In fact, one person in six in the world today is a Moslem. The concept of the unity of the entire Islamic world—both Arab and non-Arab—is called “Pan-Islam.” Though all Moslems recognize the tremendous possibilities that might be realized through greater cooperation, such ideals often clash with the pragmatic interests of individual Moslem nations. Like the lesser-scope concept of Pan-Arabism, Pan-Islam’s chances for success—in the estimation of most observers—are small.

Religious Upheaval

What hope remains, then? Will the long-sought unity of the Arab and Moslem worlds ever be realized? If so, most observers feel, it will probably have to come through swift and possibly violent change—in the wake of tumultuous political or religious upheaval.

The Moslem world today is ripe for something new. After centuries of divisive religious and political infighting and frustrated ambitions, Moslem sentiments are coming to a head. Moslems are ready for a new concept to provide the catalyst toward realizing their long-thwarted dreams. They want to again become a powerful force in world affairs, in a role befitting their size and glorious past.

Increasing numbers of Moslems—Arab and non-Arab alike—believe it is time for a rekindling of the fires of their faith, time for a wide-scale religious and spiritual revival in the face of growing secularization, materialism and Westernization (witness recent events in Iran, for example). From Morocco to Indonesia, “back-to-the-Koran” sentiments are growing, along with calls for a united, fundamentalist Islam.

The lacking vital ingredient is *leadership*. “There have been many attempts at a pan-Islamic policy, none of which has made much progress,” observes Bernard Lewis, a British scholar of the Middle East. “One reason for this lack of success is that those who have made the attempt have been so unconvincing.

This still leaves the possibility of a more convincing leadership, and there is ample evidence in virtually all Muslim countries of the deep yearning for such a leadership and a readiness to respond to it.”

Moslems in general and Arabs in particular have historically responded like no other people to the charismatic personality. Since the founding of Islam, men have periodically arisen in various parts of the Moslem world claiming to be the long-awaited *Mahdi*, the expected end-time messiah who is to cleanse and restore the Islamic faith to its original purity, unify the Moslem world and usher in a seven-year golden age just before the end of the world.

Many of these individuals—often men of considerable eloquence and extraordinary personal magnetism—gathered great armies and attempted to unify the Moslem world by religious wars. Some gained thrones; others—the majority—died bloody deaths on the field of battle. But none were to be ignored.

One of the most recent Mahdis was Mohammed Ahmed, the “Sudanese Mahdi,” who united numerous tribes against British and Egyptian control of the Sudan and succeeded in capturing the strategic Nile city of Khartoum from General Charles George Gordon in 1885. His goal of a single united Moslem nation, however, went unfulfilled.

A Thing of the Past?

Nearly a century has passed since the Sudanese Mahdi’s victory at Khartoum. To many observers, militant Mahdism is a thing of the past. A major flare-up of radical messianism is deemed unlikely—by some, even impossible. But is it really?

The expectation of a coming *Mahdi* (in Arabic, “the divinely guided one”) is prevalent among virtually all Moslem sects, though they often differ in the specifics of the concept. Moslems today yearn for a guide, a teacher, a deliverer—one who embodies their innermost hopes and dreams, who will breathe new life into Islam, give new direction, and set about healing the schisms which divide the Moslem world.

There has always been magic in

the name *Mahdi*. Were a revolutionary new religious figure to suddenly appear in the Moslem world—a dynamic, charismatic leader who could capture the imagination of Moslems everywhere and effectively capitalize on their hunger for greatness—the Middle East picture could be transformed overnight!

The appearance of a 20th century *Mahdi*—as fantastic as the prospect might appear to Western minds—cannot be quickly dismissed. In Islam, politics and religion are inextricably mixed. There is a close relationship between the spiritual and civil power.

Islam waits to be united. The role of *Mahdi*—the Great Unifier of Islam—awaits a player. *Mahdis* have marched in their dozens and scores through the pages of Moslem history. There is no reason to believe the days of *Mahdism* are past. Indeed, circumstances in the Moslem world appear riper than ever for a *Mahdist* flare-up. Even now a *Mahdi* may be waiting in the wings for the opportune moment.

Prophesied in the Bible?

As the Bible so clearly demonstrates, it is *God* who makes and unmakes nations. The prophet Daniel declared that God “removes kings and sets up kings” (Daniel 2:21, RSV). And it is God who declares “the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done” (Isaiah 46:10). God reveals the future before it happens!

The Bible is not silent about the Arab world. Among other prophecies for the region, it strongly suggests the emergence of a coming Arab-Moslem Confederation, possibly under the overall leadership of one powerful individual!

In chapter 11 of the book of Daniel is found the longest prophecy in the Bible. The prelude is found in the tenth chapter. There, the archangel Gabriel appears to Daniel: “Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people *in the latter days*: for yet the vision is for many days” (verse 14).

The prophecy of Daniel 11 details events—at that time, still future—from the remaining days of the

Medo-Persian empire, through the reign of Alexander the Great and his successors in Syria and Egypt, and on through to the second coming of Christ!

Beginning in verse 40 we read of a conflict between two great powers: "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind"

This is an important "end-time" prophecy. Following the chronological progression of the chapter, it becomes apparent that the phrase "king of the north" had at first referred to Syria under the Seleucid dynasty, and later, in the New Testament times, to the Emperor of the Roman Empire. (For a detailed, verse-by-verse examination of Daniel 11, write for the free reprint article "The Middle East in Prophecy" by Herbert W. Armstrong). Thus, in its final end-time application, the "king of the north" is the prophesied strong man who will lead a coming union of ten European nations—the seventh and final revival of the ancient Roman Empire prophesied by Daniel and in the book of Revelation (see Revelation 17:12-13).

But who is the "king of the south"? In the earlier portions of Daniel 11, the phrase refers without question to ancient Egypt under the rule of the Ptolemaic dynasty, later including Ethiopia which was annexed to Egypt. But in verse 40 we skip to "the time of the end"—this present century. The verse undoubtedly found at least partial fulfillment in the offensive in 1896 of Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia ("king of the south") against the Italian armies of King Humbert I ("king of the north")—and in the air, land and sea invasion of Ethiopia 40 years later by Mussolini's forces.

But Mussolini did not finish the prophecy. He did not, for example, enter into the "glorious land" or Palestine (verse 41). Its greater fulfillment is yet future!

Just as there is yet to be a final "king of the north"—called in Bible symbolism "the beast"—who will arise as superdictator over an end-time European confederation, there

may very well emerge in the same manner a final "king of the south"—an overall leader of an Arab-Moslem confederation, possibly even bearing the very title *Mahdi!* And these two individuals will eventually find themselves in a head-to-head confrontation—possibly over oil—which will ultimately lead to devastating war in the Middle East!

Crisis in Palestine

What does prophecy reveal, then, about the succession of events in the Middle East in the coming months and years? And what part will the Arab world play in them?

The Bible does not give an exact sequence of coming events. We must watch world events to discover how and when the prophecies will happen (Luke 21:36). But in piecing together prophecies scattered throughout the Old and New Testaments, a general picture becomes clear.

As all students of Bible prophecy know, the city of Jerusalem is the focal point of all prophecy. Since the Arab-Israeli War of 1967, old Jerusalem has been in the hands of the State of Israel. It is with that nation that we must begin our overview of prophecy for the region.

An important key to understanding prophecy is to realize, first, that the present Jewish state in Palestine is *not* the triumphant final return of Israel to the promised land mentioned so often by the Old Testament prophets.

Anciently, Israel was composed of 12 tribes, descended from the 12 sons of the patriarch Jacob. Following the death of King Solomon, the nation of Israel split into two *separate* nations (I Kings 12): the southern "house of Judah"—composed of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and part of Levi, with capital at Jerusalem—and the larger, ten-tribed "house of Israel" to the north, with capital at Samaria.

The house of Israel was conquered and carried away into captivity by Assyria in 721-718 B.C. (II Kings 18:9-12), never to return. The house of Judah (the "Jews") was carried off in slavery to Babylon over a century later, in 604-585 B.C. (II Kings 25). Judah was laid

waste. Thereafter, no independent Israelitish nation existed anywhere in Palestine for over 2500 years. Though a remnant of the house of Judah returned to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel 70 years later in 534 B.C., Judah remained under subjection as a Persian, and later a Roman, province. Finally, in A.D. 70, Judea was invaded and Jerusalem destroyed by Roman troops. The Jews were forcefully driven from their homeland.

In 1948—after nearly 19 centuries of being dispersed—a part of the tribe of Judah forged a new nation in Palestine, calling it the "State of Israel." Though this end-time physical restoration of the Jews as a nation was forecast by many Old Testament prophets, it was not the much-prophesied great restoration of the entire nation of Israel. The vast majority of the Israelitish tribes—the so-called "lost ten tribes"—have not yet returned! (See "Jews Are a Nation Again—Prophecy Fulfilled?" by Herbert W. Armstrong in the February 1979 *Plain Truth*). The prophesied return of all Israel to the promised land in peace and security is yet future.

But what does prophecy say of the present Jewish "State of Israel"? Will the Arab nations make further efforts to "drive it into the sea"? Will there be a fifth Arab-Israeli war? And if so, what will the consequences be?

Numerous prophecies speak of various "calamities" yet to befall Judah in the months and years ahead. A great crisis is yet to occur in Palestine. The Arab armies are today better equipped and better coordinated for the waging of war than at any time in the past three decades. A future Mideast war could very well place in danger the very existence of the State of Israel. Moreover, the most sacred religious shrines of the world's three major religions, located in Jerusalem, could become jeopardized. The "Big Powers" may be forced to intervene. Troops may even be dispatched to Palestine as a "peace-keeping force" to patrol and police the volatile region.

King David of ancient Israel, in a

prophetic psalm (Psalm 83) provides additional insight into the coming Mideast picture. Germany (*Assyria* in Bible prophecy) and perhaps the rest of Europe will be in league in the future with a union of Arab nations—a vast confederacy bound together in an effort to crush out the name “Israel” from the face of the earth! This Arab-Moslem confederacy may very well be the previously mentioned “king of the south” of Daniel 11—a sphere of power encompassing vast portions of the Islamic world.

“They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have *consulted together* with one consent: they are *confederate* against thee: The tabernacles of Edom [Esau or modern-day Turkey, a non-Arab but Islamic nation] and the Ishmaelites [Saudi Arabia]; of Moab [part of Jordan] and the Hagarenes [anciently these people dwelt in the land known as Syria today]; Gebal [Lebanon], and Ammon [modern Jordan], and Amalek [part of the Turks]; the Philistines [the modern Palestinian Arabs] with the inhabitants of Tyre [Lebanon]; Assur [whose descendants, the Assyrians, migrated to Germany] *also is joined with them*: they have holpen [helped] the children of Lot [Jordan and western Iraq]” (Psalms 83:4-8).

Amazingly, such an alliance is already in the making! Europe—and West Germany in particular—is vitally dependent on the Arab world’s oil. It cannot afford to appear overly sympathetic to the Jewish state. Even now, a “special relationship” is developing between the major Arab oil producers in the Middle East and the industrial oil-consuming powers of Western Europe. Europe is seeking long-term guarantees of oil supplies to meet its needs. Moreover, the Arabs—fearful of Soviet inroads in the Middle East and corresponding lack of firm U.S. resolve to counterbalance them—have expressed interest in developing closer military ties with Europe. There have even been reports of a suggested “collective security pact” in the Middle East under European guarantees. Mean-

while, Israeli leaders are becoming concerned about what they perceive to be a growing European pro-Arab tilt.

Mideast Invaded

But in the end, this European-Arab alliance will prove short-lived. As shown earlier, the “king of the north” of Daniel 11—the leader of the German-led European union—will ultimately turn against the Arab “king of the south,” with disastrous consequences for the entire Middle East—both Jew and Arab alike. The entire region will be subjected to armed invasion!

Europe’s ire could well be precipitated by a cutoff of vital oil supplies by the Arabs. Whatever the provocation, Europe will act swiftly to protect its interests—sending troops into the Middle East!

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Europe will act swiftly to protect its interests— sending troops into the Middle East!

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Daniel 11:40-41: “And the king of the north shall come against him [the king of the south] like a whirlwind . . . and he shall enter into the countries. . . . He shall enter also into the glorious land [Palestine], and *many countries* [Arab countries of the Middle East] *shall be overthrown*”

The modern State of Israel will be conquered. Jerusalem will be besieged and taken. The prophet Zechariah also speaks of this capture of Jerusalem, revealing that eventually half the city will be taken into captivity by the European power (14:1-2).

In addition, Daniel’s prophecy specifically mentions that Egypt will be conquered by the German-led European forces. Isaiah shows that Syria, too, will become a “ruinous heap” (17:1-3).

The Arab-Moslem Confederation will, of course, be thrown into chaotic

disarray in the face of invasion. Some of its component countries will be directly occupied by European troops. However, as revealed in Daniel 11:41, Jordan (the present-day descendants of Moab and Ammon) and Turkey (Edom) will escape occupation. Other Arab countries may also avoid full occupation, possibly remaining in some sort of limited alliance with United Europe. “Libya” (or *Put*, the North African Arabs) along with “Ethiopia” (or *Cush*, certain black African nations) shall be “at his [the king of the north’s] steps”—or “following him” as some translations render it.

Great Tribulation

In the wake of the invasion and takeover of the State of Israel by the revived Roman Empire, the “beast” (European strong man) will make Jerusalem his headquarters (Daniel 11:45). As many New Testament prophecies reveal, a great miracle-working religious leader—called the “false prophet” and “man of sin”—will come along from Europe with the beast, in direct alliance with him. This false prophet will make his religious headquarters at Jerusalem.

Jesus Christ spoke of a soon-coming “great tribulation” (Matthew 24:21). Christ also predicted that an invasion of Palestine would immediately precede it: “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh” (Luke 21:20). God will permit the European Church-State union to tread Jerusalem underfoot for 1260 days, or 3½ years (Daniel 12:7; Revelation 12:14).

Christ continued in Luke 21: “For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled . . . for there shall be great distress in the land . . . they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (verses 22-24)—a graphic picture of Palestine occupied and ravaged during the Great Tribulation. (Other prophecies

(Continued on page 38)



Wide World

TEN REASONS WHY I DON'T KEEP CHRISTMAS

Sour grapes? A bah-humbug Scrooge? Antiestablishment? Irreligious? No! None of these. Here's a plain speaking-out about a holiday nearly everybody keeps, religious or nonreligious, and nearly no one seems to really understand why! Read this personal-experience article for understanding. It's practical. Logical. Truthful. Biblical. All of these!

by Jon Hill

Many years ago I stopped to ask myself: Why do I keep Christmas? More people are unhappy, miserable, depressed, deep in debt, and violent during that holiday season than any other time of the year. There's precious little peace on earth or goodwill among men. There doesn't seem to be much of Christ in the commercialized Christmas that begins to be advertised each year before the last Christmas is paid for!

For that matter, in what little reading I had done in the Bible, I never had read anything about Christmas. Where did we get all of these customs anyway? Why do I have to practice them just because everybody else does? What difference will it make if I don't keep Christmas?

At first I argued with myself that I would create problems with my friends and relatives, particularly the

kids in the family, if I didn't go along with the customs surrounding the twenty-fifth of December.

But I was wrong.

When I said I was sick and tired of it and determined not to have anything to do with it, I found many people who felt the same way. A great number of those who had in previous years felt obliged to trade gifts with me sighed in relief at not having that obligation. As for the

children, when we took the time to look into the encyclopedia and the other reference works at the library, when we read with our thinking caps on the many articles that come out in daily newspapers during the Christmas season, we realized that the origins of these customs were not biblical at all—and, in fact, had nothing to do with Jesus Christ of Nazareth!

And children, until they are taught differently, have an inspiring respect for the plain truth!

So looking back on the many years which I have *not* kept Christmas, I can with happy hindsight give many more reasons now than when I first quit observing this outstanding holiday of the "Christian" calendar. Perhaps you will benefit by the cataloguing of some of those experiences and the reasons that I have learned over the years for not having to become involved in what is not only the least understood but the most *misunderstood* of social customs in the Western world.

1

I CAN'T AFFORD IT

By the time you add up the cost of decorations, special meals, travel expenses, gifts and cards, time taken off from work during a forced holiday season, etc., etc., it can often—especially by the time you add carrying charges and interest on those things which have been put on credit—amount to nearly ten percent of your gross annual income that can be spent on this occasion. You just have to ask yourself—is it worth it? The answer I had to give myself was—*absolutely not*.

By the time I examined my budget in the light of the rising, inflationary cost of living—by the time I realized the serious investment that has to be made ahead of time for my children's education and for my own old age—by the time I added up all the deductions from my paycheck and then subtracted the absolutely necessary amounts for the basics of living—by the time I set aside a little for yearly family excursions to some place on

this beautiful earth that I have not seen before—by the time I added in the expense of those things which are not necessary but which I would like to do and be free to do (not be *forced* to do)—by the time I set aside a little for unexpected occurrences and all the other picky things that belong in a budget, I realized that I had nothing left over to pay for financing the biggest business bust of the year!

Whenever I mention this to other people, I usually get hearty agreement and a wistful look from them that says they wish they had the gumption to cut free from this ridiculous expense themselves.

2

ACCENT ON GET

Materialism and commercialism so dominate this "season to be jolly" that there can surely be no soul so blind as not to see it. Although it is the season of giving—and everyone is propagandized to feel evil if they are not involved in that giving—the overtones, from the candy store on the corner to the department store that has everything and the mail-order catalogue businesses, obviously put the stress on getting them more business during this time of year than any other comparable season. In fact, many commercial ventures rely on this season of the year for their *survival*.

Whenever a question is asked after the twenty-fifth of December is past, it is generally, "What did *you* GET for Christmas?" Each vies with the other, determined to express the idea that he *got* more.

Nobody likes to pay taxes, and I'm sure that if there were a way out everybody would take it and cease paying taxes immediately. But taxes are demanded, and it is a criminal offense not to pay them. Being taxed in addition to that by the crass commercialism and social pressure mounted at Christmas time is something I have found the strength to refuse. It is *not* a crime to refuse to go along with the crowds in their rush to fulfill the season's demands—

in fact, there's a certain sense of satisfaction in having been able to be assailed with all of that accumulation of social trends and business furor and *withstand* it all, independent, watching the madness from the sidelines.

There's enough of the "go now and pay later," the "put it on credit and don't worry about payments until February," the "why use cash when you can use credit?" syndromes going on in the world as it is. I not only don't have to worry about payments until February, but I don't have to worry about payments even when it gets to be March or April or May or June or July or for however long those holidays may continue to cost the average person for his response to Christmas commercialism.

3

GIVING IS SPECIAL

Withdrawing myself from the social demands of giving *on command*, of being obliged to give things I can't afford to people to whom I don't want to give—who feel the same way about me and wouldn't like what I give them anyway—*doesn't* mean that I have given up giving. My children, my wife, my family and close friends receive gifts from me, or I do nice things for them, at *spontaneous* times that are *special*—just between me and the one to whom I give. That way the gift is much more special. The receiver realizes that it doesn't have to be done. The thought behind the gift does count more than the gift. All the giving is not done in just one season. Special joy comes from giving and receiving between people who love each other—and it is spread over the *whole year*.

Because it is special, care and thought beyond the mad rush of the commercial season are lavished uniquely on the *one* gift at the *one* time for the *special* occasion which I find stands out much more in the memory of the giver and the receiver than any Christmas gift ever could. This way I'm *free* to give, not *bound* to give—and I find this freedom refreshing!

4

HYPOCRISY—THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

"I hate Christmas," said one department store manager in California. "I hate the hypocrisy, the one-day Christianity of Christmas; I hate the commercialism—and I'm part of it."

A seasoned divorce lawyer wrote, "Lawyers usually see an influx of new divorce clients immediately following the Christmas and New Year holidays. Too much holiday cheer touches off the smoldering conflicts that have been under control all year."

A psychiatrist says, "At Christmas, the lonely begin feeling lonelier, the tension prone tighten up as pressures mount and the illusion appears of ecstatic happiness all just around the corner. Christmas is the worst season of the year for the mentally ill."

Even the Better Business Bureau warns, "Tis the season to be *wary*"—that is, it's the season of shysters, shoplifters and sidewalk salesmen. They warn that those who plead for charity should be investigated before any donation is made—especially at this time of year.

In a desperate effort to fit in with the "spirit of Christmas," people smile when they don't *feel* like smiling. They greet one another with old pagan slogans. They get increasingly concerned about the debts they are mounting up. They get into more and more of a hard-faced, bitter fighting with their fellow Christmas shoppers as the deadline approaches and they desperately try to snap up the last few gifts from the counters which they know are going to offer the same items the day after Christmas for 30 to 50 percent off!

Far too many try to get their Christmas spirits from the bottle, and either end up drunk with a hangover, or perhaps seriously injured or dead as a result of overindulgence while driving. So many so deeply wish they didn't have to be involved

in this season but are forced to by social custom. Hypocrisy stands as the hallmark of this season.

5

I HATE TO LIE—ESPECIALLY TO KIDS

A famous physician says that the Santa Claus myth is a fantastic web of lies which can cause your child—"when he finds out"—confusion of mind, possible schizoid splits in his personality, or even a physical ailment resulting from the emotional letdown of "losing" so close a friend (Santa). One psychology professor even laid part of the blame for the generation gap and the hippie subculture on the Santa Claus myth.

In the parent-child relationship the TRUTH is the most priceless commodity that they must always share. How many times have you found yourself saying to your child—"Now you be sure to tell me the truth, young man (or young lady)"? We even want them to tell us if they have done something *bad*—which is difficult for anybody to tell. We want them to tell us about their grades in school, about their friends and what they do and think, whether they broke a neighbor's window or took money from mama's purse. We preach over and over to them that they must *always* tell the truth. And then we proceed in nearly every holiday season of the year to manufacture the most ridiculous falsehoods imaginable! Sober-faced and with our hypocritical spirit of Christmas wrapped around us, we tell them—and even associate it with God and Christ and the Bible—one blatant lie after another!

Is it any wonder we have a generation gap!

One of the biggest things that the young people of today are accusing the older generation of is hypocrisy—and I'm afraid that I have to agree with that charge for the majority of the people who live as slaves to the social system which surrounds us. Thankfully, I determined, *before* my children were old enough to talk to,

that I was not going to tell them any lies about a fat man who dresses in a red suit, flies in some magical way on a sled led by a red-nosed reindeer and somehow manages to squeeze down my chimney on the dark night of the twenty-fourth to deposit gifts for all the good little children under some tinsel tree that I have trucked in.

My children didn't have to find out that dad was lying about Santa Claus. My children didn't have to even think the thought in their minds which has been expressed by a few bold children—that thought: "If they lie to me about Santa Claus, what else will they lie to me about? Now I wonder about this whole Jesus Christ business!"

This doesn't mean that my children never have lied—I certainly don't pride myself on being a perfect parent. But it does mean that they could not excuse any lying they did because they caught their mother or father telling them big whoppers—and doing it in the setting of religious worship at that! They know mom and dad don't lie, and this gives them a special respect and a special contact that is not only precious to my wife and me as parents but which we feel is a basic requirement and an indispensable tool of child rearing.

It's all too often that we run across the syndrome of people not practicing what they preach. You can't ask your kids to do what they don't see you doing. You can tell your kids, "Don't do as I do, do as I say," but it won't work! Children have to *learn* to trust their parents—but I never knew an inveterate liar who could be trusted. Being forced by society to tell a package of lies at a time which is so special in the minds of children—when they are at their most tender and impressionable age—deals a crippling blow to child-parent relationships and creates a giant credibility gap between children and adults—no matter how much we might pooh-pooh the idea.

As a child grows up, it leads to a cynical turn of mind. It gives him or her a set of values which is cheap and tawdry regarding the truth.

Yet it is a reward no parent wants to miss to have his children come to him and ask any question they want

to, in an open trust, knowing that they will be told the truth. You can't buy that commodity. There's no commercialism or materialism involved with it. It is the opposite of hypocrisy. And despite the fact that you cannot buy it, it costs absolutely nothing. The truth is that commodity which is most missing in today's world, and it truly is the source and power of freedom—"the truth SHALL make YOU free."

6

XMAS TREE BEARS BAD FRUIT

Another reason I don't keep Christmas is a logical, cause-and-effect reason. I look around me and it doesn't take too much intelligence or research effort on my part to determine that the fruits of the Christmas tree are heavily seasoned with bitterness and violence, depression, depravity and debt.

The Book my Maker gave me says that a good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. When I look at this Christmas tree, I see a great deal of bad fruit.

It's a paradox. At Christmas time, when millions of families are drawn closer together, at least in physical proximity, it is also a fact that simultaneously more people are depressed, deep in debt, discouraged, drunken and dying during that time than any other month of the year.

The FBI says, "The peak monthly rate [for murder and manslaughter] almost invariably occurs in December. This may have something to do with the approach of Christmas, which leads to an unusually large number of family rows . . . 'Peace on earth,' we say, but it looks very doubtful that we really mean it at Christmas. Not when families are suffering such heavy crime statistics. On a week for week basis more people commit suicide during this holiday season than any other period of the year."

A policeman writes, "I have been an officer for over 19 years . . . we get more calls from neighbors to go

out and settle family fights on Christmas Eve than any other night during the year, including New Year's. You walk into a house that is gaily decorated, the tree is aglow, beautifully wrapped gifts are under the tree and the husband and wife are throwing things at each other. The kids are crouched in the corner scared out of their wits."

A leading neurologist says, "There are certainly more depressions, suicidal gestures, cries for help at Christmas than at any other time."

Overeating, hives, crying jags, dishonesty, sexual deviation, playing with your neighbor's wife, plain orneriness, a peak in highway accidents, and family murders are among the fruits of this season's tree.

Personally, for me, I thank God that the Christmas tree is not in my home to bear these bad fruits.

7

XMAS DEMANDS INTELLECTUAL DISHONESTY

Beyond just plain lying to our children, coming up with reasons why we keep these holidays produces a prime example of either a bad case of intellectual blinders or outright intellectual dishonesty.

It doesn't take great, in-depth research to find out that the roots of Christmas—and for that matter every so-called Christian holiday on the calendar—are *not* found in the Bible, which is the handbook from the Creator. A little further basic research in encyclopedias will force a person to either rebel against the dictates of commercial society—or compromise his intellectual honesty.

Take the *Catholic Encyclopaedia*, for instance, under the article "Christmas." It plainly tells us that many early church fathers condemned the keeping of this baptized Saturnalia and that it was not an acceptable "Christian" holiday until well into the fourth century. Even after that it goes on to show that many outstanding leaders in the history of that church as well as a pope

or two have condemned the practices of that season. It continues explaining that even the Parliament of England declared the holiday illegal at one time. It states very plainly that there is no *Bible* precedent for observing the birthday of Christ.

It plainly points out that nobody really knows when Christ was born—that "respected authorities" can be found who place the birth of Christ in almost *any* month of the year. Further than that it plainly explains that if there is any *one* month when the birth of Christ could *not* have occurred it would be *December*. And on and on and on . . .

To think that in the light of all the information which is readily available any individual would continue to celebrate this festival seems to me to be blatant intellectual dishonesty.

8

CHRIST NEVER WAS IN CHRIST-MASS

"Let's put Christ back into Christmas," some say when they notice the commercialism. Yet this saying is of itself a sad commentary on the entire subject. When you put all your research together, looking at the Bible, looking at the readily available references in your public library and perhaps at the books on your own shelf, you can quickly see that the true Jesus Christ of Nazareth who lived in Galilee nearly two thousand years ago never was in Christmas.

As you progress through a short study, you realize that His name was put into Christmas and accepted as the heart of the story of Christmas by about the fourth century. You realize the name of Christ was used and applied to this custom. But then, of course, you realize that the name of Christ was prophesied by Jesus Himself to be preached and associated with the deception of *the many* as one of the signs that would precede His coming and that He Himself gave this prophecy to His disciples in Matthew 24. As your study goes further, you realize that many attempts at reform were made at various times

in both the Catholic and Protestant churches—feeble attempts to get back to the faith once delivered to the saints—attempts to *not* allow, as the early New Testament church did *not*, the name of Christ to be associated with such a dubious background.

It would be impossible to put the true Christ back into Christmas because the true Christ never was in Christmas.

Christ's name has been used in vain to decorate that day, and so the third of the great Ten Commandments is broken. Jesus Christ is the living Word—the personal, human and now divine expression of the living Ten Commandments. The keeping of this holiday breaks not only the third commandment but every other one. It's obvious that the commandment against lying is broken here. Often the commandment not to commit adultery is broken especially on that day. It's obvious to see that coveting is the universal principle of this season. It is all too sadly plain to recognize that murder is committed and a great deal of stealing goes on and children have a very difficult time honoring their parents.

The Jesus Christ of Nazareth who gave His life to pay for my all-too-many sins—the Jesus Christ of Nazareth who by the Spirit of God is, according to the dictates of His Word, the Bible, supposed to be living His life-style over in my life—that living Jesus soon to come to this world as its King of kings and Lord of lords will not give authority for His name to be associated with any aspect of this pagan holiday.

9

IT'S PAGAN

In most any public library you can get proof of this in a book entitled *Four Thousand Years of Christmas* by Earl Wendell Count. The very name of this book proves that the Christmas holiday isn't Christian. It was celebrated two thousand years *before* the birth of Christ in honor of pagan gods. Therefore, it was and is idolatry. God very patently says, "Take heed . . . that you do not in-

quire about their gods, saying, 'How do these nations serve their gods?' — that I also may do likewise. You shall not do so to the Eternal your God; for every abominable thing which the Eternal hates they have done for their gods" (Deuteronomy 12:30-31).

10

I GIVE TO CHRIST

The excuse of giving gifts that comes from the story of the birth of Christ regarding the wise men giving Christ gifts is *misapplied* in our giving *one another* gifts. The reason the wise men gave gifts to Christ was because he was a *King*. He is much more a King now than He was then, and He will be even much more a King in the soon-coming future than He is now.

To give to every Tom, Dick and Harry and NOT to give to Christ, particularly at a season which claims Christ as its center, seems to me the worst hypocrisy of all. Having read and believed Malachi 3, I have dedicated that first ten percent and another generous amount of my budget to be given to God, to His Work on this earth today, to proclaiming the good news of the coming Kingdom of God to rule over this world, to His representatives who preach and teach *that truth* which is the only source of freedom. I find many biblical commands—inescapable—which require me to give to my Christ and other statements which allow me to give freely of freewill offerings at any time or on special occasions. This kind of giving I can do with a completely free conscience.

I may be faced with a few unpleasant comments from people and have to suffer ridicule or scoffing or accusations because I don't keep the arch holiday which is designated by the name of Christ (taken in vain), but I will not have to stand before my Creator whose name is Jesus Christ and explain to Him why I kept Christmas. I don't think it will be too difficult facing the judgment—to be able to say to my Creator that, instead of giving at a time of the pagan winter solstice, gifts I couldn't afford, which

were not appreciated—that I have instead given as commanded (and I hope generously as freewill offerings) my gifts *directly* to the Work of the living Jesus Christ.

These are just ten reasons why I don't keep Christmas—but I think they are adequate to explain my conduct. The freedom I enjoy, the good conscience I am able to have, the sincere friends who give to me of their time and effort and consideration as well as a small, physical gift from time to time—the security I feel at not having a mountain of debts to pay, the ability to look my son and daughter or anyone else in the eye and tell the truth—all these are priceless and indispensable factors that influence every day of my life.

When I gave up Christmas, I didn't give up anything but debt, materialism, hypocrisy, lying, intellectual dishonesty and paganism. The freedom of the truth is rich and it gets richer every year. I wouldn't trade it for anything. Why don't you join me in my freedom? □

From God With Love

As a motion picture, they were acclaimed by the world. As the law of God, they have been loved by some, hated by others—but transgressed by all. To most people they remain a puzzling enigma. They are, of course, the Ten Commandments. But just how are they applicable to today's world? Our free booklet *The Ten Commandments* explains these living laws and shows how God, in His love, gave them to mankind for the good of us all. To receive your copy, just write to *The Plain Truth* at the address nearest you. (See inside front cover for worldwide addresses.) Your free copy is waiting for you.

THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS

Where Will CHRISTIANS RULE?

by Raymond F. McNair

Does God's Word promise heaven as the reward of the saved? Did Jesus say believers would waft off to heaven?

What does God promise as the reward of the righteous—those who *believe and obey* Him? Does He promise heaven, limbo, purgatory—or will the “saved” inherit a paradise on the earth?

Although millions of sincere people believe otherwise, the Bible says nothing about the saints going to heaven! God's Word declares: “The heaven, even the heavens, are the *Lord's*; but the earth hath he given to the children of men” (Psalms 115:16).

And David was inspired to reveal that “those that wait upon the Lord, they shall *inherit the earth*” (Psalms 37:9, 22). Furthermore, he said: “But the meek shall inherit the *earth*; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace” (verse 11).

Does this mean the meek will inherit the earth *in this life*? No, for it is often the proud, the arrogant, the wicked, the violent who inherit much of this earth during this age.

How long will the meek hold title to this earth? “The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever” (verse 29).

Christ Promised the Earth

Some, however, argue that the Hebrew word translated as “for ever” in

Psalms 37:29 does not really mean “forever.”

But let us notice Christ's promise to the meek of the earth: “Blessed are the meek: for they shall *inherit the earth*” (Matthew 5:5). Later we shall see that this inheritance of the righteous is for *all eternity*.

But did Christ ever say the righteous would go to heaven or inherit heaven? Some carelessly assume that He did. What Christ actually said was: “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the *kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 5:3).

Did Jesus contradict Himself—offering “heaven” in verse three, while promising the “earth” in verse five? No, what Christ meant was that the “poor in spirit” would inherit the kingdom ruled over or governed by (or from) heaven. In other words, He meant they would inherit the Kingdom of God.

Only Matthew used the expression “kingdom of heaven,” while Mark, Luke and John, as well as the writers of the rest of the New Testament, consistently used the term “kingdom of God.” But they both mean exactly the same thing.

The “kingdom of heaven” simply means the kingdom of that great Being whose throne is *in heaven*. God says: “Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool . . .” (Acts 7:49).

This simply means that “heaven” is now the place where God's throne is located. Eventually God Himself will establish *His throne* on this

earth. Christ will dwell with men during the “millennium,” and then, later, even the Father will come down and also dwell with men forever (see Revelation 21). Man isn't going to heaven—God is coming to this earth!

No Man Has Ascended to Heaven

A gentleman once told me that he believed man has an immortal soul that goes to heaven when he dies because, he said, he saw his mother's soul (like a little puff of smoke or a handful of cotton wool) leave his mother's body and waft heavenward when she died. This was the basis for his belief.

But we need to have something more solid than this as the foundation for our belief. We must base all our beliefs on the Bible; otherwise, they will come crumbling down sooner or later.

Consider Christ's plain words: “*And no man hath ascended up to heaven*, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven” (John 3:13). (Some ancient manuscripts do not have the words “which is in heaven.” Christ was not “in heaven” when he spoke these words, but was on earth.)

Yes, Jesus plainly said that, except for Himself, no human had ever gone to heaven.

On the momentous Day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter, under divine inspiration, said: “For David is not

ascended into the heavens . . ." (Acts 2:34).

Reward Now Kept in Heaven

We have seen that Christ promised that the meek would "inherit the earth"—not heaven. It is true, however, that the *reward* of the righteous is now being kept or preserved *in heaven*.

Jesus told those who are reviled, falsely accused and persecuted to "rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your *reward in heaven*" (Matthew 5:12). And He admonished His followers to "lay up for yourselves *treasures in heaven*" (Matthew 6:20).

Paul told the Hebrews: "... Ye have *in heaven* a better and an enduring substance" (Hebrews 10:34).

The apostle Peter spoke of "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, *reserved in heaven* for you" (I Peter 1:4).

And Paul assured the Christians at Philippi: "For our conversation [Greek, *citizenship*] is *in heaven*; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall [at His second coming] change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body . . ." (Philippians 3:20-21).

These and other scriptures clearly reveal that our spiritual reward, or our crown, is now being kept in heaven. But will it remain there? Will we go to heaven to receive our reward? Or will Jesus Christ bring our reward back to this earth with Him when He comes?

The apostle Paul wrote: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a *crown* of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Timothy 4:8).

It is at Christ's *appearing* that this crown will be given: "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a *crown of glory* that fadeth not away" (I Peter 5:4).

Christ's Second Coming

But when is this appearing? The doctrine of the "second coming" is well known, and the Bible certainly teaches it.

Notice how Paul explained this: "... And unto them that look for him shall he *appear* the *second time* without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:28).

Remember, Christ said: "I go [to heaven] to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again* [to this earth], and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3).

Some erroneously assume that since Christ was shortly going to heaven (where He would prepare the *places* or positions), He was also going to take His disciples to heaven.

But Christ plainly told the disciples He would "come again"—back to this earth. The disciples were well aware of Christ's plain teaching that He was coming back to this earth, else they would not have asked: "What shall be the sign of thy *coming*?" (Matthew 24:3.)

Christ likened His coming to "lightning"—"so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:27).

Jesus then told His disciples that a great tribulation would be followed by heavenly signs (verses 21, 22, 29). Then, after the heavenly signs, "shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man *coming* in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (verse 30). Christ then mentions His coming six more times in this same chapter (verses 36, 39, 42, 44, 46, 48).

There can be no question that Christ plainly said He would go to heaven, but He would also *come back* to this earth to receive His saints unto Himself, then to rule all nations through them.

Christ plainly said "all the tribes of the earth" shall see Him "*coming*" with great power and glory.

"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a *trumpet*, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (verse 31).

This same momentous event is described in I Corinthians 15:51-54, I Thessalonians 4:13-17 and Zechariah 14:1-5.

Paul gave the Thessalonians a vivid description of Christ's second coming: "For this we say unto you . . . we which are alive and remain unto the *coming* of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep [dead]. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the *trump* of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them *in the clouds*, to meet the Lord *in the air*: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:15-17).

Notice that we are to be caught up in the "clouds" to meet the Lord "in the air."

Back to Heaven?

But does Jesus then take the saints back to heaven?

Speaking of the second coming of Christ, when He will fight against His enemies at Jerusalem, Zechariah said: "Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And *his feet* shall stand in that day upon the *mount of Olives* . . . and the Lord my God shall come, and *all the saints with thee*" (Zechariah 14:3-5).

This scripture reveals that Christ's feet will again stand upon the Mount of Olives, and "all the saints" will come with Him.

This same truth is also taught in the New Testament. After Christ's resurrection, He was standing on the Mount of Olives when He was taken up from the disciples into a cloud. ". . . While they [the disciples] beheld, he was taken up; and a *cloud* received him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Two dazzling angels appeared to the disciples and told them: "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into *heaven*, shall so *come* in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (verse 11). And they were then standing on the Mount of Olives (verse 12).

Christ Brings Reward With Him

Christ plainly taught that He will bring His reward with Him at His

second coming: "And, behold, I come quickly; and *my reward is with me*, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12).

But just what will that reward be? Will it be golden harps on which the saints can play heavenly music for all eternity?

Notice the reward which Christ will give to all overcomers: "But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give *power over the nations*: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron . . ." (Revelation 2:25-27).

Daniel also prophesied of the time when Christ and the saints shall rule this entire world: "... And, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven. . . . And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Daniel 7:13-14).

This "Son of man" will not rule this earth by Himself: "But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever" (verse 18).

This rulership will be worldwide: "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (verse 27).

Truly, in that day, "the Lord [Christ] shall be king over all the earth" (Zechariah 14:9). Christ will sit on David's throne. Where will that throne be located? "At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it" (Jeremiah 3:17).

The heavenly signs mentioned in the book of Daniel and the 24th chapter of Matthew are also spoken of elsewhere in the Bible:

"Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem . . ."

(Isa. 24:23). That's right here on *this good earth!*

Saints Rule on Earth

The saints, who at that time will have been redeemed from this earth, will finally exclaim: "And [God] hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:10). Notice that the saints will not rule in heaven, but on the earth.

One of Christ's parables reveals where the saints shall rule. The disciples mistakenly thought the "kingdom of God should immediately appear" (Luke 19:11). Christ gave the disciples a parable to show that it would be quite some time before He would re-

“
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something solid as the
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beliefs on the Bible;
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”

turn to this earth to set up His kingdom: "A certain nobleman [Christ] went into a far country [heaven] to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy [utilize] till I come" (Luke 19:12, 13).

Those who were industrious and who gained a good return on their master's money were given rulership over "ten cities" (verse 17) and "five cities" (verse 19). This shows that the glorified saints in the Kingdom of God will be given rule or authority over the nations of this earth.

When Christ and His glorified saints sit on thrones governing the nations of this earth, then there will be peace, happiness and prosperity for all nations. The "government [of

the whole earth] shall be upon his [Christ's] shoulder . . ." (Isaiah 9:6). And, "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice . . ." (verse 7).

A Utopian Earth

The wonderful world tomorrow, the utopian age, will at long last dawn upon this earth. Christ will judge the world with righteousness (Isaiah 11:1-5). Then wild, ravenous and deadly animals and reptiles will dwell at peace with the domesticated animals. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (verse 9). At that time, "the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose" (Isaiah 35:1). "... For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert" (verse 6).

The nations of the earth will at last receive a "pure language" (Zephaniah 3:9) and will not be cursed with the confusion of the tongues extant today. Then "the plowman shall overtake the reaper . . . and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them" (Amos 9:13-14).

Men will not have to live in crowded, dirty, inhospitable, cursed cities where they don't even have a backyard in which their children can play.

And there shall be no more war!

"And he [Christ] shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid . . ." (Micah 4:3-4).

What is the reward of the saints? Rulership with Christ right here on this earth! The saints will assist Christ in governing all nations, in bringing peace, happiness, prosperity and joy supreme to all mankind. □

Were the TEN COMMANDMENTS in Force Before Moses?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The world is plagued with many times more troubles and evils today than when I was a boy. There was only a fraction of the crime. Divorces and broken homes were rare by comparison.

But today crime, revolt, riots, violence, wars—and the nuclear mass-destruction weapons—present the world with the supreme problem of human survival!

Why?

And what possible connection could that have with whether the Ten Commandments existed before Moses? Plenty!

There has to be a *cause* for every effect. Do we dare recognize the sobering fact that the world is bringing all these frightening conditions on itself?

The Very Basis of Life

There is a creation. Of necessity there has to be a Creator. And the Creator set in living motion invisible spiritual laws to *cause* human happiness, peace, and abundant well-being.

The cause of all human troubles, woes and evils? Man's rejection and transgression of those laws!

That overall invisible spiritual law

is the way of giving, helping, serving, cooperating—the way of outgoing concern for others. That way produces all good. And that way of life is simply the way of the Ten Commandments.

Most people ignore that law—and live diametrically contrary to it. Yet some will say, "But I've been taught that the Ten Commandments were done away, abolished by Christ, and we don't have to obey God's law anymore."

But when a law of God is actually in living motion like the invisible physical laws of gravity or inertia, it is something far more than a church ritual, to be observed during one period and abolished in another. To argue that this inexorable spiritual law is abolished is like setting a religious doctrine that the laws of gravity and inertia are abolished—and telling people that they may freely leap off a high precipice or a tall building. But if they do, the law will exact its penalty.

All the harm—all the suffering—all the evils that have beset this world for six thousand years are the result of violating God's law!

Yet many have been erroneously taught that the Ten Commandments were merely a law devised by Moses, and given to the children of Israel—and them only—and that the Ten Commandments never existed until

Moses. And, further, that they existed only until Christ.

The Paramount Question of Your Life

This is no mere, irrelevant theological or religious question. This is the very essence of your life—your home life, your social life, your business life. It even has an important connection with inheriting eternal life—or eternal death!

It's true that you cannot *earn* eternal life by obeying the commandments. But it's just as true that you can *earn*—and get paid—eternal death for unrepented transgression.

It's the very crux question behind world troubles today. Strange as it may seem, the Ten Commandments have been in full force and effect since human life has existed on this earth!

They constitute a spiritual law that is inexorable and eternal—a law that is love and the fulfilling of which is love—a law that was set in motion for our happiness to produce everything good which we have foolishly denied ourselves. These Ten Commandments are entirely different and separate from the ritualistic law of Moses, which was just a code of *physical* laws, not spiritual laws.

Proof That Commandments Were in Force at Beginning

The Ten Commandments were first made known to Adam in the Garden

of Eden. Why? Because that is the very law that he broke in the "original" sin. Every one of the Ten Commandments was then in full force and effect. It was sin to transgress any one of them between the time of Adam and Moses. You can read this in your own Bible.

When did this thing that we call "sin" start anyway? Did it start with Moses?

We read the answer in Romans 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and *death by sin*; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." And in verse fourteen, "Death reigned from Adam to Moses."

"Sin is not imputed when there is no law," you read in the 13th verse. Yet sin was imputed, because death did reign from Adam to Moses. There must then have been a law from Adam's time.

What Is Sin?

Is there a Bible definition? Is there any place in the Bible where it says, "Sin is . . ." and then follows the definition?

The answer is in I John 3:4: "Sin is the transgression of the law."

Sin is the transgression of the law! Do you realize that God Almighty is not only the Creator of matter—solid matter, liquid matter and gaseous matter, as we know it—but God also is the Creator of force and of energy and of every power and of every law—the laws of physics, the laws of chemistry, every law that is in motion and is energized? Do you realize that God Almighty also created a spiritual law? That spiritual law regulates your happiness.

Happiness Instead of Suffering

You want happiness. You want to be happy above all things. Everyone does. You want to lead a life that is comfortable, pleasing and pleasant. You would like to lead a life that is full and abundant and interesting—as a matter of fact, a little bit exciting all the way along—wouldn't you? And you want a life where everything is pleasant, where there are no pains or suffering.

You don't want a life of boredom. You don't want a life of sorrow, pain

or suffering. You want a happy life, and you would love to feel well, jolly and joyful—happy all the time.

You could have a life like that. Everyone could.

This entire world could be like that—if we only understood the way!

God Almighty in His great love for humanity set a law in motion. That law was designed to produce just that kind of life for you.

But you're not living that way. You're breaking that law and that law has been breaking *you* a long time, because that's precisely what happens.

That law is merely love, and love is an outgoing concern, not an in-coming lust. It's the way of love. It's the

Romans 7:7, "I had not known lust," that is, he wouldn't have known that lust was evil or wrong; he didn't have such instinctive knowledge, "except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." The law that said, "Thou shalt not covet," taught the apostle Paul that coveting is wrong—harmful—sin. And that is the tenth commandment. So the law that taught that principle is the Ten Commandments!

In Romans 7:12, Paul says that "the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." That isn't what you have been taught today, is it? Many people have been reared in the belief that the law is unholy, that it is altogether wrong, and that Christ had to do away with it.

In verse 14 of Romans 7, the apostle Paul says, "For we know that the law is spiritual." The law is *spiritual*.

Paul said he was *carnal*. He was fleshly and material. So are you. So am I. But the law is a spiritual principle, and it regulates your happiness—a spiritual matter.

The Original Sin

Every one of the Ten Commandments was in existence during the time of Adam. It was sin to break any one of them prior to the time of the law of Moses. The law of Moses, we know, didn't come until the time of Moses—430 years after the time of Abraham. But the spiritual law has been in existence from Adam!

The original human sin is recorded in Genesis, beginning with chapter 2, verse 15: "And the Eternal took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it. And the Eternal God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat."

God gave him permission. God is Supreme Ruler. He is Lord—Master. God is giving the orders. He is teaching. The man didn't know. The man had to be told. He had to be taught and instructed. Here is the instruction—the command, and a sentence. Notice: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou

All the evils that have beset this world for six thousand years are the result of violating God's law!



way that love should be expressed—love toward God and love toward neighbor.

The apostle Paul tells us what sin is in Romans 7:7: "What shall we say then? Is the law sin?" People think that the law is all wrong; that it's sin. Paul continues, "God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law." In other words, by the law is the knowledge of sin, as Paul had said previously in Romans 3:20.

The law gives you the knowledge of what sin is. It directs you and guides you as to what you ought to do.

What Is the Law?

You don't know what is right and what is wrong except as God reveals. Paul would not have known what sin was if the law had not told him. Human nature will not teach you. Human nature is evil. As Paul says, in

shalt surely die." That is, to take to yourself the authority to produce the *knowledge* of what is good and what is evil — to decide what you think is right and what is wrong, will result in death.

"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). God was preaching the gospel to the man. There it is! The very fact that God said, "In the day that thou eatest thereof . . ." shows that the man was *allowed* to do it, that the man was a free moral agent, that the man himself had to make the choice. God designed that you and I choose whether we will obey His law or not. Animals don't make a choice. Animals have instinct.

God ordained that you and I must make a choice. And if we choose the right way to live, according to that law which God set in motion to produce happiness and contentment and a full, thrilling, enjoyable life, we can have it. But if we're going to choose to live the other way, if we are going to take to ourselves to decide what is right, if we are going to do what is right in our own eyes—there is no other way that is right but God's law—and we shall automatically choose to transgress God's law—we're going to have suffering, sorrows and curses. That's what mankind has always done.

The First Lie

To continue: "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Eternal God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, *lest ye die*. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:1-4).

"You shall not surely die"—there was the first lie that we have any historic record of. It was not told by a man, but by the devil. "You will not surely die." "You're an immortal soul." Or, "You have an immortal soul that won't die." That's what the devil said.

Continuing: "For God doth know that in the day that ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

In other words, it is the prerogative of God to determine what is right—and what is wrong. Why? Because God created and put in living motion the spiritual law that is the way that is good—that produces good—and the transgression of which automatically produces evil results. To create and put into living action can only be done by the Creator. But for any but God to decide—to assume the knowledge of what is good and what is evil—is to assume and arrogate to himself the prerogative of God—to elevate himself to be as God! Satan tempted the first humans to intellectual vanity—to produce the *knowledge* of what is good or evil by their own minds.

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food"—she used her own judgment and didn't obey the law of God—she used her own human reason—" . . . the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise; she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat"—the first human sin!

The Commandments Broken

Analyze exactly what happened. God is the One we obey. Do you realize that's one of the definitions of God? Whoever you obey is your god. Whatever you serve is your god. It might be your automobile. Maybe it's an idol. Whatever it is, that's your god.

Adam and Eve had another god in place of the true God—they obeyed Satan—they broke the first commandment. They dishonored their only parent. How? In Luke 3:38 Adam is called the "son of God," because God created him. Adam was the son of God by a direct creation. Adam was not God's son by begetting or birth.

Adam not only dishonored his only parent, but he also broke the tenth commandment. There was *lust* when the woman saw that it was good for

food and desired to make one wise; vanity, egotism and pride entered into her heart.

Lust is what usually causes a person to have an inordinate desire to have something that is not legal. Lust causes you to steal, and Adam and Eve broke the eighth commandment by stealing what was not theirs.

Four of the Ten Commandments were broken in the original sin.

And in other ways *every one* of the Ten Commandments was actually broken in that very first sin.

How Did Cain Sin?

Consider their first son. Genesis 4, beginning with verse 6: "And the Eternal said unto Cain [their elder son], Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well," God said, "shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, SIN lieth at the door."

Notice what sin was in those days—in the days of Cain! "Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him."

And the Eternal said unto Cain, "Where is Abel thy brother?" And he replied, "I know not." He lied and broke another one of the commandments. That was sin, too.

He was a murderer. Sin did lie at the door.

Cain broke the sixth and the ninth commandments. Every one of these commandments was known from creation, because God had revealed them to Adam. He thus revealed them to mankind at that time. But humanity has rejected them.

Idolatry Committed Before Abraham

Notice Joshua 24:2, "And Joshua said unto the people, Thus saith the Eternal God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods." Idolatry was a sin in the days before Abraham, and that was 430 years before the law of Moses!

Now turn to Genesis 35:1-4:

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Are All Ten Commandments in the NEW TESTAMENT?

by L. LeRoy Neff

Many people believe that all of the Ten Commandments were done away at the cross.

Some say that the commandments were reinstated later in the New Testament. Others believe that a new commandment has taken the place of the Ten.

Just what is the truth?

Jesus said, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17). Did He mean the Ten Commandments or some other commandments?

If you love Jesus Christ you will want to know for sure which commandments He was referring to. Your eternal salvation is at stake!

There is no reason for confusion. The Scriptures will show the truth if you diligently search for God's inspired answer.

Which Commandments?

The young man who was speaking to Jesus had the same question we are asking. "He saith unto him, WHICH?" (Verse 18.)

In answer Jesus quoted five of the Ten Commandments listed in Exodus 20.

"Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not

bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother . . ." (Matthew 19:18-19).

He then summed up these five commandments (verse 19) by saying, "Thou shalt *love* thy neighbour as thyself." The five commandments that Jesus mentioned concerned our relationship with our neighbors. They were the commands concerning murder, adultery, stealing, lying, and honor to parents.

Obviously, when Jesus used the word "commandments," He was referring to the TEN Commandments of Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.

Even though Jesus mentioned half of the Ten Commandments here, some might suppose that things changed after the cross. In order to make sure, we ought to search and see if the other New Testament writers mentioned all or just part of the commandments. We will see if all ten commandments are found in the words of Jesus and, in addition, the letters of the apostles, particularly the writings of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

We cannot love God properly if we do not love our neighbor, so let us see if the last six commandments concerning our neighbor are reiterated.

Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself

The fifth commandment from Exodus 20 states: "Honour thy father and thy mother . . ." We have already read what Jesus said in Matthew 19:19: "Honour thy father and

thy mother." Did Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, mention this commandment in his writings?

He most certainly did! He repeated it almost word for word, and in addition explained the *spiritual intent* and purpose of this law: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1). Paul's next statement quotes the fifth command, adding the fact that this is the first commandment with promise.

The sixth commandment against committing murder has already been given by Jesus in Matthew 19:18: "Thou shalt do no murder." He explained the spiritual intent and purpose of this command in Matthew 5:21, 22: "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: but I say unto you, that whosoever shall be angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment."

This command is therefore more binding in its spiritual intent and purpose in this New Testament time than it ever was before. Jesus Christ was fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah proclaiming that the Christ, when He came, would "magnify the law" (Isaiah 42:21).

Paul repeated this command in Romans 13:9. It is still a sin to murder another human being.

The next command forbids adultery. Many people want to do

away with this command today. But Jesus showed that it is more encompassing now than before the New Testament period. He also emphasized its importance and the spiritual application today when He said that it is wrong now even to lust after a woman. "But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). Paul repeated this same command and showed that it was still binding even on the Gentiles (Romans 13:9).

The eighth command prohibits stealing. Jesus said, "Thou shalt not steal" (Matthew 19:18), and this same command is repeated word for word by Paul in Romans 13:9. He said: "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good . . ." (Ephesians 4:28). Clearly this command is also binding today, just as it was at Mt. Sinai.

Today it is difficult to find a completely truthful person. It almost seems that the whole world consists of people who shade the truth, tell "white lies" or just plain "black lies." Christ commanded His followers to never lie (Matthew 19:18). Paul taught this same doctrine in Romans 13:9. "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another" (Ephesians 4:25). It is still a capital or major sin to lie!

The tenth commandment, against coveting, was not mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 19. Did He do away with this command? No, you will find it in Luke 12:15: "And he said unto them, Take heed, and *beware of covetousness*: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possessest." Paul wrote to the Gentiles at Rome: "I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known *lust*, except the law had said, Thou shalt not *covet*" (Romans 7:7).

Paul also gave this same commandment in Romans 13:9. In fact, the sixth through the tenth commandments are all given here: "For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not

covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Notice that he agreed with Jesus and summed up the keeping of the last six commandments by stating this is the way to love our neighbor (Romans 13:9-10).

How to Love God

If it is sin to violate *one* of these last six commands, then it surely must be sin to violate any of the first four, which explain the right way to love God. Certainly our relationship to God is more important than our relationship with other people.

God said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). Jesus showed plainly that this command was still in effect when He rebuked Satan (Luke 4:8).

This command against idolatry is mentioned many times elsewhere in the New Testament. Notice Paul's instruction to the church at Corinth, in I Corinthians 10:7: "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them [the ancient Israelites] . . ."

The second commandment, which prohibits the worship of or bowing down before images, is given in detail by Paul in Romans 1:18-25. In this place he shows that the pagan philosophers, who knew God, did not worship Him as God. Instead they began to worship the things that they made with their hands. These people were violating the command of God against making images and using them in their religious worship.

Jesus taught that God is a Spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), not through *idols*, or the things made by man.

The third command prohibits using God's name in vain. It is often referred to as a sin of blasphemy. This sin is mentioned several times, including Paul's statement in Colossians 3:8: "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, *blasphemy*, filthy communication out of your mouth."

Jesus showed that this commandment and several of the others are still in force today by the following teaching: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders [sixth commandment], adulteries, fornication,

tions [both of these last two are included in the seventh commandment], thefts [eighth command], false witness [ninth command], blasphemies [third command]" (Matthew 15:19).

There are many additional scriptures which plainly show that these commands are still in effect. The most thought provoking of these is found in II Timothy 2:19: "Let every one that *nameth the name of Christ* [that is, calls himself a *Christian* — taking the name of God] depart from iniquity [iniquity is sin, and sin is the transgression of God's Ten Commandments — I John 3:4]."

Is the Sabbath Forgotten?

"*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy . . .*" is the fourth command and the one which most people have *forgotten!* This is the command that many people falsely claim was forgotten and left out of the New Testament. Is it reasonable that God would have left out *any* of the Ten Commandments in the New Testament when David said these commandments "stand fast for ever and ever"? (Psalm 111:7-8.)

The fourth commandment is shown plainly to be in the New Testament. Have you ever read this inspired scripture? "It is therefore the duty of the people of God to keep the Sabbath" (Hebrews 4:9, *New Testament from Aramaic, Lamsa*).

You probably have not known about this important scripture before, because the King James translation of the Bible, along with certain others, has sought to hide the real meaning of this verse. The original Greek writings and some marginal renderings make it very clear.

Notice it in the King James translation: "There *remaineth* therefore yet a *rest* to the people of God." This chapter tells of the millennial rest to come for God's people who are faithful and inherit the promises of God. A "rest" is mentioned several times prior to verse nine. The Greek word for "rest" in the first part of this chapter is *katapausin*; however, in verse nine the word "rest" comes from an entirely different Greek word, *sabbatismos*. This word literal-

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How Did Christ Magnify the Law?

Over seven hundred years prior to Christ's earthly ministry, the ancient prophet Isaiah, inspired of God, prophesied that the ministry of Jesus was destined to "magnify the law and make it honorable" (Isaiah 42:21).

According to *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, "magnify" is defined as: "extol, laud, cause to be held in greater esteem or respect; increase in significance; intensify."

Fitting that definition into the prophetic statement made by Isaiah, the verse would read: "... He will extol, laud, cause to be held in greater esteem, increase in significance, intensify the law...." The Hebrew word literally means, "make great" or "cause to be great."

Christ Himself verified and confirmed that this indeed was His purpose. Read it for yourself in Matthew 5:17. He said, "Think *not* that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets, I am *not* come to destroy, but to *fulfill*." Greek scholars acknowledge that the word here translated "fulfill" means not only to "do" or "perform," but to "fill to the full." Actually, the Greek word translated "fulfill" is an Indo-European cognate of the English words "full" and "plus." In this context, it has the meaning "to bring to full expression," i.e., to bring out its fullest significance and meaning.

Some might confuse the word "fulfill" in verse 17 with the same word in verse 18. However, even though the translators of the King James Version used the same English word ("fulfill") in both cases, the original text actually has two entirely different words. The word in verse 18 is the infinitive of *ginomai*, which means "to take place" or "to come to pass" in this passage.

So the word "fulfill" in verse 17 means *to develop to full potentialities*, and could easily be substituted by the word "magnify." So, contrary to popular belief, He came not to destroy, but to fulfill or magnify the

very law that He Himself wrote on two tables of stone at Mount Sinai over fourteen centuries previously. As any honest scientist knows, to "magnify" does not mean to destroy, but to *show forth* and enlarge an object or thing to the fullest possible extent. Jesus perfectly fulfilled, lived by and magnified God's law to show us its fullest spiritual application and to set us an example that we should follow in His steps (I Peter 2:21).

Does Love Nullify the Law?

But what about love? Perhaps many of you have thought love does away with the Ten Commandments.

The apostle John, who wrote so much about love, surely would be the one to know. In I John 4:8, John wrote: "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." Again in verse 16, he said: "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

Obviously then, the apostle John places a great deal of importance on love. But he didn't say, nor does any other inspired scripture say, that love put away, superseded or destroyed the law. As a matter of fact, the very apostle who talked so much of love also said: "For *this is* the love of God, that we *keep* his commandments..." (I John 5:3), and paraphrased Jesus Christ's saying, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Love, then, far from superseding and doing away with the law—the Ten Commandments—is the very heart and essence of the law. It is *the spirit* of the law. Love is the very tool Christ used to intensify, magnify, and fulfill His law (Romans 13:10).

The Spirit of the Law

In Old Testament times, God only required a physical, mechanical and visible obedience. In other words, obedience in the *letter*. In New Tes-

tament times, God has required much more. He wants us to follow Him to the spiritual limits of His law. That's what Christ's ministry was to teach and demonstrate.

To be sure we understood this new, magnified style of lawkeeping, Jesus Christ gave some vivid examples. In Matthew 5:21 He said: "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time [Old Testament times], Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you [here comes the new, magnified application], That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca [vain fellow], shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." Christ said—magnifying the law in its spiritual intent—that if you even hate your brother you are a murderer! Does that sound like Christ was doing away with the law? And John—the "apostle of love"—said the same thing! (I John 3:15.) Whoever hates his brother is guilty of murder.

In verses 27 and 28 of the same chapter (Matthew 5), Christ said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you [here again comes the magnified approach], That whosoever looketh on a woman *to lust* after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Rather than being done away with, we find the influence of the law extended to include our intent, thoughts and attitudes! God's Ten Commandments are magnified in scope and His love is expressed through keeping them in their spirit and intent as well as the letter.

And so we see the ancient prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled and the law indeed magnified and made honorable! □

Even the GOSPEL POLLUTED?

Mankind's pollution doesn't stop with his environment—he has polluted his mind, morals and spirit also. Even the gospel has not escaped man's polluting touch. The good news of God's plan for man was no sooner proclaimed by Jesus Christ of Nazareth than men determinedly set themselves to pervert, twist, malign, deny and distort His message. Let's remove the pollution!

by Clint C. Zimmerman

A crash antipollution program is needed now—for the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel has been trapped in the thick, oozy-goo of a spiritual oil spill. It staggers along, poisoned and polluted beyond recognition.

But there is hope—if we wash and filter it through the cleansing, purifying, healing truth of the Bible. This is the only way to restore the gospel's purity, maintain its sweetness, and unleash its life-giving power.

This gospel is the GOOD NEWS—the GLAD TIDINGS—of man's association with God in a KINGDOM—the *good family and government* of God. The word "gospel," in your Bible, is translated from the Greek word *euaggelion*. It means the "good news" or "glad tidings" that the divine Family and a good and fruitful government—the Kingdom of God—will one day be established.

Gospel Pollution

The gospel has been swept into the oppressive confines of the world's ca-

thedrals. These funereal, cavernous structures—their walls and floors punctured with crypts holding the moldering bones of the long dead—have tainted the living gospel of Jesus Christ.

Any gospel which escapes these musty traps all too easily finds itself captured and made part of an outrageous carnival show. Sweaty preachers bark raucously, many of them jabbering incoherently in their affected "tongues," as they try to outcry one another in tent revivals and healing sideshows. They make a farce of the real gospel.

Between these two extremes lies the broad expanse of everyday, run-of-the-mill, common Christianity. Churchianity has embraced what it thought to be the gospel tightly to itself—and has been disappointed! Their "gospel" did not cause anything better to happen. Everything stayed the same or even worsened. The world as a whole didn't become any better in spite of their huge missionary efforts. All things continued as they were from the beginning. It looked like God needed a hand; so they decided to give Him one. They invented the "social gospel" to make up for the perfidy of God.

History proves man is a wretch. There was little hope that any good could be done about his situation until Christ laid down the principles of Christianity. All the converts thought, "Here is the solution." But no matter how industriously they applied their "Christian" principles, failure continued to plague mankind. Most "Christians" thought the promised, perfect Kingdom was going to be set up in the church itself or would be "found in their own hearts."

When neither of these ideas proved to be correct, they began to look to a social interpretation of the Christian faith. Their own interpretation of the TRUE gospel caused them to look within society itself for improvement of its evils.

POLLUTED gospel concepts continue to contaminate the issue.

As pollutants besmirch, foul, change ecological balances and set in motion degenerative forces that unstoppably march toward the macabre stillness of death, just so do the pollutants of the gospel sap, strangle and finally completely stifle it.

If the gospel lies befooled under a layer of spiritual scum, is made indistinct by spiritual smog, and becomes

repugnant because of spiritual poisons, it should not be thought unusual. We have had warning after warning that the attempt would be made. The true gospel is lost sight of and repudiated because Satan easily blinds the minds of disbelievers so they don't really see the glory in the gospel which was brought by Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

Christ's Warning

Christ's ministry *began* with His "... preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:14). The first four books of the New Testament speak often about that KINGDOM OF GOD.

Christ's message—HIS GOSPEL—was about the establishment of God's Kingdom, and He realized that *very few* would really "get the message." He knew people would distort and wrest it. He knew MANY people, while accepting His *divinity*, understanding His *death*, admitting to His *resurrection*, would miss the mark entirely insofar as understanding just what He was preaching: how to gain entry into the Kingdom. He lamented this lack of perception in "religious" folk when He said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 7:21). He said this near the *beginning* of His ministry.

Just before His death He was *still* making it plain that religious-sounding people would admit to His being the Christ, but use this very religiosity to DECEIVE MANY—to *preach another gospel* (Matthew 24:5).

Apostolic Warning

Paul, too, *knew* there would be those who would PERVERT the gospel of Christ and he *thundered* against them—saying they were "ACCURSED" (Galatians 1:7-9).

Paul believed what Christ had said. He expected the perversion, *corruption*, POLLUTION of the gospel (II Corinthians 11:3-4). It came early, marred deeply. Paul, James, Peter, John, Jude all wrote powerfully because of the pollution which continuously contaminated the truth of the gospel. Jude 3-4 pleads that it is necessary to vigorously

fight against the corrupting influence of a false gospel and ministry. Jude knew that ungodly, licentious, lascivious men had already defiled the truth. We, too, have only to make the most casual examination to note the debasement and desecration of the gospel of Jesus Christ—the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

The city dweller today has almost forgotten what it's like to live in a clean world. He's used to the peculiar odor of his drinking water and expects it to taste like diluted laundry bleach. He expects not to be able to see more than a few blocks because the smog is "al-

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The Gospel is the good news that finally a really good government is going to be established which will free the earth and its inhabitants from evil. Christ is going to rule over that government.

”

ways" there. He has learned not to rub his burning eyes. He knows that only makes them more irritated. He breathes shallowly and hopes he won't become an emphysema statistic.

So it is with the polluted gospel. It's been corrupt for so long that it just seems it should be the way it is. Not so!

The Cause

Pollution is almost entirely due to greed—seeking self-satisfaction the quick and easy way. Profits must be had no matter what the cost to environment.

Our system is a suicidal one. Collectively we accept, almost with

eagerness, an early, tortuous death if only the system will continue to circulate dollars, provide things, leisure, comforts, "progress" for the time being. "They"—the experts—*whoever "they" are*—promise that it will all turn out just fine. "They" will one day come up with all the answers. "Our utopia is assured"—just trust them. Not knowing what else to do, we trust these self-styled experts. We place our lives in their hands—and our waterways become ever more contaminated by the disgorged, loathsome sewage of man and his industry. The earth continues to have millions of tons of poisons of an affluent society dumped on it. The air thickens with the effluvial pall of deadly gases manufactured and eructated by our mechano-chemical way of life. Nonetheless, the experts are in control.

Man usually trusts the experts. He sees a doctor when he's sick, a lawyer when there's a legal problem, an insurance broker when he needs an estate, a teacher when he's ignorant, a preacher when he's in spiritual trouble. Between the man and his expert advisor he usually muddles through even when the advice is wrong and costly. In most such problems bad advice will only result in material loss to some degree. But bad advice from a preacher can be of eternal concern; so each of us ought to become thoroughly conversant with the facts involved. That demands looking into the Bible for yourself! No one can be trusted with your salvation—your immortality—your understanding the gospel.

The gospel of Jesus Christ has real, solid, purposeful, practical attraction. It speaks forcibly about a way, a system, which—if a man will but subscribe to and live by—will bring him into a more perfect way, system, manner of living, kind of discipline, type of government in which all of his good and proper desires will find complete expression.

Evangelists Say

World-renowned preachers are content to say, "The gospel is the

good news that, on the first Good Friday, Christ died for our sins and that He rose from the dead on the first Easter morning—and that God is willing to forgive us our sins—and give us new life, peace and joy."

All too many preachers—and their followers—say this *is the gospel*.

The "experts" are **WRONG!**

Don't misunderstand me! Those actions by our loving Savior are *most important* and *vital* to salvation. We would have no hope whatsoever without them. Christ's willingness to die poignantly portrays the *consummate GRACE* and *superlative COMPASSION* of our ever-merciful Redeemer. He bought us back from sin and its destructiveness. His resurrection opens the way into *immortality*.

Nonetheless, these actions, of themselves, do not explain the ultimate purpose for mankind. The gospel is meant to explain all of this. We can know the purpose for this uttermost expression of God's love.

God's Word makes it plain.

The shroud of mystery can be drawn back.

Let's look into it. Let's KNOW!

Let's filter out the pollution and find out just what the **GOOD NEWS** really is.

Bad News

The news has been almost totally *bad* ever since man has recorded anything about himself. He leaves a record of wantonness, rebellion, war, rape, robbery.

He hotly pursues love, but love eludes him. He eagerly anticipates joy but is enveloped by despair. He strives for peace, but another war breaks out.

He has, from time to time, managed to delude himself that at long last he has utopia in his grasp. Tomorrow always proves him wrong. His scheme backfires. He awakens with a hangover. His love proves to be a debauch, his joy an orgy, his peace only slight and temporary relief from grinding away at the rut he is making in this derelict, vicious age (or "evil world," Galatians 1:4).

It is absolutely true that we are only able to find our way out of the present system through Jesus Christ. The fact remains that we are in a system from which we seek release. It follows that if we leave this system, we will then move toward another system. What is this different system?

Christ Preached the Gospel

Note that Christ did NOT preach about His *own* life. He didn't *preach* His life—HE LIVED IT!

Preachers today all too often simply preach *about* the life and death—the person—of Christ and *assume* that is the gospel.

The first four books of the New Testament have unwittingly been entitled the "Gospels." Those books were not called by that name until long, long *after* the resurrection of Christ. They were not even written until some thirty to fifty years *after* His ascension. These four books *are about* the life of Christ. They contain His message also. Both of those themes are very important. But we must make certain that we do not create a "gospel" out of the story of Christ's life if it clouds and covers the **GOSPEL** message HE PREACHED. He preached **ABOUT THE KINGDOM**. That is the gospel—the **GOOD NEWS**!

In fact and truth, the gospel of Jesus Christ is about a Kingdom—the Kingdom of God—and so about government. A kingdom *cannot* exist without government. Government is an integral part of *all* kingdoms. So, the gospel is the *good news* that finally—*ultimately*—a really **GOOD** government is going to be established which will free the earth and its inhabitants from evil. Christ is going to *rule* over that government. Satan and his evil will be "bound" for a thousand years. All mankind will finally experience goodness and peace in **ACTUAL FACT!** (Revelation 20:4-8; Romans 11:32; I Corinthians 15:22-24.)

Christ told people about the Kingdom *before* He died and was resurrected. He didn't continually talk about His life and death—He continually preached the gospel of the Kingdom. There is a difference!

Certainly His life, death and resurrection are vitally important to our attaining salvation; but the good news for man—what the future holds—*proceeds forward from* those incidents. It leaps forward almost immediately some 2000 YEARS, graphically describes yet another thousand years of Christ's millennial **RULE**, and boldly challenges man's imaginative perception of that same government as it will exist in eternity!

Christ did NOT preach *about* His OWN LIFE—as most ministers now do, calling this biographical resume "the gospel." He LIVED His own life as an example of proper discipline and self-government. He told men to live this same way so that they might thereby qualify for a position in the Kingdom.

Their works could not buy salvation or entrance into the Kingdom. The **GRACE** of God provides for sin's *pardon*. But men must prove their willingness to come under the good, holy, just laws which God commands. These same laws will be in effect in the Kingdom of God. The gospel—the good news—is about how man can get into that Kingdom—that divine Family—and be with God and see Him as He is (I John 3:2). The gospel is about how man can be born into the God Family.

Christ explains that that entrance into the Kingdom is of utmost importance. We are directly told it must be our primary goal (Matthew 6:33).

Every kingdom *must* have four parts: 1) a king, 2) territory, 3) inhabitants or subjects, and 4) laws. If any one of these essentials is missing, it simply is not a kingdom.

The King Has Been Appointed

On the night that Jesus was born, an angel came, saying, "I bring you *good tidings* [remember the meaning of the word "gospel"] of great joy.... For unto you is born... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). Note too that "Lord" means "one who owns or possesses, one who controls, sovereign, prince, chief." Most definitely Christ is King.

The angel was repeating what had been in the Scriptures for centuries. Isaiah 9:6 says that this child would have GOVERNMENT on His shoulders! He is responsible for governing! Verse 7 goes on to say that this *established government* would go on forever.

What subjects and territory will this Kingdom rule over? The "kings [mere men] of the earth" will be subject to Christ the SUPREME KING (Revelation 1:5). The government of God will be "over the NATIONS" of the earth (Revelation 2:26). Revelation 5:10 makes this more emphatic when it says this government will "... REIGN ON THE EARTH."

What about the fourth essential part for any kingdom? We have already seen in Isaiah 9:7 that "judgment" and "justice" are to exist eternally. These governmental elements *demand* LAW. Paul understood "the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." He knew "that the law is spiritual" and is therefore everlasting (Romans 7:12, 14). Without law there would be *anarchy*, which is absence of law. But the Kingdom is an orderly operation governed by the law of God. Paul also tells us that the good news, glad tidings, gospel must be "OBEYED" (Romans 10:15-16). It is law that defines what is *obedience* in every instance. I Peter 4:17 reemphasizes the fact that the gospel is a legal message demanding *obedience*.

Age-Old Rebellion

The good news is that God will reassert His rule upon rebellious mankind (Isaiah 52:7).

Satan started the insanity of rebellion and anarchy (Ezekiel 28:14-15). God has permitted him to hold sway over the earth until finally Christ returns as King to unseat the devil.

Satan has foisted off his illegal, rebellious ways on all mankind. He began by deluding Eve and Adam into forsaking the *commands*—the theocratic government under which they were to live—of the Eternal God. God issued COMMANDS—LAWS—and ex-

pected *obedience* (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:17). These first people rebelled, and all mankind has followed in their lawlessness.

Israel, too, defected from God (I Samuel 8:5-7). They rejected God just as has the whole world. Satan has deceived them *all* (Revelation 12:9). ALL have broken the law and fallen short of the glory which God wants for men (Romans 3:23).

Restoration of God's Government

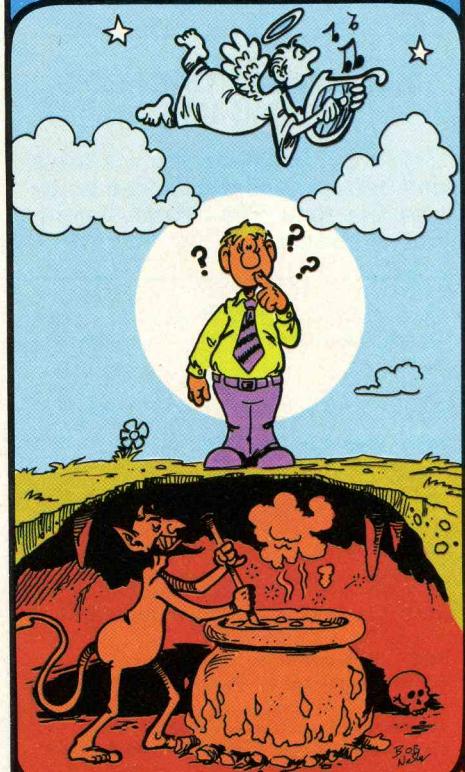
The Old Testament prophets knew that the Eternal was going to return His good government to this earth (Zechariah 14:9). The government of God—the Kingdom of God—will relieve the horrible distress which mankind suffers. Acts 3:19-21 pointedly tells us that the return of Christ will result in a *refreshing* time when all things will be restored. The prophets have told us about the loss of God's government on earth. They looked forward to the return of the Messiah—the Ruler. The Kingdom will be set up. It will rule over all kings and nations.

Daniel 7:14 speaks of the Christ finally setting up His Kingdom: "And there was given him *dominion*, and glory, and a KINGDOM, that all *people*, *nations*, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." How wonderful! How MARVELOUS the plan and purpose of God! How certain to SATISFY the needs of man. Perfectly administered government attained! The quest of the ages at last completed.

The earth and all its inhabitants will finally be scoured clean and purged of all pollutants—because of the true gospel! Absolute PEACE will result. LOVE, in all its exquisite magnificence available to everyone through GOOD GOVERNMENT!

Here is the crystal-clear, clean, pure gospel of the Kingdom which Christ Himself preached. Don't allow anyone ever again to fool you now that the Word of God has washed the gospel spotless and sparkling just for you. □

Heaven



or Hell?

Where do you think you're going? Heaven, hell, or maybe only six feet under? As a child you may have been taught about life after death, but what does the *Bible* have to say on this all-important subject?

For a complete explanation send for these two booklets:

- Is There a Real Hell Fire?
- What Is the Reward of the Saved?

To receive your free copies, use the Literature Request card inside this magazine or write to our office nearest you. (See the inside front cover for addresses.)

'THE WORLD TOMORROW' RADIO AND TV LOGS

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of 'The World Tomorrow'

THE WORLD TOMORROW RADIO LOG

Listed by state are the station's call letters, location, frequency and the time *The World Tomorrow* is aired.

ALABAMA

#WYDE, Birmingham — 850, 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

ARIZONA

KIKX, Tucson — 580, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:35 a.m., Sun.

CALIFORNIA

#KFRE, Fresno — 940, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m., Sun.

KIEV, Glendale — 870, 11 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
KLAC, Los Angeles — 570, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.

KGUY, Palm Desert — 1270, 6:15 a.m., Sun.
#KFBK, Sacramento — 1530, 11:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 p.m., Sun.

#KNBR, San Francisco — 680, 9 p.m., Sun.
KUNA-FM, San Luis Obispo — 96.1, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WRC, Washington — 980, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

FLORIDA

#WAPE, Jacksonville — 690, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
#WINZ, Miami — 940, 12:05 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

WIOD, Miami — 610, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

GEORGIA

WPLO, Atlanta — 590, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

HAWAII

'KKON, Kealakekua — 790, 6 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

ILLINOIS

#WMAQ, Chicago — 670, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6 a.m., 10 p.m., Sun.
WMBD, Peoria — 1470, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.
WTAY, Robinson — 1570, 10:25 p.m., Sun.
'WTAY-FM, Robinson — 101.7, 10:20 p.m., Sun.

INDIANA

WSBT, South Bend — 960, 11:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 4:30 p.m., Sun.

IOWA

#KXEL, Waterloo — 1540, 11:45 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 5 a.m., Sun.

*Denotes time or station change

#Denotes 50,000-watt wide-area station

KANSAS

WIBW, Topeka — 580, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

KENTUCKY

#WHAS, Louisville — 840, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

MARYLAND

#WPOC-FM, Baltimore — 93.1, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.

MASSACHUSETTS

#WITS, Boston — 1510, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.

MICHIGAN

#WDEE, Detroit — 1500, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

MINNESOTA

#KTCR-FM, Minneapolis — 97.1, 6 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

MISSOURI

'KMBZ, Kansas City — 980, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10 p.m., Sun.

KGBX, Springfield — 1260, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9 a.m., Sun.

NEW YORK

WBEN, Buffalo — 930, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

#WOR, New York — 710, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6:30 a.m., 11:30 p.m., Sun.

#WHAM, Rochester — 1180, 11:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 11 p.m., Sun.

WSOQ, Syracuse — 1220, 6:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

NORTH CAROLINA

WSOC, Charlotte — 930, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

OHIO

WSLR, Akron — 1350, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 p.m., Sun.

#WCKY, Cincinnati — 1530, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:15 p.m., Sun.

WBBG, Cleveland — 1260, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.

WMNI, Columbus — 920, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

WCWA, Toledo — 1230, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m., Sun.

OKLAHOMA

#KVOO, Tulsa — 1170, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

OREGON

#KWWJ, Portland — 1080, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 p.m., Sun.

PENNSYLVANIA

WHP, Harrisburg — 580, 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.
KQV, Pittsburgh — 1410, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.

#WSBA, York — 910, 9 a.m. Sun.

RHODE ISLAND

WEAN, Providence — 790, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
WGNG, Providence — 550, 9 a.m., Sun.

TENNESSEE

WREC, Memphis — 600, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

TEXAS

KPRC, Houston — 950, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.
#WOAI, San Antonio — 1200, 10:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10 a.m., 7:30 p.m., Sun.

UTAH

#KSL, Salt Lake City — 1160, 5:30 a.m., Sun.

VIRGINIA

WCPK, Chesapeake — 1600, 12:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.

WNIS, Norfolk — 1300, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

WASHINGTON

KGRG-FM, Auburn — 89.9, 12 noon, Sun.
KAYO, Seattle — 1150, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.

WEST VIRGINIA

WKEE, Huntington — 800, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
WKEE-FM, Huntington — 100.5, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

#WWVA, Wheeling — 1170, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

WYOMING

#KTWO, Casper — 1030, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9 p.m., Sun.

KYCN, Wheatland — 1340, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

Canadian Stations

ALBERTA

CHFM-FM, Calgary — 95.9, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFCW, Camrose — 790, 11:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKYL, Peace River — 610, 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CIOK, St. Paul/Bonnyville — 1310, 7:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

CKTA, Taber — 1570, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
CFOK, Westlock-Edmonton — 1370, 7:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

CKQR, Castlegar — 1230, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFCP, Courtenay — 1440, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKGR, Golden — 1400, 8:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKGF, Grand Forks — 1340, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKTK, Kitimat — 1230, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJJC, Langley — 800, 6:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKMK, McKenzie — 1240, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHUB, Nanaimo — 1570, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKOO, Oliver/Osoyoos — 1240, 9:30 p.m., Sun. Thus.

CHPO, Parksville — 1370, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKOK, Penticton — 800, 9:30 p.m., Sun.-Thurs.
CJAV, Port Alberni — 1240, 10:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKPG, Pr. George — 550, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHTK, Pr. Rupert — 560, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKCR, Revelstoke — 1340, 8:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKXR, Salmon Arm — 580, 8:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKSP, Summerland — 1450, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
'CFTK, Terrace — 590, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJVI, Victoria — 900, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

MANITOBA

CFAR, Flin Flon — 590, 8 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJAR, The Pas — 1240, 8 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHTM, Thompson — 610, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKJS, Winnipeg — 810, 12:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

MARITIMES

CKIM, Baie Verte — 1240, 6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKNB, Campbellton — 950, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKVO, Clarenville — 710, 6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFNB, Fredericton — 550, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKGA, Gander — 730, 6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKCM, Grand Falls — 620, 6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHCM, Marystown — 560, 6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKCW, Moncton — 1220, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKCL, Truro — 600, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJLS, Yarmouth — 1340, 8 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

ONTARIO

CKPC, Brantford — 1380, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CING-FM, Burlington — 107.9, 10 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJSS, Cornwall — 1220, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJKL, Kirkland Lake — 560, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKGL-FM, Kitchener — 96.7, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKLY, Lindsay — 910, 9 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFPL, London — 980, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
CJTT, New Liskeard — 1230, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFCH, North Bay — 600, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKAR, Oshawa — 1350, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFGW, Richmond Hill — 1320, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHAS-FM, Sault Ste. Marie — 100, 12:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJQR-FM, St. Catharines — 97.7, 11:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJSD-FM, Thunder Bay — 94.3, 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKGB, Timmins — 680, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKLW-FM, Windsor — 93.9, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

QUEBEC (In French)

CKCH, Hull — 970, 7 a.m., Sun.
CFMB, Montreal — 1410, 1 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; (in English) 5 p.m., Sat., Sun.
CKCV, Quebec City — 1280, 7 a.m., Sun.
CJSA, Ste. Agatha — 1230, 8:45 a.m., Sun.
CKLD, Thetford Mines — 1230, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
CHLN, Trois Rivieres — 550, 7 a.m., Sun.

SASKATCHEWAN

CKSA, Lloydminster — 1080, 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
'CJVR, Melfort — 1420, 8 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
'CHAB, Moose Jaw — 800, 6:30 p.m., Sun.
'CJNB, North Battleford — 1050, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKBI, Pr. Albert — 900, 10:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
'CJME, Regina — 1300, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
CFQC, Saskatoon — 600, 8 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

THE WORLD TOMORROW TELEVISION LOG

Listed by state are the station's call letters, location, channel number and the time *The World Tomorrow* is aired.

ALABAMA

WAPI, Birmingham — 13, 7 a.m., Sun.

ARIZONA

KZAZ, Tucson — 11, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

ARKANSAS

KARK, Little Rock — 4, 10 a.m., Sun.

CALIFORNIA

***KPWR, Bakersfield** — 17, 4:30 p.m. Sun.
KTVU, Oakland — 2, 10:30 a.m., Sat.

CONNECTICUT

WATR, Hartford — 20, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WTG, Washington — 5, 7 a.m., Sun.

FLORIDA

WCIX, Miami — 6, 7 a.m., Sun.

ILLINOIS

WCIU, Chicago — 26, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
***WFLD, Chicago** — 32, 7 a.m., Sat.

INDIANA

WKJG, Ft. Wayne — 33, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WISH, Indianapolis — 8, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WSBT, South Bend — 22, 10 p.m., Sun.

IOWA

KWWL, Waterloo — 7, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

KANSAS

***KGGL, Garden City** — 11, 12 noon, Sun.
KARD, Wichita — 3, 12 noon, Sun.

KENTUCKY

WLEX, Lexington — 18, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

LOUISIANA

WAFB, Baton Rouge — 9, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WWL, New Orleans — 4, 7 a.m., Sun.

MAINE

WGAN, Portland — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

MARYLAND

WBFF, Baltimore — 45, 12 noon, Sun.

MASSACHUSETTS

WHYN, Springfield — 40, 9:04 a.m., Sun.

MICHIGAN

WUHQ, Battle Creek — 41, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

WJRT, Flint — 12, 8 a.m., Sun.

WILX, Lansing — 10, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

MINNESOTA

***WTCN, Minneapolis** — 11, 6 a.m., Sun.

MISSOURI

KMTC, Springfield — 27, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

***KNDL, St. Louis** — 30, 11 p.m., Sun.

NEBRASKA

KCNA, Albion — 8, 8 a.m., Sun.

KWNB, Hayes Center — 6, 8 a.m., Sun.

KHGI, Kearney — 13, 8 a.m., Sun.

KSNB, Superior — 4, 8 a.m., Sun.

NEW MEXICO

KGGM, Albuquerque — 13, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

NEW YORK

WTEN, Albany — 10, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

WUTV, Buffalo — 29, 11:15 p.m., Sun.

WOR, New York — 9, 10 p.m., Sun.

WROC, Rochester — 8, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

NORTH CAROLINA

WNCT, Greenville — 9, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

OHIO

WAKR, Akron — 23, 11 p.m., Sun.

WLWT, Cincinnati — 5, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

WSPD, Toledo — 13, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

OREGON

KPTV, Portland — 12, 11 a.m., Sat.

PENNSYLVANIA

***WIIC, Pittsburgh** — 11, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

WSBA, York — 43, 12 noon, Sun.

RHODE ISLAND

WPRI, Providence — 12, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

TENNESSEE

WKPT, Kingsport — 19, 12 noon, Sun.

TEXAS

KTVV, Austin — 36, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

WASHINGTON

KXLY, Spokane — 2, 11 a.m., Sun.

WISCONSIN

WVTV, Milwaukee — 18, 10 p.m., Sun.



AN OPEN LETTER... ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

by Dibar Apartian

To all children around the world! In this International Year of the Child, grown-ups have at last decided to take a more genuine interest in your welfare! It was about time, wouldn't you say?

But now that the year is practically over, what has truly been accomplished? Did grown-ups keep the promises that were made to you? Did

you actually find better understanding, interest and more help—not only in regard to your needs, but also in you as human beings?

As one of the adults deeply concerned with your future, I want to tell you, first of all, that this is *not* God's world. No, He didn't make it this way. Men have cut themselves off from God, because they have rejected His laws. They have turned

away from the way of peace, happiness and joy God wants all of us to have.

No wonder that most men—who are cut off from God—have little understanding of your needs and lack genuine love for you. Paradoxically, they expect you to be "reasonable," to behave yourselves as good and healthy children, even though your minds and your bodies are constantly

being poisoned by what you see and hear around you!

Just imagine! This International Year was generously dedicated to you with all kinds of promises: You were told that grown-ups would be much more concerned with your education, your health, and your well-being. That was very encouraging to you, I am sure—but do you really feel or notice any difference? Did you witness any real improvement in your life? Do you now have a clearer understanding of what life is all about? In other words, have you learned a little more how to live—the way God wants you to live?

A tree is known by its fruits; unfortunately, the fruits of this world's system of education have not been too good! Far from it! A man's integrity is measured by the faithfulness with which he keeps his word—but grown-ups who don't obey God often break their word (whether among themselves or toward you).

In this special year (keep in mind it was dedicated to you!), endless conferences were held to discuss your education and welfare. Even your future. But just what is meant by *education* and *welfare*? What kind of education can grown-ups offer you in a world where they themselves put the accent on the "getting" rather than giving—or on being served rather than serving—or on making a living rather than learning how to live?

Children can't choose the world into which they are born. You had to accept it the way grown-ups gave it to you—a world which you don't necessarily like. Neither do we. You are often unhappy; so are most people. They make life miserable for one another, don't they? Grown-ups often think your behavior is odd. Most probably you find theirs just as odd—if not more so!

When we were your age—at least those of us who now have gray hair—we lived in a somewhat different world. It was a little more peaceful and a little less materialistic.

Today all of us are living in an increasingly polluted world—and a noisy one! We are deafened by the noises we make. Even though much is known about their devastating effects, nevertheless little is done about

noise pollution. Scientists speak of decibels (a word which was unknown to us when we were your age), and they take a certain pride in being able to measure the intensity of a noise. This is all very sophisticated and very scientific—but also terribly dangerous! Somehow, you are told not to worry too much about noise pollution. After all, scientists think that "universal deafness" is not expected before the second half of the next century!

Today, men have polluted just about everything they come in contact with. The water we drink and the air we breathe are filled with all kinds of poisons, dirt, and dangerous particles. Do you know that the amount of lead the air now contains is truly frightening? But once again, you hear encouraging words. You are told that the human body—this masterpiece of creation—can adjust itself to everything! So why shouldn't you go ahead and break the laws of nature?

This is the way grown-ups reason when they are cut off from God. They want to change the *effect* of evil rather than removing the *cause*. They break laws and try to find a way of avoiding the penalties they must pay. In fact, this world's system of education is founded on this type of logic. That's what you usually learn in school.

Most of you who will read this "open letter" live in rather prosperous countries—the "have" nations we call them. You enjoy modern conveniences. Believe it or not, there are altogether two billion children in this world, the majority of whom live in the "have-not" countries where there is much poverty, squalor, and starvation.

Perhaps you are not aware of it, but 85 percent of the world's rural population do not have drinking water in their dwellings—and there are, today, more children in the streets than at school. They have been called "the children of hunger." Their life expectancy is very short.

Strange as it may seem, it is hard to say which of the two groups—those living in prosperous countries or those belonging to the third world—is actually more handi-

capped! All things considered, is there much advantage living in countries where pollution, corruption, and synthetic products all abound—and where the food has been artificially preserved and colored with all sorts of poisonous ingredients?

This type of technology does not solve the most important problems in your life. Science without a proper guiding hand only makes things worse. There is much more to life than mere existence. You must learn to work with your hands, to use your mind, to think ahead, to discipline yourself!

Each of us—and that includes every single one of you—has been made in the image of God, after His likeness. And God has given you a mind which is able to discern and to choose. As you grow older, you can be master of your own destiny—if you wish.

In a world which seeks its own pleasure, some of you may already have been addicted to drugs. Yet, when you were born, you had no idea what a drug was. Society has made it easy for you to obtain drugs—and to use them. What a shame!

Today, sin is advertised as being something pleasant and good—something much to be desired. Is it any wonder so many of you become delinquents, or choose a life which is wasted? In the movies or on television, you can see just about everything concerning sex—so-called "love" in its most intimate phases! All the while, you are expected to grow up to be honorable citizens, to respect the laws governing marriage, to be good husbands and wives and not to commit adultery.

In dedicating this special year to you, grown-ups have "assured" you that efforts are being made to take a closer look at your individual concerns—without discrimination of race, color, sex or religion. What a dilemma! How can they promise you that when mankind, as a whole, has never truly learned to enjoy, without discrimination, the same privileges?

As you see, when man separates himself from God, he acts in strange ways. He tells you one thing, but does something else.

Statistics show that more and

more teenage girls are becoming unwed mothers. But what's being done to help them? They are offered contraceptives! For a practice which warps their lives psychologically and ruins their chances of later happiness, that's a real remedy, isn't it? Imagine! In today's society of permissiveness, one teenager out of six has had sexual intercourse before reaching the age of 16.

How tragic! Please don't follow their bad example!

"But what can we actually do?" you may now ask. "How can we change this world? What are our responsibilities? First of all, do we really have a future? Is there any hope for us?"

Those are very good questions! Indeed, what can you do to make this world a better place in which to live? How can you be sure that someday you will be able to offer your own children a better life, a better education, a better world?

That's precisely what I want to talk to you about before closing this "open letter." Today, some of you are much too young to understand what life is all about. But as you grow older, you will know that there is someone—someone very, very important—who loves you more than anyone on earth ever will!

You were born for a purpose. As I told you a moment ago, the Almighty God made you in His own image. He is very much interested in you. He cares for you. He wants all of you to become His own children someday—spiritual children—*adult* children if I may say so, because you will always be under His guidance, protection and love.

In this world deceived by Satan, even if most grown-ups have failed in their task toward you, God never fails in His. If they haven't known how to love you, God knows how to love—and He will always love you very much. In fact, because He loves us all—whether we are children or grown-ups—He allowed His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to give up His life for us—for our sins—so that we may be totally pure one day.

At the beginning, God—who is all love, power, and wisdom—revealed to Adam and Eve, the first couple

(they were created as adults), the way to live in order to be happy. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Ever since, nearly all human beings have followed the same path—the way of disobedience and rebellion. This is why we suffer on earth. This is also why the reasoning and behavior of most men doesn't always make much sense.

Throughout the ages, God has commanded us to honor Him and to keep His commandments. This is the only way to happiness. You can find His commandments in the Bible. All of God's teachings are so simple that even a child can easily understand them. He orders us not to have any other gods before Him: no other beings, no ambition, nothing must ever take His place in our hearts and minds. Nothing should come between Him and us. And His second great commandment is that we love one another as He loves us.

Unfortunately, as I told you a moment ago, ever since the beginning human beings have refused to obey God. They generally show love for one another when they can expect something in return. Worldly concerns have blinded their eyes and minds.

Please don't act that way! Whatever teachings you receive as you grow older—whether at home or in school—always remember that the foundation of all knowledge is found in the Bible. Believe that. Live by it.

Have the courage to prove all things in the light of what the Bible says. Put into practice its teachings! Don't ever turn away from God—even if people around you call you names and persecute you. You will learn one day that they also persecuted Christ. They called Him names and said that He was a blasphemer. The truth is that He is the Son of God. At this very moment, He is sitting at the right hand of His Father, on His Father's throne. That's where you will also be someday if you submit your will to His.

Learn to pray as soon as you can. Speak to God often, without ever hiding anything from Him. Always be thankful for what He gives you. Let Bible study be part of your academic "baggage." It is by far the most important study in your life.

All the gadgets science offers you today—all the technological marvels, the so-called "utopian" existence which is supposed to be in store for you—are nothing compared to the glory to come when you enter God's Kingdom and become forever *His children*—born spiritually! In power and splendor, you will make Superman seem tame by comparison.

The world is sitting on a powder keg today. If men continue to reject God and the teachings of the Bible, injustices and miseries will continue in this world. Everyone—including you—will suffer one way or another as a consequence.

Actually, you won't really have to change the world. God will do it for you, provided you are willing to change yourself. That in itself is a big job—a tremendous task—but God will give you the help you need if you seek it from Him.

In a few years, Christ will come again and will take over all the governments of this world. He will be in charge of the entire earth—of its education, its government and its administration. You then will be able to live in a world filled with peace, justice and happiness—a world where all of God's commandments will be kept by every person and every nation. People will love God—and they will love their neighbor.

According to the Bible, on that day "the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:6-9).

Do you now see how much you have to be thankful for? "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them," Christ said. Take Him up on His word! Put Him to the test. It will mean for you eternal life! □

NEW TESTAMENT?

(Continued from page 26)

ly means, as most margins show, "keeping of a sabbath." The Sabbath rest each week is a memorial of creation and a picture of the soon-coming millennial "rest."

Correctly rendered, this verse reads: "There remaineth therefore the *keeping* of the Sabbath to the people of God."

Notice these points about this verse. This keeping of the Sabbath REMAINS. It is not forgotten, or done away, or nailed to the cross. And, it remains for the people of God. The rest of the world has forgotten that it still remains. If it still remains, then it is still holy to God. We ought therefore to remember it and keep it holy as God has always commanded. This day pictures the rest that God had on creation week and therefore honors the fact that He is Creator. It also foreshadows the fact that He is soon going to bring a millennium of peace, the seventh thousand-year period, to this world.

The command to keep the Sabbath today is also proved by several other scriptures. Paul instructed us to follow him as he followed Christ (I Corinthians 11:1). Peter also told us that we ought to walk as Christ walked (I Peter 2:21). The apostle John said the same thing in I John 2:6.

Christ *always* kept the Sabbath! It was His custom (Luke 4:16), and He was continually showing His disciples and the religionists of that time the proper way to keep it. He showed this by the perfect example He set. The disciples were to follow His example and teach others the same things. His parting instruction was: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: 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" (Matthew 28:19-20). This makes it plain that His commands, including the Sabbath, are to be observed today!

Paul followed Christ in always keeping the Sabbath (Acts 17:2) and taught the Gentiles as well as the Jews on the Sabbath (Acts 13:42, 44

and 18:4). There are several other scriptures in the New Testament, particularly in the book of Acts, which show plainly that the Church, as it started out, kept the Sabbath. Sunday on the other hand was always a workday. Jesus said that He was Lord of the *Sabbath*, not Lord of Sunday (Luke 6:5).

A New Commandment

We have now seen that each of the Ten Commandments is commanded in the New Testament. But what about the "new commandment" that Jesus and the apostle John spoke of? Just what was this new commandment, and does it abrogate or do away with the Ten Commandments? "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34).

People assume that all we have to do is "love" one another. Then they interpret "love" to mean that they do not necessarily have to obey God's commandments. They take for granted that love is just affection. They do not realize how much Christ loved His disciples. He had the kind of love described in I Corinthians 13, the kind which always OBEYS God's Ten Commandments. He had the kind of love which caused Him to instruct His disciples, "Ye are my friends, if ye DO whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14).

That is the *kind of love* that Christ was talking about when He told His disciples about the new commandment.

Yet how could this be a *new commandment* when Israel in ancient times was commanded plainly to love God and neighbor? (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.)

Notice II John 5: "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another." Love is ever *new* and yet *old*.

That kind of love that Jesus and John spoke about is not just affection.

People today have come to think that lust is love. Lust is getting, but love is giving and serving others in the way defined by God. The first four commandments define the way to show love to God, and the last six

show the way to express love to neighbor.

Any other way is not love at all, but is only lust, greed, and selfishness. The commandment of love is therefore not only the one which is given at the beginning of Christ's ministry to His disciples, but also a way of life given to the first man Adam.

This kind of love is further affirmed by John: "For this is the love of God, that we keep the commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

Instead of the new commandment of love doing away with the old Ten Commandment law, this scripture shows plainly that it *establishes* it in this New Testament age more firmly than before.

What Will You Do?

There are many religious teachers in the world today who will not keep God's commandments and, for that matter, teach that we are under a curse if we do keep them. They claim that they know Christ. Christ says differently through the apostle John: "He that saith, I know him, and *keepeth not his commandments*, is a LIAR, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

Such people have claimed in various tracts and articles that *only* part of the Ten Commandments appear in the New Testament. This is a very convenient way to "do away" with any command that one does not want to obey, or does not want others to obey. The Bible plainly labels such teachers.

Are you going to follow those who want you to disobey God and forfeit eternal salvation or are you going to obey *all* of God's commandments?

It should be crystal clear now that all Ten Commandments are to be obeyed today! It is obvious from hundreds of Old and New Testament scriptures that they are to be followed as a way of life. These commands of God are in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

In the very last chapter of the Bible it is made clear that the commandments are still to be obeyed. "Blessed are they that do his commandments [all of them], that they may have right to the tree of life . . ." (Revelation 22:14). □

PROPHECY

(Continued from page 13)

reveal that the revived Roman Empire will invade the United States and Great Britain as well!)

Enter Russia

But all will not go well for Europe. Daniel 11:44 notes that eventually "tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him [the king of the north or the beast]." Threatening news from the Soviet Union—long covetous of the strategic oil-rich Middle East—and the Orient will distress the European dictator. He will launch a blitzkrieg war against the Communist East: "He shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." (The European offensive is also described in Revelation 9:1-12.)

The Communist hordes of Eurasia will then counterattack against Europe—with an army of 200,000,000 men! (Revelation 9:16.) Full-scale world war will erupt—a final, climactic global conflict!

The two great power blocs—Europe and the Soviet Communist combine—will become engaged in a desperate struggle for world domination. As the conflict escalates, all nations of the earth will become involved. The beast will marshal his armies at a place called Armageddon—the Valley of Jezreel around Megiddo, 55 miles north of Jerusalem. They will then converge on Jerusalem for the final battle, where the revived Roman Empire will make its stand against the oncoming Eurasian hordes.

Mankind will stand on the very threshold of total annihilation!

Christ Returns

But God will suddenly intervene mightily in world affairs! Jesus Christ will return from heaven with a vast army to put an end once and for all to international warfare. Instead of fighting against each other, the world's armies will turn their attack against *Him*, culminating in the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:12-16; Joel 3:1-2, 9-17).

Christ will destroy the beast and the false prophet, and with them the world's armies gathered at Jerusalem: "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him [Christ] that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him. . . . These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:19-20).

As Daniel concluded, the king of the north "shall come to his end, and none shall help him" (11:45).

With the second coming of Christ, the "times of the Gentiles" will at last come to an end. Christ will deliver Jerusalem from the Gentile forces. All Israel will be gathered from captivity and be brought back to the promised land. Christ—the conquering Messiah, the *true* Mahdi—will then establish His government on the earth—with Jerusalem as world headquarters. Universal peace and prosperity will at last be on the way.

Recalcitrant elements—including a remnant of Soviet forces and their allies (Ezekiel 38 and 39)—will make one last assault against newly repatriated Israel, but they too will be put down by divine intervention.

Finally, all nations will at last dwell together in peace and harmony.

Watch the Middle East!

For over 40 years, *The Plain Truth* magazine has urged its readers to watch the Middle East—the world's most dangerous hot spot. In the December 1938 issue—fully a decade prior to the creation of the State of Israel—Editor Herbert W. Armstrong warned that "in due time, all nations of the world will be fighting over possession of Palestine and the city of Jerusalem. . . ."

Despite current hopes for a negotiated settlement of the Mideast dispute, Bible prophecy paints a bleak picture of events to come in the months and years just ahead. So keep your eyes on the Arab world, and on Jerusalem. Events soon to occur there will have far-reaching ramifications. They will change the course of your life, and the history of the world! □

COMMANDMENTS

(Continued from page 24)

"And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the *strange gods* that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: and let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. And they gave unto Jacob *all the strange gods which were in their hand.*"

They could hold these gods in their hands. Notice: "And all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem." It was a sin to worship idols, and they had idol gods in their own hands.

The Third Commandment

Notice the third commandment in Leviticus 18:3, 21, 27. "After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do." Here's the instruction of God to the Israelites in the time of Moses, but it was sin to break that third commandment before Moses!

"And after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, *shall ye not do:* neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. . . . And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, *neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God:* I am the Eternal."

There's profanity, or profaning the name of God. Now the 27th verse: "*For all these abominations* have the men of the land *done*, which were *before you*"—before this generation during which the law of Moses came.

In previous generations prior to the law of Moses, "All these abominations have the men of the land *done*, which were *before you*, and the land is defiled." It was sin. One of the sins was to profane the name of God. Therefore, profanity—taking the

name of God in vain—was a sin before Moses.

The Fourth Commandment Observed

Coming to the fourth commandment in Exodus 16:4, "Then the Eternal said unto Moses"—this was two weeks before they came to Mount Sinai and before the law of Moses was given or before they ever knew there would be a law of Moses—"Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no."

Here is God's law. He was going to see whether the people would obey it before the law of Moses was given—weeks before they even came to Mount Sinai, where the law of Moses was added.

Verse 5: "And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

Now notice verse 22: "And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much."

Verse 23: Moses said to the people, "This is that which the Eternal hath said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Eternal."

Then on the following day, verses 25-27, Moses said: "Eat that today; for today is a sabbath unto the Eternal, today ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none. And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the sabbath for to gather, and they found none!"

God was showing them by miracles from heaven which day was the seventh day. Time had not been lost.

Some of them thought it didn't make any difference. They would wait to go out on the following day—on the Sabbath—but there was none! Did that make any difference? "And the Eternal said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? See, for that the Eternal hath given you the sabbath, therefore, he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye

every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day" (verses 28-30).

That was weeks before they came to Mount Sinai—before the law of Moses! It was the law of God at that time.

The Other Commandments

Now turn to Genesis 9:21. "And he [Noah] drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness."

Continuing: "Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his [Ham's] younger son [Canaan] had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the Eternal God of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant" (Genesis 9:21-26).

Dishonoring a parent was a sin, and a curse was pronounced in those days.

And now notice the seventh commandment against adultery. Genesis 39:7-9: "And it came to pass after these things, that his [Joseph's] master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph." This occurred when Joseph was in Egypt, long, long before the law of Moses. "And she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master knoweth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; there is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Adultery was sin—hundreds of years before the physical law of Moses.

Now we come to the eighth commandment, against stealing. In Genesis 30, verse 33: "Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep,

that shall be counted stolen with me." This is Jacob and his experience with Laban. Stealing was a sin.

We come to the ninth commandment about lying: Genesis 20, the first nine verses: "And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah." He was going to take her as his wife. He would have committed adultery with her, but God sent an angel to him in a dream to warn him. "Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart." The king, remember, heard Abraham say of Sarah, "She's my sister." "And also I"—God says—"withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her."

Abraham was lying. It would also have been a sin to commit adultery. Of course, Sarah was Abraham's half sister; but, nevertheless, the intent was all wrong. It was a lie.

What about coveting? Notice Genesis 6:1-3, 5-6: "And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.... God saw that the wickedness—sin—"of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Eternal that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." Coveting was a sin even in those days!

There it is. Every one of the Ten Commandments was in existence from creation. It was sin to break any of them between the time of Adam and Moses. What are you going to do about it? □

ADDITIONAL READING

For a thorough study of how each of God's Ten Commandments applies to us today, write for our free, fully illustrated booklet entitled *The Ten Commandments*. (See worldwide addresses on the inside front cover.)

POPE'S VISIT

(Continued from page 6)

States—are the chief whipping boys. Little acknowledgment was given by the pontiff to the hundreds of billions of dollars worth of foreign aid, grants and forgivable loans (hardly "crumbs") extended on the part of the United States and other Western nations. (Significantly enough, Cuba's Fidel Castro came to the same rostrum one week later to outrageously demand, in his new self-professed role as spokesman for the world's poor, another \$300 billion over the next ten years!)

Few journalists chose to challenge the major precepts of the pope's U.N. message. And the public as a whole, in its wild euphoria, took scant notice of what he said. But the pontiff's "world view" did not represent good news for America.

White House History

The most dramatic moment on the pope's itinerary occurred on Saturday, October 6. Over two hundred years of estrangement between the Vatican and the government of the United States came to an unofficial end. For the first time in history a pope visited the White House, an event unthinkable just two decades ago.

President Carter greeted John Paul as a "pilgrim for peace among nations." The pope answered that he truly wished to be "the messenger of peace and brotherhood."

Later, on the White House lawn, Mr. Carter proclaimed that "God blessed America by sending you to us . . . welcome to our country, our new friend." The pope then kissed his host.

The following day, in the last act of his visit, John Paul celebrated mass on the Mall in Washington, in sight of the towering Washington Monument. He thus turned another page in history. Over a century earlier, Pope Pius IX, following the example of other European heads of state, sent a block of Italian marble to be used in the construction of the monument. Outraged members of a small political party dumped the stone in the Potomac River.

That event (in the 1840s) was symbolic of the fact that Catholicism

had but a minor role to play in the foundation of pluralist, predominantly Protestant America. The great waves of Catholic immigrants came after the mold of U.S. society had already been cast. Now this breach between the "Holy See" and Washington is being healed. An official exchange of ambassadors, long shunned in Washington, may not be too far off in the future.

Switched Themes

The "humanistic pope" liberally laced his speeches with such phrases as "human values," "human solidarity," and "dignity of the human person." He said nothing that I can recall, however, about the majesty of the Almighty God, or the glory of the risen Jesus Christ who sits at His Father's right hand in heaven. (One journalist for a Philadelphia paper got his personalities a bit confused by claiming that John Paul was a "simple man who sits at God's right hand." He should have referred to Mark 14:62; 16:19; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2 and I Peter 3:22 before committing himself to print.)

Midway on his trip, however, the pope switched themes, concentrating mainly on controversies deeply dividing the Catholic church in America. In doing so, he reaffirmed (in an uncompromising manner that shocked church conservatives and liberals alike) traditional papal positions against married priests, women in the priesthood, abortion and contraception. Nuns were surprised to hear him urge that they return to wearing the traditional "habit."

The pope not only understands American society well (he rarely invoked the name of the Virgin Mary so as not to offend majority Protestants), but he is painfully aware of the serious rifts in American Catholicism.

He knows, for example, that 80 percent of American Catholics believe it is possible to employ artificial birth control methods and still be a loyal churchgoer. (Catholic bishops call such members "a la carte Catholics"—those who pick and choose the doctrines they wish to obey.)

Many sociologists believe it is now unrealistic to think that younger generations of Catholics in the U.S. who have grown up in a climate of sexual

permissiveness will ever step backwards in time and toe the line on the birth control issue.

One must ask the question: Will the pope someday come to realize that he has "lost" his church in the United States? Will this realization contribute to the very downfall of this country, prophesied to occur at the hands of a religiously dominated European federation, reconstituting the Roman Empire?

Ecumenical Push

The confrontation between the traditional pope and liberal Catholicism drew headlines for much of the second half of John Paul's trip. But a singular event on the morning of his last day in Washington deserved more press coverage than it received.

In a brief and simple ceremony that would have been unthinkable not so long ago, Pope John Paul II prayed in the chapel of Trinity College with American leaders of eight other Christian faiths.

As expected, the brief 40-minute meeting produced no breakthroughs on the unity front. Yet it was hailed by participants as a symbolic gesture of enormous importance. The Roman Catholic officials who organized the service said it was the first time a pope had ever prayed with so many different religious leaders at once.

In Boston too, on the eve of the first stop on the pope's journey to America, the ecumenical spirit had blossomed. In a letter to Humberto Cardinal Medeiros of the Boston Archdiocese, nine New England Protestant and Anglican church leaders said this: "The papal visit is an opportunity for ecumenical celebration. The Bishop of Rome, because of the traditional significance of the office and of the Church in which he serves, is one whom we hold in high esteem and one whom we reach out to embrace across our historical divisions. As members with the Roman Catholic family in the one Body of Christ, we remember the words of St. Paul, 'If one member is honored, all rejoice together.' We therefore are asking all Christians—Catholic, Protestant, Anglican, and Orthodox—to transcend our present and past differences on this occasion, and to mark the papal visit as a sign

and stimulus for reconciliation, a time to celebrate the unity we have and to pray for the unity we seek."

As a symbol of their "ecumenical hospitality," the church leaders presented to the pope a silver pectoral cross inscribed in Latin, "That We Might Be One."

The pope drew rave notices even from some unexpected Protestant circles. Billy Graham said that John Paul was "the most respected religious leader in the world today." Asked to elaborate by *Time* magazine, Mr. Graham added: "No other man in the world today could attract as much attention on moral and spiritual subjects as John Paul.... The country is responding [to the papal visit] in a magnificent way. It shows there's a great spiritual hunger. The Pope has reached millions of Protestants."

A Growing Desire to Return

The pope's "hard-line" stand on Catholic doctrines didn't make things easier on ecumenically minded Protestants, but many experts believe that the charismatic personality of John Paul II may be powerful enough to surmount certain roadblocks to church unity. This view was expressed in a remarkable admission by a Washington, D.C., Episcopal leader in the October 7, 1979, *Washington Star*.

"For Protestants," said Canon Michael P. Hamilton, "the very personal charm of John Paul II invites us to re-examine the Roman Catholic Church and gives some of us a twinge of nostalgia for a unification that would re-embrace us all. The Roman Catholic Church is so rich in its universal membership; the wealthy and the poor, the educated and the illiterate, every tongue and race are within it [editor's note: check Revelation 17:15]."

"Dare we think," he continued, "of a worldwide church rich in its diverse expression of Christian life and worship, united in its ordained ministry and under the leadership of the bishop of Rome, separate in continuing its denominational customs, together in a common Eucharistic meal? It's all there, it could happen, scholarship supports it. John Paul inspires it, surely it is only selfishness and fear that prevent it."

Note again what this leading Protestant leader stressed: 1) a heightened desire for unification, 2) the admitted preeminence of the bishop of Rome, and 3) scholarship, in his view, supports the unity movement.

Few people realize all the behind-the-scenes Catholic-Protestant "dialogues" that have transpired during the past two decades. Scholars on both sides have reduced many areas of earlier disagreement. The nut that remains the toughest to crack is that of papal primacy. Here again, John Paul's magnetic personality is a definite plus.

The next critical milestone in the unity movement will occur in June 1980 with the celebration in Germany of the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. That document led to the rift between Roman Catholicism and what became the Lutheran movement.

Now scholars on both sides are stressing the original "positive" aim of the Confession, which was to heal the widening rift between Lutherans and Rome and the attempt on the part of the former to correct obvious Catholic church abuses.

The listing of the abuses covered only the last seven articles of the Confession, whereas the first 21 articles demonstrated essential agreement in doctrines between the two sides.

Bishop Cyril Wismar of the New England Synod of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches recently noted that the Augsburg Confession was "intended to be a positive declaration within the church, not to be a divisive thing. It's taken 450 years for us to realize that. It's my hope that by the end of the millennium we will be back to where we were before, one Church in Christ."

It will be one church, indeed—but will it be in Christ?

Church Unity Prophesied

Unity among the Christian-professing churches of this world is coming. According to the President of the Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ: "The question no longer is whether we can be united, but when and on what basis."

The primary factor that all the other churches who desire unity will

have to accept is the preeminent position of the pope in Rome. On that point the Vatican will never compromise.

What would it take for all the others to "go back home to Rome"? More than just the captivating charisma of an admittedly charismatic pope. A columnist for the *Washington Star*, Mary McGrory, put her finger on the answer when she said of John Paul II: "He has proven he has a miraculous personality. It remains to be seen if he is a miracle worker."

Perhaps columnist McGrory didn't mean it quite so literally, but nevertheless miracle-working activity is prophesied to occur in a last-ditch, end-time attempt by the "god of this world" (II Corinthians 4:4) to unite the world's religions and sects, preparing them to jointly oppose the soon-coming return of Jesus Christ to set up His Kingdom on the earth.

Before church unity will be achieved by this world's divided sects and denominations, there will be a demonstration of miraculous, supernatural powers—performed, shockingly enough, through the "power of Satan" (II Thessalonians 2:8-10)—by a great religious leader. Millions will be swept off their feet by his mighty signs—including those who have been shown God's way but have rebelled against it (verses 3, 10-12). This person will claim to be the source of unity in the Christian world. This "false prophet" will even be worshiped "as God" (verse 4) and claim the rule over all political powers.

The stage is being set NOW!

The message today to those who choose to obey God and follow the laws revealed in His Word, the Bible, instead of the traditions of men, swayed by Satan, is found in Matthew 24:24-25: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before."

You have now been told! You don't have to be deceived. Prove to yourself which church is doing the Work of God today, preaching the true gospel of the Kingdom of God—the message that the religions of this world unitedly oppose and reject. □

TRUE GOSPEL?

(Continued from page 3)

MENT! The heavens have received Christ until the time of RESTORATION of that government (Acts 3:19-21).

Who Is to Be King?

A kingdom consists of 1) a king, or chief ruler with all his officers who rule over 2) people within 3) certain boundaries in which the ruler has jurisdiction, with 4) a system of laws and government.

First, then, notice WHO is to be the king of the Kingdom of God. Look at the prophecy in Isaiah 9:6-7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever."

Next, in the New Testament, just prior to Jesus' birth, an angel spoke to Mary, who was to become Jesus' mother: "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for . . . thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:30-33).

When Jesus was on trial for His life, Pilate asked: "Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world . . ." (John 18:37). But in the preceding verse Jesus had explained, "My kingdom is *not* of this world. . . ."

A World-Ruling Government

The prophet Daniel foretold the Kingdom of God. In the second chapter, speaking of the kings over governments in this, *our* generation, he prophesied: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a

kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

In the seventh chapter is a prophecy of the succession of world empires, beginning with King Nebuchadnezzar's Chaldean Empire, called Babylon, through the Persian Empire, the Greco-Macedonian Empire and its four divisions, followed by the Roman Empire, the Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages, and its final revival in Europe now forming. Then, speaking of this soon-coming "United States of Europe"—a revived "Holy Roman Empire": "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:27).

Next, consider the people who will constitute the Kingdom of God. I have shown you Jesus said it was a future Kingdom—not of this present world or age. Daniel's prophecy shows the government will be given over to "the saints," yet Christ is to be the King.

The Future Rulers

There will be *two classes* of people when the Kingdom of God is set up. One, those whom Daniel called saints, resurrected to immortality, organized into the executive branch of the government, who shall rule under Christ. The other, those mortal humans left alive on earth. Both are referred to in many scriptures.

But Jesus explained to the Pharisee Nicodemus about those who shall bear rule in the government. It's in the third chapter of John. Yet it is misinterpreted by almost every denomination in the Christian religion, in spite of the fact it NEEDS NO INTERPRETATION. It is clear and plain in the Bible—especially when considered along with many other passages on the same subject.

Jesus said: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:3, 6). A mortal human cannot enter into or

see the Kingdom of God. Only those born of the Spirit (which is God), and who are no longer material human flesh from the ground, but who are *spirit*—composed of spirit, not of matter—can enter that kingdom.

Yet, because Christ's gospel is not preached (except on our programs and in our publications), this birth is commonly either rejected or represented as an "experience" when one "accepts" or "receives" Christ. Space does not permit a thorough explanation with all the pertinent scriptures here, but the reader is invited to request our free booklet *Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?* and also the free booklet *Why Were You Born?* They cover thoroughly, intriguingly, the most important thing in your life—the PURPOSE for which you were put here on earth, why you are, where you are going and the way. It's the missing dimension in knowledge!

But let me cite just two more brief verses of Scripture that show who will be ruling, under Christ, in the government of God over this earth. In Revelation 3:21, Christ is speaking. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

And it is Christ speaking also in Revelation 2:26-27: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."

The Gospel Relation to Government

This has been a very condensed summary of precisely WHAT Christ's gospel is. Christ came with a tremendous ANNOUNCEMENT—wonderful news of a world-ruling GOVERNMENT to come and solve all of humanity's seemingly unsolvable problems.

It is the message of how we may qualify, now, to be a king or priest (Revelation 5:10), then made immortal and composed of spirit, in God's Kingdom. It is the message that God is the divine, creating, universe-ruling family into which we may be born by repenting of the way of sin that has CAUSED all the terrible EVILS

and unsolvable problems in this world, and, through *a living faith in Christ*, turning to the way of God's law—the way that will CAUSE the peace and joy of the happy world tomorrow. It points out the true and *only* way to eternal life.

Christ's gospel is a message about government. Christ's gospel is concerned with the evils confronting the world's peoples which the governments of the nations are trying to cope with.

The gospel is concerned with the CAUSE of all these problems and troubles. The gospel Christ brought is concerned with humans turning NOW from the way that is CAUSING all their troubles to the WAY that will CAUSE peace, happiness and plenty.

The gospel is concerned with 1) how we may solve our troubles now, and 2) how God IS GOING to solve them for US—and IN SPITE OF US if we refuse to change our way now.

World Leaders Frightened

The time for kidding ourselves is past. This world is in a very critically serious condition. Even after some thirty years of the world-effort to develop the poor nations of the world, they are poorer today than ever before. Millions upon millions face starvation, live in ignorance, utter poverty, filth and squalor, wracked with disease and ill health. In the affluent nations, crime is rampant (even in residential neighborhoods), morals have sunk to the gutter, divorces are breaking up a third of the homes, youths are taking to drugs and alcohol, staring a hopeless future in the face.

The weapons now exist to erase all humanity from the face of the earth in very short order. The world is sick, and the sickness is rapidly nearing the acute stage.

World-famous scientists and heads of state are saying the world's ONLY HOPE is a single WORLD GOVERNMENT in control of all arms and military force, to insure WORLD PEACE. Man can't bring it about. But Christ's gospel—the most tremendous ANNOUNCEMENT of the most wonderful GOOD NEWS ever given to the world, announces to humanity just that—a supreme world government with TOTAL POWER over ALL

nations, ushering in world peace, prosperity for ALL, good health for all—a world filled with happiness and joy!

Jesus' gospel taught the way of life that will produce this utopia—a way true Christians must live NOW—a way that would solve all of today's problems and evils.

That is the light that Jesus Christ brought to the world, but men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil (John 3:19). The world REJECTED that wonderful good news and crucified their very Maker for bringing it. And while they were sinning so abominably, Christ died for them, to pay the penalty they have incurred in their stead—if and when they repent and turn to the way that brings them happiness!

Anyway, the restoration of the Kingdom of God does not depend on mankind believing it. It is going to happen—as surely as the rising of tomorrow's sun!

Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God to many thousands. All but 120 individuals rejected it. The so-called "Sermon on the Mount" outlined the way of God's government. His many parables described the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God was His gospel! (If you have not already done so, be sure to request our free booklets *What Is the True Gospel?* and *Coming—A New Age!*)

Peter, John and the other original apostles proclaimed the Kingdom of God. It was the gospel the apostle Paul preached to the Gentiles. But men rejected it.

For 18½ centuries it was not proclaimed to the world—only to a very few—and that generally under cover, lest those preaching it be put to death!

Jesus Said It Would Happen

Jesus said plainly that although He, as a person, as the Messiah, would be preached to the world, His gospel would be withheld and the people would be deceived.

When His disciples asked when He would come again to earth to set up God's Kingdom and of the END of this present world, Jesus said: "Take heed that no man deceive you. For MANY shall come in my name"—many would profess to be His minis-

ters, representing Him—"saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:4-5). Untold thousands, ordained ministers in the Christian religion, have PREACHED CHRIST! They have *said* Jesus of Nazareth was Christ. But Christ's gospel has been withheld. The many have been deceived.

Remember, a deceived person does not *know* he is deceived. Otherwise he would not be deceived. Millions have been *deceived* into accepting a FALSE gospel—a false salvation.

But, in Jesus' answer to their question as to His return to earth and the END of this present world or age, the only sign He gave was: "And *this* gospel OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

Stop and think! If Christ's gospel had been preached to all the world during those 18½ centuries, it could not be the sign today of the soon-coming end of this present world, and of Christ's imminent return as King of kings and Lord of lords, to restore the Kingdom of God and the peaceful and happy world tomorrow! That one statement is absolute advance PROOF from Christ's own lips that His gospel would be withheld.

It has been!

But beginning January 1934, Christ's very gospel began going out. By the end of 1952 it was being thundered to the United States and Canada coast to coast via radio. January 1953 it began going to Europe and Britain—and soon, worldwide. Also, as in Jesus' prophecy of Matthew 24, the world is fast approaching the supreme time of world trouble—the very CLIMAX of civilization called "the GREAT TRIBULATION" (verses 21-22).

This is a frightening and terrifying hour—unless one hides his eyes and ears from the state of the world and its trends!

In such a sobering time, you have just read the truth that ought to arouse you out of the sleep of complacency and indifference! It is, I know, a shocking, staggering FACT to realize that this work—the work going out from the Worldwide Church of God—is the ONLY WORK ON EARTH proclaiming the very gospel of Jesus Christ to the world in great power! □

Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

different world, especially in means of transportation and communication. The living Christ started me on radio in January 1934, and through the printed message beginning February 1934. Comparatively rapid mail delivery was by then available, and rail travel, beside the telephone. We first went on television in July 1955. Finally came air travel—first prop planes, then jet.

The Work of God started from Eugene, Oregon. No state government gave us instructions as to how

era of the Church of God, that the Church of God suffered persecution by the Attorney-General's office of the state of California.

For the first time, to my knowledge, a state civil political government within the United States claimed that it owned all Church property, and was empowered to fire the apostle of the living Christ, and reorganize and operate the Church of the living God! Although God commands us, in the Bible, to be subject in our personal and individual lives, to the political government of man which has jurisdiction over us in ordinary processes of law and order, yet when authorities of human civil government commanded

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For the first time, to my knowledge, a state civil political government within the United States claimed that it owned all Church property, and was empowered to fire the apostle of the living Christ, and reorganize and operate the Church of the living God!

”

the Church and its work should be organized or conducted. In 1947, headquarters were moved to Pasadena, California. The Work was growing 30 percent a year. To conduct the growing operations of Christ's Great Commission, Ambassador College was founded in 1947. It was the ONLY college on earth ACCREDITED by GOD!

It had become necessary to incorporate, and the Work has been conducted strictly according to the legally stated PURPOSES of the Church in our incorporation and our legally required constitution and bylaws. In all such matters, we complied fully with state corporation laws and requirements.

It was not until January 3, 1979, 46 years after the raising up of this

the apostle Peter to cease proclaiming the gospel, Christ's apostle replied we MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN. He did not "cave in." Neither did we!

This Church was founded by Jesus Christ. It is formed and organized on His pattern.

Even if our lives are at stake—even at threat of imprisonment, we shall give our very lives, if necessary, to carry on the Worldwide Church of God, according to God's direction in His Word.

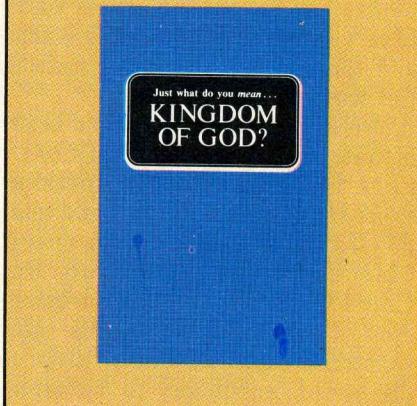
Now we are in a battle with one of the largest states in the Union to determine WHO IS LORD—CAESAR OR CHRIST? We are willing even to sacrifice our LIVES, if necessary—but, like the apostle Peter, we shall obey GOD rather than man! □

THE KINGDOM OF GOD-

What does it mean to you?

Kingdom *n.* A politically organized community or major territorial unit having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen.

The phrase "kingdom of God," which appears frequently in the Bible, is often heard in religious circles. It is generally assumed to be a reference to heaven or to a condition of mind held by believers. Almost no one would apply the standard dictionary definition of "kingdom"—a type of government over a specific territory. Yet that is precisely how the term is most often used in the Bible. The real meaning of the term "kingdom of God" is far more interesting and exciting than the traditional vague concepts. The booklet *Just What Do You Mean... Kingdom of God?* clearly explains what the Kingdom of God is and why it's important to you. For a free copy write to *The Plain Truth* at the address nearest you. (See inside front cover for addresses worldwide.)



L E T & T E R S

orchids

& onions

Personals

I just wanted to write and let you know how much I enjoy reading your [Herbert W. Armstrong's] "Personals." I really appreciate your ability and style of writing. You do a fantastic job. Keep up the great work. I will pray for your strength in getting the gospel out to all nations always.

Vicki Baldwin,
Alamosa, Colorado

I am shocked at your attitude, to say the least, in your June/July article. You said you entertain royalty and VIPs in the best restaurants. What makes them so special? Do you believe that God would show more love to them than to one who wasn't in their class? You will find in James 2:1-10 how a Christian is not to show more respect to a rich man than a poor man.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hodges,
Huntington, West Virginia

U.S. and Britain in Prophecy

I really enjoyed the August 1979 issue of *The Plain Truth*. I heartily support your antismoking stance, and the articles concerning the United States, Britain, and the United States of Europe were quite stunning in their scope. I am looking forward to the final book version of these momentous prophecies. Your publications have really changed my outlook on life and its meaning.

John Weaver,
Dallas, Texas

So glad I got *The Plain Truth* so I could finish "U.S. and Britain in Prophecy." I very much appreciate the entire series which (after reading the rest of the magazine) I have torn out so that now I have the entire 73 pages of reading together. I have marked it as I went along, and now shall continue the set of notes I have started. When the notes are complete, I shall study them again.

Ivy E. Harris,
Medford, Massachusetts

In Search of Adam

Your August 1979 *Plain Truth* article by Robert A. Ginskey, "In Search of Adam," is truly a masterpiece.

I had been pondering the cavemen versus Adam question for quite some time, and, would you believe, in considering true science's harmony with the Bible, I had contemplated whether the hominoids were not "men" per se at all, but had existed prior to God's re-creation of the earth and creation of Adam.

I guess *The Plain Truth* is the magazine which has taught me to think for myself—but upon the solid foundation of what God has already revealed. In summary, thanks for the article on this subject which I felt was too long neglected. To me, this was the best article to appear yet in 1979. It was worth the wait.

Bill Trimarco,
Brooklyn, New York

In your recent article "In Search of Adam" you somehow managed to twist everything around to make the average religious fanatic (excuse my frankness) think evolution is wrong.

At one point you said Neanderthal man had a brain larger than modern man, so there was no reason to believe Neanderthal evolved into modern man. But brain size has absolutely nothing to do with intelligence; it is merely a factor!

You said it is obvious that man is a special creation. But you gave no evidence to prove this myth.

You have probably deduced I am an agnostic. I think people can believe whatever they want—but why make them believe a myth?

A. Cassidy,
Victoria, B.C., Canada

Editor's note: We don't want anyone to blindly accept a myth. That's why we so often expose the fallacies of the theory of evolution.

God's Faith in Man

I wish to tell you how much I appreciated your article entitled "God's Faith in Man" by Jon Hill (June/July 1979). I am among

the social outcasts, alienated from the community mainstream and driven out of the ordinary churches for a number of reasons—a drunken father or husband, a convict relative, a prostitute daughter, a notorious son, a barroom mother, endless poverty, shame, and humiliation.

Here in what is called the "Bible-Belt," the low-caste fundamentalist churches are the only ones which will let us in, usually grudgingly at that. We go to church hoping to hear a word of hope, perhaps comfort, a bit of inspiration, but all we hear is more condemnation, all the fearful, emotional scriptures the preachers can find. If they quote any others, we do not hear them, because our ears are programmed only for the negative.

My own story is not important; it could be told by millions of others. I was born "a nasty, little no-good girl." I married a man who believes his manhood is proved by how often and how much he can browbeat women and children—it's his "divine right." I am the daughter-in-law of people who say all women (except their immediate family) are daughters of Eve and therefore evil.

It's much the same at church. The preachers seem to like nothing better than all the negative, condemning scriptures they can find, especially about women. The brain is scrambled; the heart is hurt; the spirit yearns for light but never seems to find it.

May God bless you in your work. I found your magazine in a laundry where others of my kind often go. I hope many of them read it.

Name withheld by request

As a direct result of your magazine I am more interested in "religion" than I have ever been. Generally, I believed religion to be something fearful and to be avoided. Your way is comfortable. Perhaps it is another step in my spiritual life closer to Jesus Christ. I have been so confused over the years. Everytime I have tried to read the Bible, I could only see what a sinner I have been. Your articles have given me new hope.

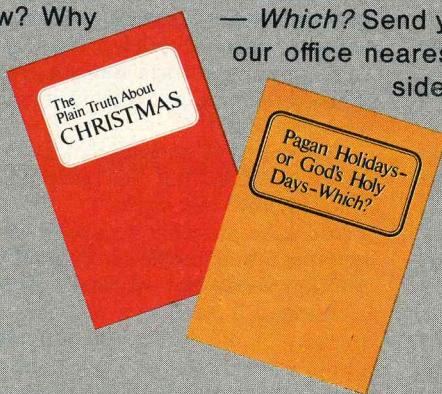
Name Withheld by request



IS IT REALLY WORTH IT?

Tis the season to be jolly, right? Yes, but sometimes the holiday hassle makes it a little hard to be so jolly. Bills and traffic and maddening crowds are enough to make you wonder if it is all worth it. What are the facts about Christmas, anyhow? Why do you have to haul an evergreen tree into your house

every year? What makes mistletoe good for kissing? If you've ever wondered about these things, you'll be interested in these two free booklets: *The Plain Truth About Christmas* and *Pagan Holidays — or God's Holy Days — Which?* Send your request to our office nearest you (see inside front cover).



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