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the

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



Soviet Youth in Training

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ABOUT OUR COVER

Changing of guard at Square of Fallen Heroes, Volgograd. This Young Pioneer typifies Soviet youth in training for protection of the State and the Party.

Cover photo by Jonathan Wright—Liaison

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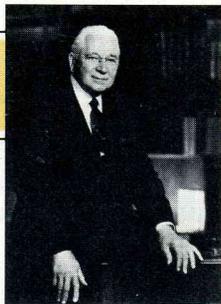
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Personal from...

YES! There Is a NATIONAL EMERGENCY!

YES! WE are now deep in much more than an economic emergency! We're in a social emergency—a moral emergency—an international emergency—a military life-and-death emergency! The weapons of mass destruction, for the first time since mankind inhabited this planet, can erase humanity from the earth!

But we're too occupied taking confident pride in awesome 20th-century achievements in science, technology, business and industry to notice our **REAL AND IMMINENT DANGER!**

We've had our minds on what we think of as 20th-century "PROGRESS"! It seems that the human mind is virtually limitless in what it can accomplish! We assume confident and smug complacency in such mind-boggling feats as sending men to the moon and back safely, receiving unmanned spacecraft close-up photos of Jupiter, Saturn and the Martian surface, such technological productions as the computer! And even full-color television and modern telephonic advances would astonish those who died in the 19th century.

But, just when we pat ourselves on our backs, and think we're pretty good and far "advanced"—**WHAM!!** An astronaut returns safely from a moon voyage and finds he is helpless to handle his family problems. His home and family breaks up in divorce! We are *helpless* before our troubles and the myriad evils that confront mankind.

Our marriage, home and family structure, on which a stable and permanent society is based, has broken down. People can't get along with people, factions with factions, nations with nations.

WHY? Our successes are physical and material, but our troubles and evils are in the spiritual realm.

Even in the physical and material area it takes time, patience and perseverance. A motorcar company loses millions calling back certain models to

correct a mechanical fault. Yet, we do make continual progress, in the physical and material areas, that is. So we think we are pretty good! These materialistic achievements do boost our vaunted morale! But we like to ignore causes of spiritual problems.

I've been hammering away on the fact there is a **CAUSE** for every effect—and humanity has tended to deal with effects instead of correcting causes in trouble areas! I repeat again and again—**THERE IS A SPIRITUAL LAW** that governs the problems, troubles and evils we've been unable to solve. We smugly prefer to ignore it in our confident vanity. Yet it's inexorable—as relentless and as certain as the law of gravity. Break it, and it breaks you.

That spiritual law is the principle—the motivation—the attitude of outflowing **LOVE**. It is outflowing concern for the good and welfare of others. I simplify it by the term "**GIVE**" and its transgression as "**GET**." This materialistic world has been traveling the way of "**GET**"—self-centeredness, covetousness, envy and jealousy, competition, strife, violence and war, resentment of authority.

The invisible law of "**GIVE**" is cooperating, helping, serving, sharing. If we would all live with that incentive our troubles and evils would vanish. But this civilization will not! Where does that leave us? Our evils and woes are accelerating. We are speeding on a collision course with human annihilation!

But thank God! Before such final crash, that all-powerful, all-"**GIVE**" "**Strong Hand from Someplace**" is going to intervene in this world's affairs, and save a rebellious humanity from itself! All humanity shall be compelled to enjoy peace, happiness, universal abundance in well-being!

Science, industry, human government will not achieve this. It will have to be done *to* us! Of course, that means that at last mortal eyes shall be opened to the **TRUE VALUES**—and *live* the spiritual way of "**GIVE**"! Humanity shall learn, at last, that it *is* "more blessed to **GIVE** than to receive"! Indeed, some of us are learning it already!

TURMOIL IN CENTRAL AMERICA— Here's Why!

by Gene H. Hogberg

The fragile societies in Central America have been torn by revolutions for years. Why, until now, has the U.S. been oblivious to the mounting danger?

TURMOIL in Central America is suddenly big news—every day!

Communist terrorists have been stymied—for now—in their attempt to ignite a civil war in El Salvador.

In neighboring Nicaragua, Marxists revolutionaries are busily “consolidating their power”—academic terminology for eliminating political opposition.

Leaders of other governments throughout Central America worry that they might be abandoned to foreign-based revolution.

U.S. Waking Up?

For years, United States officials have been busily engaged in explaining away the tactics of Cuba and other radical leftist movements undermining legitimate, often rightist, governments in the region. Now, at last, Washington, under the new Reagan administration, shows signs of opening its eyes. It is beholding the real dangers to Free World interests resulting from the escalating violence.

On February 12, the U.S. government publicized documents proving that tons of weap-

ons are flowing to the leftist guerrillas fighting to overthrow the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador. The weapons are being supplied by way of a worldwide communist network extending from Moscow variously through Cuba, Nicaragua, Vietnam and Ethiopia. Even the Palestine Liberation Organization is involved.

Many of the arms are left over from the huge cache of U.S. weapons hastily abandoned in

Vietnam after the U.S. defeat there.

U.S. envoys took Washington's mounting concern over events in Central America to governments throughout the Western Hemisphere and to Europe—even Yugoslavia. Some U.S. allies have been reluctant to recognize the real instigators of the spreading chaos.

It is clear now that the Reagan administration has chosen to make a test case over El Salva-

IN SAN SALVADOR, capital of revolution-wracked El Salvador, farm workers demonstrate in support of a policy of agrarian reform. New centrist junta has enacted many reforms, but troubles persist. The revolutionary left, backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba, is attempting to take over government by force.



Photos by Susan Meiselas — Magnum

dor in its contention that Moscow is supporting terrorists around the world. Secretary of State Alexander Haig Jr. views the Salvadoran situation as the prime example today of Soviet violations of an "international code of conduct" agreed to at a 1972 summit conference with the United States.

At that summit both sides disavowed obtaining "unilateral advantage" at the expense of the other.

The trail of communist adventurism since that time in Africa, Asia, and closer to home, in Latin America, shows how worthless the agreement—a foundation stone of detente—really was.

Washington Much to Blame

According to America's new ambassador to the United Nations, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the deterioration of the U.S. position in the hemisphere has "created serious vulnerabilities where none previously existed."

Tragically, Washington itself is largely responsible for the political deterioration throughout Central America and parts of the Caribbean. Recent U.S. foreign policy has contributed heavily to the destabilization of governments, in the name of promoting "change." This unwittingly gave the green light to Moscow and Havana to act as the prime agents of "change."

Officials in the previous U.S. administration, maintains the outspoken Mrs. Kirkpatrick, learned the wrong "lessons" from Vietnam. They came to the erroneous conclusion, she said, that Washington must never again be on the "wrong side of history" by supporting an authoritarian leader (such as the Shah of Iran or Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua) against a "popular movement"—whether or not communists were involved in it.

The previous administration further felt that America must henceforth act with "modesty and restraint" in world affairs. In other words, the Vietnam experi-

ence had shattered America's pride in its own power!

Exit the Monroe Doctrine

Regarding Latin America, Washington no longer wished to view trends there in terms of hemispheric security. Traditional U.S. policy, from the Monroe Doctrine through Franklin Roosevelt's Good Neighbor Policy to John F. Kennedy's Alliance for Progress, was consigned to the dustbin of history.

Instead, one influential report emphasized that "nonhemispheric states"—presumably the Soviet Union—"will play



increasingly important roles in Latin American affairs."

Indeed, according to Ambassador Kirkpatrick, the Soviet Union has become a major military power within the Western Hemisphere. "In Cuba," she notes, "the Soviets have full access to the naval facilities at Cienfuegos, nuclear submarines, airstrips that can accommodate Backfire bombers. From these, Soviet naval reconnaissance planes have on several occasions flown missions off the east coast of North America."

From these bases also, can be launched Cuba's Soviet-built MiG 21s and 23s—planes that could be quickly armed with nuclear weapons.

The Soviets also have on Cuba electronic-surveillance facilities that monitor American telephone and cable traffic and a network of

intelligence activities under direct Soviet control.

And there still exists on Cuban soil that troublesome 3,000-man Soviet combat brigade, a development that former President Carter said, when he found out about it, was "unacceptable." He later changed his mind when Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev assured him that the brigade was not intended as a direct threat aimed at the United States.

Conflict Wished Away

All in all, the United States hoped that Latin America could be "depoliticized" in a supposedly "new global age."

America had shed, said President Carter in 1977, its "inordinate fear" of communism which, he said, had caused the United States to support various autocratic, though pro-U.S., pro-West governments.

No longer were events in the Western Hemisphere to be considered in the context of the East-West struggle, now limited mainly to Europe. Hemispheric troubles now lay "outside the context of the superpower relationship."

Latin America was henceforth to be treated part and parcel of the mythical "North-South dialogue"—and in this context, not as important as Africa. (The Soviet Union, included now as one of the industrialized "Northern Hemisphere" countries, was appealed to as a partner in helping develop impoverished Third World countries, many of them in the Southern Hemisphere.)

Abstract, lofty goals such as "fairness," and "human rights"—unattainable in this world—assumed preeminence.

Tragically, this policy was tailor-made for communist insurgents, who found it easier than ever to infiltrate and usurp any movement considered by Washington to be a "popular force."

Rejecting the Past

Because of supposedly "changed realities," Washington's policy

toward Latin America was to be "free of paternalism" and "tolerant of political and economic diversity."

The first application of the new "globalist" yardstick was the agreement with Panama, ratified in the U.S. Senate in 1978, ceding U.S. sovereign control over the Panama Canal. The new canal treaties, said Mrs. Kirkpatrick, symbolized "the repudiation of our hegemonic past." Former Vice-President Mondale said they also symbolized "the commitment of the U.S. to the belief that fairness and not force should lie at the heart of our dealings with the nations of the world."

Moscow and Havana got the message! The coast was clear to challenge America's new "hands-off" policy right in its own back yard.

The first target was Nicaragua. Widespread resentment had been mounting (encouraged by communist propaganda) against the 50-year-long rule of the Somoza family. The well-trained communist-backed Sandinista National Liberation Front preempted the opposition movement.

The United States, fearful of being on the "wrong side of history," helped ensure the Sandinista victory. While Fidel Castro was airlifting one planeload after another of arms to the rebel forces, the U.S. government shut off military assistance to the beleaguered Somoza government. "It was like cutting off oxygen from a drowning man," said one observer.

The rest is history. The new Nicaraguan government, far from being "nonaligned," as blinded U.S. academics still insist, has slipped almost totally into the Marxist orbit.

National elections won't be held until at least 1985. According to authorities in Managua, the capital, the public must first be "reeducated" to know how to vote.

In the name of advancing literacy, the Sandinistas instruct young

people in the ways of Marxism and *Sandinismo*. (In the primer textbooks, the letter *G* is for guerrilla; *S* for Sandinista.)

Radio and television is thoroughly revolutionary in tone. Neighborhood watchdog committees enforce public indoctrination meetings one night a week. No attendance means no jobs and no schooling for one's children.

Nicaragua's business community—an early supporter of the revolution—is now suspicious, if not hostile, to the new government. Private investment is at a standstill. The economy, devastated by the \$2 billion civil war, lies in shambles.

U.S. aid—re-



PT map by Minette Collins

sumed at first to encourage "moderates" within the Sandinista-dominated junta—has been stopped. This only permits the government to blame Washington for the economic mess. America is the "bad boy" once more.

Revolution Gone Sour

The Nicaraguan public now realizes this was not what they bargained for when they rose up en masse against the Somoza government. The communists cleverly preempted the revolution. As one lady in Nicaragua said: "We haven't fought for this. We were fighting to get Somoza off our backs. That's why we supported them [the Sandinistas]—not to fall into a nearly 100 percent communist direction." (Re-

ports now reveal that the Somoza family did not hold as much property as had been alleged—similar to inaccuracies about the wealth controlled by the Shah of Iran.)

One opposition political leader added: "We have emerged from one dictatorship and entered another. Nicaragua has become a satellite of a satellite of the Soviet Union."

El Salvador Quagmire

The results in Nicaragua, however, did not dampen U.S. support under the previous administration of "forces of change" elsewhere in Central America, notably El Salvador and Guatemala.

What is happening in El Salvador is not a civil war, as the press carelessly presents it. The Salvadoran public as a whole is sick and tired of the wanton violence, which has claimed 13,000 lives in the past 14 months.

There are distinct differences between Nicaragua and El Salvador. In El Salvador, rulership did not take the *Personalismo* form as in the case of Somoza's government. Neither was there a ground swell of public support to remove the old regime despite inequities within the country. (Of course, dissent has always been present in some form or another.) The issue was rather the attempt on the part of the radical left to ride the tide of *Sandinismo* into power.

What El Salvador is experiencing, according to one source close to the scene, "is not civil war; it is terrorism and vandalism." Near anarchy prevails. In the countryside, farmers' crops are torched in the field while urban bands conduct bold daylight robberies in the cities. (Half the buses in El Salvador were destroyed last year.)

Young people from the ages of 11 to 17 are kidnapped and forced to join leftist terrorist brigades. On the other hand, youths sus-

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RECORD DROUGHT and WEATHER...

Just When Bumper Crops Are Not Enough

by Donald D. Schroeder

“Food will be in the 1980s what oil became in the 1970s—scarce and expensive!”
So warns a leading food commodities analyst.

SUDDENLY, there are no great surpluses of grain stocks in the world.

“We moved from surplus to scarcity with one fell swoop,” said Willard Cochrane, University of Minnesota agricultural economist.

Mr. Cochrane warns unless weather is good over much of the United States this year—and it clearly hasn't been good in many areas for many months—by autumn grain stockpiles will fall to little more than a month's supply at present draw down rates.

That is ominous!

Furthermore, in the face of soaring world demand for U.S. grains, food officials doubt that



Connolly — Liaison

Cochrane, “and they're going through the roof if the weather's dry again.”

Are we willing to heed this warning and correct the causes now leading to this unprecedented shortage in food?

Why Bumper Crops Are Not Enough

A conference of food experts met late last year in Washington, D.C. They agreed the United States can no longer be the breadbasket of the world. Chart after chart produced by the conferees showed that world food demand is outstripping anything the United States can produce—

the United States will be able to build up huge grain stocks again.

“We're looking at inflation driven by food prices,” says Mr.

even with record or bumper crops.

Texas Agricultural Commissioner Reagan Brown concurs: “We need 1981 to be a good crop

year. We have no real backlog of grain in storage. If we have another drought, it would be terrible, an absolute disaster for this country."

Nationwide Crisis

Last year, lack of rain and record heat scorched the U.S. mid-section, damaging wheat, corn, soybeans and peanut crops and killing millions of chickens and turkeys.

But last year, overall crop production in the United States dropped only a little despite extensive drought. The reason was, sufficient subsoil moisture pulled crops through to maturity in many areas. That subsoil moisture has been depleted in many areas. Insufficient rains and snows this winter and early spring have not replenished them.

Now renewed drought and dryness has spread east and west. Few areas of the country are untouched.

During recent months, Colorado and other mountain state resorts were forced to close for lack of snow. Farmers in widespread states were forced to seek federal disaster loans to survive.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture called the winter of 1981 the driest in nearly 100 years.

In America's Northeast, record drought emptied reservoirs and produced water emergencies in small communities and major cities alike. Low river levels in some areas concentrated water pollutants so much that water was unsafe to drink. Record winter cold froze barren ground. Later rains and snow could not soak in to replenish subsoil moisture.

In Florida, a big freeze destroyed hundreds of millions of dollars worth of citrus crops.

The Mississippi River, which drains the vast midsection of the nation, dropped to its lowest levels in history. It became a graveyard of grounded barges. That meant costly losses to many barge owners. They could only carry

partial loads of critical supplies of coal, petrochemicals, crude oil and food grains. America's weather is critical to world food supplies in another little-understood way. The Mississippi carries over half of the grain transported annually in the United States.

In the Great Plains states, winter wheat crops were stunted in root growth by lack of moisture. Areas barren of normal snow cover were vulnerable to sudden cold snaps and high winds.

And wherever late spring rains relieved dryness, late planting,

“

Weather is the most important factor in world food supply. But many weathermen fear the United States is in the grip of a multiyear drought. Some feel the dryness is now as serious as the early years of the 1930s and 1950s.

”

though helpful, will produce reduced yields.

High Pressure Ridge

Weathermen offer an explanation for so much dry weather in recent months. Their instruments show a high pressure ridge over the Rocky Mountains. This pressure ridge prevented moist air from reaching the plains and eastern states.

Normally in the wintertime for the United States, wind flow generally is west to east with a gentle wave-like pattern that bulges over the West and dips down south in the East. What has happened this winter is that the pattern has been amplified. The jet stream, a powerful high air current that

controls many weather patterns, pushed moisture-laden air up into Canada, where arctic air wrung out moisture, then plunged freezing air deep into southern states. Gulf storms consequently spun out into the Atlantic and then dumped their moisture over the high seas.

Other Areas Hit

The United States does not have a corner on bad weather, however. Portugal in recent months has struggled with its worst drought in 30 years. Drought cut the country's hydroelectric potential in half.

In Africa, the drought that afflicted large parts of the continent last year has eased somewhat. But many African nations are still forced to import more and more food with precious foreign exchange.

And in various northern provinces of the People's Republic of China, two opposite weather calamities have increased demands for more food imports: the worst floods in 25 years and the worst drought in 37 years have caused great agricultural losses.

Cornucopia Emptied

All of these weather problems put more pressure on the U.S. food cornucopia. But look what has been happening to American crop production in recent years.

The United States accounts for 60 percent of world grain trade! U.S. farmers are now selling nearly every bushel of grain they harvest, most of it for export. Never were bumper crops in North America more needed to help feed the world. And yet even North America's record crops are not enough to feed the world.

United States grain exports grew an average of 12 percent a year during the 1970s. But U.S. grain production rose only about 5 percent at the same time. And the world's appetite for food continues to grow rapaciously.

In 1979, the agricultural production of the developing coun-

(Continued on page 42)

TODAY'S TAX SYSTEMS— And How They Will Be Changed

by Jeff Calkins

Tax time, as one poet called it, is “the cruelest month.” While you’re thinking of taxes, ask yourself how God views them—and then realize God has something far better.

NOTHING is so certain, so the saying goes, as death and taxes.

Don't be so sure.

Taxes are not eternal! In the World Tomorrow, man's taxing systems will be junked. Replaced by God's tithing system that has been in force from the beginning of human life—but of which most people know little or nothing!

There are *big differences* between taxes and tithing.

Man's system of taxation is “progressive.” That means the *percentage* of tax goes up as your income goes up. If your taxable income is relatively small, your tax *rate* is small—in the U.S. system, about 14 percent. If it is large, say \$100,000, your rate can go as high as 70 percent.

God's system is far more intelligent: it is a flat percentage system. The word *tithe* means “tenth.” A tithe of anything is the tenth part of it. It is a *constant* proportion.

It is based on the fact that God owns all, but only claims a small part of the increase produced from the earth he created. Tithing is a system totally *without* “respect of persons.” It treats the high income earners the same as the poor. The



Warren Watson—PT

incredible exertions to have others—usually members of their own family—receive their money and pay the tax on it at *much lower rates*. They set up trusts. They make interest-free loans. They make everyone in the family (even the dog if they could) their “business partner.”

In God's system, it doesn't make any difference. Ten percent is ten percent—there are no advantages to having an artificially low income.

Perhaps you have heard of “tax shelters.” They represent the kind of silliness to which man's ideas lead.

A tax shelter is, essentially, a glorified way to lose money!

What happens is that a high income earner needs to find a way to “lower” his income, so he will be taxed at a *lower rate*. So he takes a little bit of his money, and uses it as downpayment to buy into a business. Of course, he borrows the rest. And then what happens? The business proceeds to *lose money!* And that lost money offsets his other high income.

How wasteful! Man's system encourages important people to put money in losing ventures. Resources go into businesses that don't make as efficient use of them as otherwise. God's tithing

“progressive” system is based on *envy* of the more wealthy—it deals with people unequally, depending on their income. The tithing system is totally neutral toward *who* you are.

Keep It Simple . . .

Many, if not most people, get help filling out their income tax returns. Why is man's tax system so complicated?

Almost all the complexity in our tax systems, believe it or not, stems from just one thing—the progressive rates! Because men did not model their tax structure on God's tithing system, they have fallen into suffocating confusion.

High income earners, because of progressive rates, go through

system, on the other hand, doesn't have these destructive effects. By itself it allows businessmen to make the best economic decisions they can. They don't have to be constantly looking over their shoulder at complicated tax laws. From a purely economic point of view, God's system makes so much better sense than man's.

Titling: A Capital Idea

The progressive system also complicates life in other ways. Say you buy a piece of property, wait ten years, and sell it. On selling it, you'll probably make a large profit over what you paid for it. If you were taxed on *ten years worth of profit* all in one year, it would not be fair—you'd probably have to pay a *higher rate* than you had been able to receive in your profit in ten equal parts.

So, in response, man's system — at least in the United States — creates something called "capital gains." It is incredibly complicated. In a nutshell, though, all it means is that your profit on certain kinds of property is taxed at a lower rate than the rest of your income.

Taxpayers go through tremendous exertions to have their profits classified as "capital gains" instead of just "ordinary" income.

God's tithing system eliminates all this bother. The tithe is the same rate whenever your profit is high or low, or your profits taken in one year or every year. Again, God's system is so much simpler—so much more uncomplicated! Mathematicians would call God's system more "elegant."

Man's Marriage Tax

Today, in the United States, for example, the tax structure penalizes marriage when husband and wife both work.

But if they just lived together, without being married, and filed single returns, the *sum total* of their separate taxes would be significantly less! In other words, the government penalizes such couples just for getting married. Thus man's tax laws (along with

general moral permissiveness) encourages a great amount of sexual immorality.

God's financial system is different. It doesn't encourage young working singles to live together. Ten percent is ten percent. God's system does not discriminate either in favor of or against people based on their marital status.

Man's system further encourages a borrow-to-get-it-now attitude. American tax laws, for example, allow you to deduct interest from the income on which you pay tax.

This, plus the progressive rates, means that a high income person is almost forced to go out and borrow as much as he can just to keep out of the jaws of his high bracket.

God's system is so much saner! The decision to borrow money is made on its own merits. Because of the flat rate, the tithing system doesn't affect it one way or another. And certainly it doesn't give someone an incentive to buy something on credit *just to be buying it* as man's system does.

Similarities

Of course, there are some similarities between God's tithing system and man's tax system. Both taxes and tithes *take precedence over other debts*. In American law, for example, the tax collector gets *his money first*—even before God!—and certainly before any of your other creditors get theirs if you can't pay all your debts.

According to biblical law, *the tithe is the debt you owe God*. Being in debt is no excuse not to tithe—God's debt comes first.

Importantly, God, unlike government tax departments, promises to specially bless those who pay their debt to him first! "*Prove me now herewith,*" declares the Eternal God, "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).

An interesting similarity is that the *spirit*, not the letter, of the

law governs in both tax law and tithing. This may come as a surprise, but human tax courts will strike down elaborate schemes to minimize taxes—even *if they conform to the strict wording of the laws!* A business transaction, for example, which *has no other purpose* than minimizing taxes will usually be struck down.

God's tithing system employs the rule of "substance over form." That means obedience to the *spirit* of the law, which means you tithe on an honest, good faith calculation of your income. You don't engage in all sorts of sneaky shenanigans to artificially reduce it.

Income and Increase

In God's tithing system, you tithe on the "increase." (See Deuteronomy 14:22 and 28.) Increase is your adjusted gross income. And what is your adjusted gross income? The tax people have grappled with this concept for years now. The principles they have developed for determining what is "income" are generally good for determining what is your "increase" for tithing purposes. Basically, it's any *increase* in your wealth from your own efforts. Accordingly, a good rule is that if the tax people would make you include something in your taxable income you should also calculate God's tithe on it.

You do tithe on profit from the sale of stock or your gross wages, just as you pay tax on them. But you would not tithe on inheritances (but the producer of a monetary inheritance should have paid tithes and would have paid tax on it).

In the World Tomorrow, the tithing system will completely replace men's tax systems. There will be no more complicated rules on capital gains, no more desperate attempts to be taxed at a lower rate.

If you want to know more about God's tithing laws, we have a booklet that explains them in much more detail. It is called *Ending Your Financial Worries*. It reveals the incredible blessings that God holds in store for those who obey his laws. □

HOW GOLD, INFLATION AND GOVERNMENT IMPACT YOU

by John Curry

It is time we understood the relationship between gold, inflation and government. And how they affect you!

ON AUGUST 15, 1971, President Nixon dropped a bombshell that rocked the entire world financial system to its foundations. By executive decree, he cut the dollar loose from gold. He invited foreign banks, governments and private markets to "float" the dollar's value. No longer would the dollar be redeemable in gold by foreign governments as previously, nor would gold be tied to its former price of U.S. \$35 per ounce.

Look at what has happened since.

The price of the precious metal skyrocketed, especially during the invasion of Afghanistan in January and February of 1980. Inflation has jumped to double figures in most industrial countries. The average working man has been caught in a vicious wage-price spiral. A serious sickness in this world's financial systems has set in.

Why Gold?

What does uncertainty in the world's financial system portend for the future? How will it affect

you? And what about the value of gold?

Gold has been the most sought after form of money for thousands of years. By universally accepted definition, money is anything that serves as a store of value and as a medium of exchange. Historically, gold has fit that description better than anything else. Because it is relatively scarce, virtually indestructible and possesses a wide range of artistic and functional uses, gold became the standard in most economies. It was easily coined, highly portable and universally recognized for its value. Even though the supply of gold is limited, demand for the metal seems to be infinite.

Commodities such as food crops or industrial output can have price swings based on demand, weather, poor economic policies or disasters. None of these affects the total supply of gold. It maintains its value in relation to other commodities regardless. Thus it has acted as a financial constraint and stabilizing factor. People trust gold because it has been an instrument of monetary discipline and a standard of measure by which to measure other commodities.

Gold acts as a check on governments and politicians. Paper mon-

ey came into use because it was more convenient to use than gold. However, historically the amount of paper money in circulation was tied to the amount of gold a nation possessed. When people knew that gold backed up their currency, they trusted their money. But even though people may trust gold, they don't necessarily trust their leaders. In the words of George Bernard Shaw: "The most important thing about money is to maintain its stability. . . . With paper money this stability has to be maintained by the government. With a gold currency, it tends to maintain itself. . . . You have to choose as a voter between trusting the natural stability of gold and the natural stability of the honesty and intelligence of the members of the government. And, with due respect for these gentlemen, I advise you, as long as the capitalist system lasts, to vote for gold."

The goal of every political leader is to remain in power. In a democracy, he must retain his popularity to be reelected. Extravagant social welfare schemes and public works help to perpetuate the government's power, even though the country may not be able to afford the expense. If a political leader can get rid of the gold standard, then there is no restraint on the amount of paper

money the government can print. The deficit between collected taxes and government spending can be made up through printing extra money. But the effect of these shortsighted policies soon becomes apparent. More and more paper money chases the available goods and services—the result is inflation.

Witness the situation in the United States today. Since 1971 the dollar has had no relationship to gold. Multibillion dollar deficits in government spending have been covered by printing extra dollars. Because the dollar is not convertible to gold, there is no check on government spending and the citizens suffer from consequent inflation.

Inflation becomes a vicious circle with everyone eventually losing. As Voltaire concluded, “All paper eventually returns to its intrinsic value—zero.” In 1871 the British economist David Ricardo noted, “Experience has shown that neither a state nor a bank ever had the unrestricted power of issuing paper money without abusing that power.”

The United States, blessed with staggering wealth, vast natural resources, and phenomenal industrial and agricultural output, is in a serious financial situation. It makes no sense—except for the fact that national leaders were quite prepared to dilute the value of the nation’s money supply. The decision defrauded the citizens by stealing the purchasing power of wages and savings. This sinister aspect of inflation was explained by the British economist John Maynard Keynes in 1919: “By a continuing process of inflation, governments can secretly and unobserved, confiscate an important part of the wealth of their citizens.” Mr. Keynes himself advocated this form of government policy.

But as people begin to experience inflation and see their wealth quickly disappearing, they try to protect themselves through investing and speculating in more stable commodities, including gold. Speculation in gold is a symptom, and a warning, of a dis-

torted government-ravished economy. It is a sign of loss of trust and faith by men in their own system and political leaders.

Ideally, the best world monetary system would involve one world government, with one national treasury, one currency and one monetary system. The questions of gold currency exchange and balances (overvalued, undervalued or “floating”) would be largely irrelevant. But such a world government today is out of the question. Who would decide the power structure in such a man-devised world government? Leaders and nations each jealously guard their power and sovereignty.

But a supreme world government is prophesied in the pages of your Bible, and in the very near future. Yet this world government will not come about through the efforts of man, but in spite of him. It will have to be established by the Creator God. And be based upon his law of love, the Ten Commandments. More than 2,500 years ago, the prophet Daniel, in captivity in Babylon, interpreted a vision of King Nebuchadnezzar, which outlined the rule of men up until the “last days.” “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). This supreme event in world history is as sure as the rising of the sun!

At that time there will be one supreme world government: “And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one” (Zechariah 14:9). No longer will people be ruled over by power-hungry mortal and very human political leaders. Nor will the citizens of this divine Kingdom live in grinding poverty as the majority of people do today. “For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors

righteousness” (Isaiah 60:17). What a change from today’s world! True freedom, prosperity for all people, with justice pervading everywhere.

Then—Gold’s True Value

In spite of its luster and its important stabilizing role in the world’s financial system, gold is just a yellow metal. Its only monetary significance is what man attributes to it. When the Spaniards arrived in the New World, they found the native Indians placed little value in the metal because of its relative abundance. In some of the islands of the South Seas, sharks teeth served just as adequately as the medium of exchange. Gold has no intrinsic value, only what men think it’s worth.

At the close of this age, when men will be face to face with the threat of annihilation, gold will become worthless in men’s eyes. It will be enough just to be able to survive. The prophet Ezekiel wrote, “They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord . . .” (Ezekiel 7:19)—the time when an angry God must step in to save mankind from itself.

God’s judgment against the sins of this modern day and age will begin by giving man *unrestrained opportunity* to use the evil inventions of his mind. Man has always used the weapons he has invented. So we read in Zephaniah 1:13, 17-18: “Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them, and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath: but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”

Only when gold becomes

What Our Readers Say

Silent Holocaust

Enclosed is a poem on abortion ("‘Mute’ Cry of an Unborn Child"), which I wrote. Would you please print my composition in your fine magazine, *if* in your opinion, it merits this consideration:

"MUTE" CRY OF AN UNBORN CHILD

What a pity that I could not be heard—

too tiny, too helpless, no voice to give,

for I was only a baby in my mother's womb.

God's miracle of birth, ordained me to live,

yet, not by my choice or evil misdeeds,

I've been sentenced to an untimely doom.

I was so eager to see the light of day,

and my future destiny, come what may,

but God's holy plan was profanely thwarted.

Unwanted, unloved, my short fetal life aborted.

No one to mourn me; discarded like offal.

No prayer, no clergy for a decent burial.

I cried for existence; my own recognition—

to earn my rightful place in the sun.

Surely, mom would hear me, if no one else could.

Was she that callous, heartless and cruel—

No, God, it's just that she never saw me,

held me, hugged me or loved me and now

I'm sorry for her, because she never will.

©1979 by Edmund J. Wlascinski
Chicago, Illinois

How Will the Earth Recover?

According to your teachings, Jesus Christ will personally intervene to cut short the days of mass destruction and immediately thereafter will establish his kingdom on earth. Then the earth will be blessed with good weather, abundant rain and fertile soil—the very deserts will blossom as a rose. I find such a transformation very hard to believe in, because after a large scale nuclear war, radioactive fallout will contaminate large areas of this planet—large areas will be rendered uninhabitable and lethal for centuries to come.

How, then, will our planet be decontaminated overnight? Please elucidate.

H. Ferreira,
Salisbury, Zimbabwe

• *The God who intervenes to save mankind from extinction can and will heal the nations and this earth's surface. Your sage observation of the consequences of war should be understood by all national leaders.*

Islamic Eyes

Referring to your article "Seeing the World Through Islamic Eyes" in December issue of *The Plain Truth*, I have the following comments:

In general, your article was to a great extent neutral, which attracted my attention and respect for the writer.

According to the Koran and Sunnah, the Moslem woman should get dressed in a modest and unrevealing way, not in a sexually attractive way as in Western fashion. Woman is respected as a human being, not as a sex object even in the way she is dressed. The Islamic dress is not exactly as you see in Iran or Saudi Arabia, but it is closer to them than to the so-called Western.

Being from Egypt, I have met many of those young women who are covering themselves up with traditional floor-length robes—regardless of their "progressive" mothers' dismay. They do that simply because they comply with the Islamic doctrines, not to represent a rejection of the Western concepts of femininity.

I believe that the Moslems are willing to put their hands with the faithful Christians and Jews regardless of the difference in faith—to face our same enemies such as corruption, sexual laxity, immoralities and atheism as long as there is mutual respect of each other's beliefs.

M. H. Hamza
Nesconset, New York

worthless in human eyes will men realize that "riches profit not in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death" (Proverbs 11:4).

What God wants is the building of true character—"that the trial of your faith, being more

precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:7).

Only when that character is manifest in human beings as our

first priority, will we have the good sense to put proper value on gold—and any other precious and useful commodity. God created all natural wealth to be used for good—not abused, coveted or lusted after as an instrument of power. □

Have You Experienced Being **BORN AGAIN?**

by Michael A. Snyder

Numerous celebrities, entertainers and politicians claim they have been “born again.” Jesus indeed said we must be “born again” before we can be in God’s Kingdom. But *when* are we “born again”?

WHAT DO certain actresses, rock stars and television producers have in common with some plumbers, lawyers and electricians?

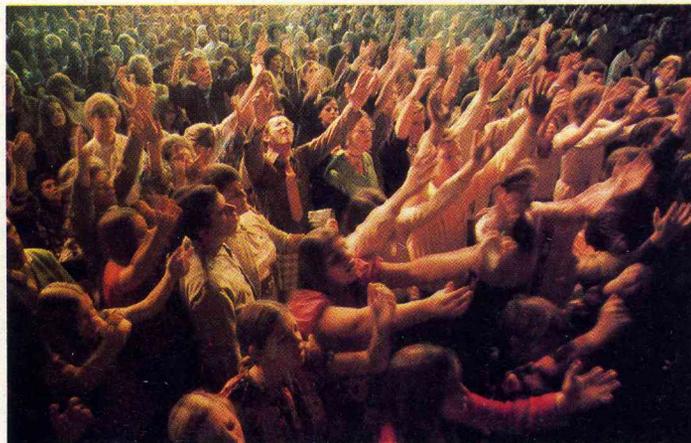
Many of these people, perhaps even *you*, have gone through a religious experience. They reject undesirable elements of their lives, embracing instead higher standards of morality and conduct.

Finding tremendous promises of forgiveness, grace and a new life, these people have sincerely adopted a new philosophy. They focus on values they find in the Bible, or are taught by a religious figure they admire.

Many of these people, possibly like yourself, consider themselves to be “born again.”

But Are They?

For some time now, large numbers of people have been rejecting the image of traditional Christianity. They see a world filled



WITNESS AND TESTIMONY. In public displays of worship, many sincere people strive to draw closer to their God. Is this evidence of being “born-again”? Read this article to find out.

with chaos, where love is a flickering and sometimes virtually nonexistent commodity. “We don’t want stale, doctrinal religion,” they say. “We want to know the God that *lives*—we want answers to our problems!”

Yes, Jesus Christ himself did say, “As the living Father hath sent me . . .” (John 6:57). Paging through the Bible, you do find references to a *living* God—a God full of compassion and power, able to extend a helping hand to those in need.

Many people say, “*This* is the God I want to know!” Sick of

human tragedy and suffering, they want to know about God. Many want to forge strong ties to this God. But this presents a problem.

“God is spirit” (John 4:24) cites the Revised Standard Version. So how do you develop a relationship with a Spirit Being you can’t see? You know there is a God (and by the way, if you’re not sure, write immediately for our eye-opening booklet, *Does God Exist?*), but you are casting about

for the road to salvation. Sincerely studying the Bible, you read Christ’s words in John 3:7, “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”

Turning over to I Peter 1:22-23, sincere groups read: “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit . . . being *born again*, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God . . .”

Therefore, it is reasoned, “If we obey God—forging a commitment to Jesus Christ—we are ‘born again’ in the spirit: worship-

ing God as new men and women. After all, doesn't Ephesians 4:13 talk about becoming a 'perfect man' in Christ?" And people who claim now to be "born again" do have a powerful mental and emotional experience. These people do not affect dramatic personal change without deep conviction. How else can you account for individuals, even celebrities, who drastically alter their lifestyles toward God's principles?

But is *that* being "born again"?

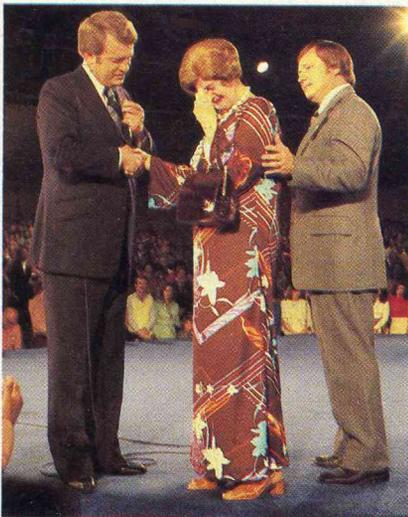
Important Words

Yes, the Bible does emphatically teach that men and women *must* be "born again." But what it reveals about being "born again" is far deeper than mere emotions.

Jesus Christ said you and I must live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). The Bible is the Word of God in print. So let's claim the promise of II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God . . . for instruction in righteousness" and examine what the Bible teaches about being "born again."

We turn first to the central account of Christ's teachings on the subject in the third chapter of John.

Let's capture the flavor of the setting. Christ is now a well-known, controversial figure in the city of Jerusalem. In front of many thousands of people, Christ shocked throngs gathered for the



annual Passover by demolishing the private petty businesses of those selling animals for sacrifice near the Temple (John 2:13-17).

Understanding this, we can see there was no small reason why the influential and powerful Nicodemus might want to come to Christ



Photos by Jack and Betty Cheetham

at night, in order not to be seen by his fellow Pharisees (John 3:2).

So here you have it. A powerful "ruler of the Jews" (John 3:1) wants to find out more from this man who caused such an uproar in the Temple. He begins the conversation by telling Christ he knows he is not the typical Jew: "Rabbi," he says, "we [the Pharisees] *know* you are a teacher who has come from God. For *no one* could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him" (John 3:2, New International Version).

In reply, Christ unloads a blockbuster: "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3, NIV).

Born again? A confused Nicodemus responds: "How can a man be born when he is old? Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" (John 3:4, NIV).

Before we go on, let's pause to examine some important points. Why was this so puzzling to Nicodemus? He was intimately familiar with allegories and parables in the Old Testament as a teacher on the Pharisee ruling council (John 3:1, 10). Nicode-

mus should have been able to grasp a spiritual side to today's religious life—if *that only* was what Jesus said.

And why would one have to be born again to SEE the Kingdom of God?

Nicodemus was surprised be-

cause what Christ told him is that a new life by birth must occur if one is to be reborn. Jesus deliberately chose to use a word that meant delivered from one's mother's womb.

The Greek word Jesus used, which is translated "born," is *gennao*. It refers to the entire birth cycle—from conception to physical birth.

Wouldn't you be shocked if a minister told you that you couldn't have salvation—eternal life—unless somehow you were to go through a new birth cycle?

"Why," people would sputter, "how can I do *that*?"

This is the same reaction Nicodemus had.

Confronting the stunned Pharisee, Jesus spelled it out again, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

For, he continued, "That which is *born* [Greek: *gennao*] of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born [Greek: *gennao*] of the Spirit *is* spirit" (John 3:5-6)!

In other words, believe it or not, Jesus Christ said *you must be spirit before you can be a part of or see the Kingdom of the*

great Spirit Being that is God.

What is spirit life like? Few seem to know. It is much more than leading a "good" life—maintaining high moral standards in this world!

Jesus gave a plain definition of spirit life to Nicodemus: "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born [Greek: *gennao*] of the Spirit" (John 3:8, NIV).

Can anything be plainer? If you are born again, you must have these qualities of the wind. Are you invisible like the wind? Able to move about at will? If you're not, then you are *not* born again! This is confirmed in I Corinthians 15:50, where the apostle Paul states: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood"—that is what you are as a result of your first birth from your mother's womb—"cannot inherit the kingdom of God."

Being born again is *not* just a religious experience, falsely based on an erroneous translation in the King James Version, where we read of being "born again" in the present tense (I Peter 1:22-23, etc.). "Born again" there should be translated "begotten again" as it correctly is in I Peter 1:3 ("hath begotten us again"). Both are the same Greek word. *Begotten* signifies that we are beginning, at conversion, a process that will eventually result in a new birth as spirit at the resurrection when we inherit eternal life and *see* God.

There *is* in this life natural emotion when one repents, changes one's life and is begotten of the Holy Spirit of God. But that is not being born again as a spirit being. When the Corinthian church repented of certain sins, the apostle Paul was inspired to write of the emotions accompanying this repentance: "See what this . . . [repenting] has done for you, how serious it has made you, how keen to clear yourselves, how indignant [against sin], how alarmed, how eager for me [and the teachings of God], how *determined*, how *relentless*! . . ." (II Corinthians 7:11, Moffatt translation).

So we can see that repentance does involve emotion, that you *do* definitely experience it when you change from your previous way of life to the *beginning* of a new way of life aligned with God!

But that is only being begotten of God now, while you are still flesh in this natural life. Being born again has to do with something far greater—being finally composed of spirit and the fullness of the character of God. Being born again is not a religious emotional experience.

So then, with Nicodemus, you ask, "How can these things be?" When *are* we born again?

The answer is found in I Corinthians 15:52. "In a moment," writes the apostle Paul, "in the twinkling of an eye [i.e., instantaneously] at the last trump [when Jesus Christ returns—Matthew 24:31; Revelation 11:15]: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible [Moffatt: "imperishable"], and WE SHALL BE CHANGED."

Those who are members of the

body of Jesus Christ, who have God's Holy Spirit within them now, who are begotten now (Rom. 8:9-11)—*they* will be changed into immortal spirit beings—the new birth, born again—at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ when he returns to this earth to set up the government of God! People who died in Christ as members of God's Church will be resurrected from the dead as immortal spirit beings!

What a fantastic, incredible message that is contained within the phrase "born again"!

This is Christ's teaching! Apparently Nicodemus puzzled at this, for after explaining what a spirit is, Christ finally said: "Truly, truly I tell you, we are speaking of what we do understand, we testify to what we have actually seen—and yet you refuse our testimony" (John 3:11, Moffatt).

What about you? An understanding of your incredible potential is available free in our booklet *Why Were You Born?* It's yours for the asking. □

WHY

don't religious people agree on what is the true gospel?

In this *free* booklet *What Is The True Gospel?* you'll rediscover the fundamental reason for the very existence of Jesus' Church. And you'll understand why traditional Christianity has lost sight of the true purpose of life. Astounding? Not at all! Send in for *What Is The True Gospel?*—it contains priceless information—and it's free.



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IN BRIEF

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

by Stanley R. Rader

Traveling with Herbert W. Armstrong up to 300 days a year, I have been able to enjoy a continual education in the kind of dedication, effort and hard work that is required to accomplish anything worthwhile in life. Mr. Armstrong is in his 89th year, yet he continues to push himself, day after day, to accomplish an extraordinary amount of work furthering the Great Commission that God has given him. I know personally that he maintains a work schedule that would run most men ragged.

Mr. Armstrong's extraordinary drive is a manifestation of a law of success that he identified in the booklet *The Seven Laws of Success*. Drive is the fourth law of success, and Mr. Armstrong, as well as other successful executives with responsibility over large dynamic organizations, employs it. Drive means a constant prod on oneself, never lagging or letting down: it is the pursuit of excellence.

And yet the pursuit of excellence is rare enough in our society that it now is commonplace to remark about a general decline in quality. With the exception of high technology items, it seems that standards are coming down. Achievement test scores by high school seniors have declined dramati-

cally in the last decade. College administrators speak frequently of "grade inflation." American automakers have lost sales to imports because of a reputation for lower quality.

Of course, not all standards have declined, and examples of great effort and achievement can be found scattered throughout the world. It is to encourage the pursuit of excellence, among other reasons, that Mr. Armstrong organized the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. The foundation helps bring the *best* in the performing arts to audiences throughout the world. The foundation also publishes *Quest 81* magazine, whose mission it is to call society's attention to individuals who demonstrate some measure of excellence in various spheres of life.

A society's attitude toward quality reflects its general outlook. As John Gardner in his book *Excellence* has written, "The tone and fiber of our society depend upon a pervasive and almost universal striving for good performance." If we tolerate "slovenly indifference," the general tone—the *quality*—of life must decline. Whether it be in the mundane matter of goods and services or the arts, the relaxation of standards robs life of much of its sense of achievement and dignity.

Perhaps our society is ambivalent about high quality and standards because, as Mr. Gardner points out, such standards don't easily coexist with "democratic" values. Excellence is based on merit and individual effort; while everyone can strive for excellence in at least some areas of life, the fact remains that many people don't.

Perhaps this is because excellence is not natural in the sense that it comes easily. Excellence is the product of "artificial" human effort geared toward some definite goal. Its pursuit means purposeful, dynamic activity. As such, the pursuit of excellence is a uniquely human activity—animated by the spirit in man. It consists, at least in part, in overcoming our natural initial pulls toward inactivity and laziness.

Another reason for society's uneasiness with quality may go deeper. We cannot really demand performance according to high standards if we believe that all standards are relative. As our society has forgotten God, it has forgotten also that there is Someone who *sets* standards, which are fixed and immutable. "For I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6). To ask that one meet high standards means one must have a clear-cut idea of what those standards are.

What most commentators on excellence and quality omit is, to borrow Mr. Armstrong's phrase, the missing dimension on the subject. The pursuit of excellence reflects man's ultimate destiny to achieve the same level of existence as God himself. As humans strive for excellence in particular things, so is God the embodiment of excellence in all things. "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens" (Psalm 8:1).

The pursuit of excellence, then, is a striving, in one part of reality, to achieve a part of God's character, who is himself "decked" with majesty and excellency, glory and beauty (see Job 40:10).

It seems that God built into man a need to strive after high standards, because the ultimate purpose of man is to strive after the highest standard of all—God's character. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). This glorious pursuit is revealed in more detail by Mr. Armstrong in his Everest House book *The Incredible Human Potential*. □

WHY PRAY:

“Lead us not into temptation”?

by Clayton Steep

Does God lead humans into temptation? If not, why pray that God won't? This question has perplexed many, including theologians.

IN JAMES 1:13 we read: “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.”

But in Genesis 22:1 we also read, “And it came to pass . . . that God did tempt Abraham . . .” Here is certainly an apparent contradiction! Does God ever tempt one to do evil? If not, why pray, “Lead us not into temptation”?

And what about the verse that says, “. . . count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations”? (James 1:2).

How are these apparently contradictory scriptures to be understood?

Sore Trial

The word *temptation* is a most unfortunate translation in most English versions of the Bible. In modern usage, it has the meaning of enticement to do evil. But that is not the primary intent of either the Hebrew or Greek words. In most instances a better translation of this word is “hard test” or “sore trial.”

We see this, for example, in Revelation 3:10, where the same word appears. Speaking of the coming period of worldwide distress, Jesus makes a promise to those who obey him: “I also will keep thee from the hour of *temptation* which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Here the word *temptation* is better translated “sore trial” or “tribulation.”

Likewise, the request, “Lead us not into temptation” should be rendered, “Lead [or bring] us not into sore trial.”

But what did Christ mean by *that*?

Jesus himself, the night before his crucifixion, gave us an example of what he meant by “lead us not into sore trial.” He was aware of the intense suffering he was about to undergo. He could see it coming. He realized that if he failed during the trials of the next twelve hours or so, God’s whole plan for the redemption of mankind would fail also.

Jesus was deeply troubled. He prayed: “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup [of suffering] pass from me [in other words, ‘Lead me not into sore trial!’]: nevertheless,” he added, “not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Matthew 26:39). This agrees

with what Jesus said in Matthew 6:10, “Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”

Maybe there was some other way of working out God’s plan of redemption. He asked, if so, to be spared being brought into the grievously sore test just ahead—but only *if* it was God’s will.

It was not.

It is not always God’s will to keep us out of sore trial either. Sometimes we become lax in doing our part to develop righteous character and we need a hard test to bring us to our senses. God may allow us to experience trials to get us back “on the track.”

Our Part

A Christian is one who asks to be led by God each day, for the Eternal says, “I am the Lord thy God which . . . leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go” (Isaiah 48:17). When we see a trial looming on the horizon, rather than being overcome with anxiety about it, we can ask God, *if it is his will*, to lead us past it, around it, over it, any other direction but *into* it! If we are alert and close to God, we may be delivered from the trial before we become completely involved in it. “Watch [be alert!] and pray,” Jesus urged his disciples, “that ye

enter not into temptation [sore trial]" (Matthew 26:41).

Jesus' entire prayer outline as given in Matthew 6:9-13 is based on the premise that those praying are doing their part to fulfill God's plan. The request, "Give us this day our daily bread" (verse 11), assumes the requester is doing what he can to produce and earn his daily bread. He is not just sitting still, waiting for the bread to somehow be handed to him. Receiving forgiveness of sins (verse 12) also depends upon whether we do our part—forgiving others. Similarly, the petition, "Lead us not into sore trial," assumes the person praying is diligently straightening out his own life so God might not have to straighten it out for him.

When God allows sore trials to come upon us it is for our own good—to wake us up, to teach us lessons. If we are learning those lessons by ourselves, we are much further ahead. Notice how the verb form of the same word we are translating "sore trial" is used in II Corinthians 13:5: "Examine [test! try!] yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves."

Then God won't have to do it for you!

Jeremiah recognized that God does find it necessary to try his people. He prayed, "O Lord, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing" (Jeremiah 10:24). In other words, he asked to be corrected, but preferably without being brought into overly severe trial.

The Bible refers to hard trials as "fiery trials" (I Peter 4:12). Being sorely tried is not naturally enjoyable. As Peter wrote to Christians: "... now for a season, *if need be*, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations [sore trials]" (I Peter 1:6). However, he points out in the next verse, the results of being so tried are "more precious than of gold."

Though we may be severely tried, we have the promise that "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted [tried] above that ye are able; but will with the temptation [sore trial]

also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13).

"All things work together for good to them that love God," the Bible asserts (Romans 8:28). Realizing that God's will is always best, James exhorted: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations [sore trials]" (James 1:2).

When Trials Involve Temptations

Many have wondered about Genesis 22:1, which says, "And it came to pass . . . that God did tempt Abraham." What follows is the familiar account of Abraham preparing to sacrifice his son Isaac on an altar in obedience to God's instructions. God wanted to test Abraham's faith. There was no question of lust here, for we have already seen that "God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man [with evil]" (James 1:13).

A better rendering of Genesis 22:1 is, "And it came to pass . . . that God did prove [or sorely try] Abraham."

Sometimes, however, temptation to do evil does become a part of sore trial. This is illustrated by what happened to ancient Israel. God had told them to "remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove ["sorely try"]—same word wrongly translated "tempt" in Genesis 22:1] thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no" (Deuteronomy 8:2).

Here again God was doing the testing. By this time sin *was* involved, for the Israelites rebelled against their Creator. They yielded to temptation to sin. Where did the temptation come from? From God? No. God does not tempt to do evil. Where then? From their own lusts, because "every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin . . ." (James 1:14-15).

God did not test them with more than they could have withstood—if they had been willing to do their part.

To make matters worse, human lusts are constantly stirred up by Satan and his influence. He is called the "tempter" (Matthew 4:3). He tempts to do evil (Mark 1:13). This brings us to another facet of the meaning of Jesus' teaching.

"Lead us not into sore trial" is immediately followed by "but deliver us from evil," or as it can be translated, "but deliver us from the evil one." As Jesus was instructing his disciples how to pray, the occasion was fresh in his mind when he himself had been led into hard testing when the devil tried, literally, to tempt him to do evil. "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted [sorely tried] of the devil" (Matthew 4:1). Here again sore trial included temptation to do evil. But the temptation was of the devil, not of God.

In this fateful encounter with Satan, the ruler of the present world, Jesus prevailed. He overcame Satan, thus qualifying to be King over the earth.

We must overcome Satan too, though God does not permit the devil to try us as severely as he tried Jesus. Whenever we do not resist Satan (James 4:7), we provide opportunity for him to tempt us (I Corinthians 7:5). It is even possible for a church member to so neglect putting sin out of his life that, to wake him up, God will give him over to Satan for some sore trying. That's what the apostle Paul referred to when he instructed the church at Corinth under his charge to "deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (I Corinthians 5:5).

We should pray that we do not have to be tried in that way.

God is working out his purpose in our lives. He tests and tries us as needed to develop righteous character in us. The more perfect God's Spirit in us enables us to become, the fewer trials will be necessary. When we pray, "Lead us not into sore trial, but deliver us from evil," we are asking God to perfect us and bring us to the place where such trials are not needed. □

RUSSIA IN PROPHECY

by Herbert W. Armstrong

MANY WHO claim to be authorities on prophecy assure people a war involving Russia and the United States, Canada and England is prophesied in Ezekiel 38.

They understand that the United States, Great Britain and other democracies of northwestern Europe are the nations descended from the so-called lost Ten Tribes.

Therefore, they conclude, the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 foretells a military invasion of the North American continent from the Soviet Union.

But this is *not* what the prophecy says.

What Ezekiel 38 does foretell is truly astounding. Let's understand it.

The Time Sequence of the Prophecy

Ezekiel's message is for our day—a prophetic warning for America and Britain, *now!*

To understand the time, the place and all the facts of the prophecy of Ezekiel 38, we need to begin at the first chapter of Ezekiel's prophecy and read the book clear through.

When we do this, we find a time sequence flowing through the book.

Let us skim through it very briefly.

Notice, in the very first verse, Ezekiel was among the Jewish captives who had been taken in the captivity of Judah to the river Chebar. It was in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity that this prophecy began coming to Ezekiel through visions.

It is a prophecy. Ezekiel was being shown things far into the future.

Notice, the prophecy was inspired and written *after* Judah's captivity began—more than 130 years after the House of Israel had been taken captive to Assyria. The advance guard of the House of Israel already had begun to arrive in the British Isles before Ezekiel's vision and writing.

Yet, Ezekiel is a prophet to the House of Israel. (Not to be confused with the modern Jewish nation of Israel. These Jewish people are actually descendants of ancient Judah.) His prophecy applies to the far future—*not* to the captivity of ancient Israel, which had occurred more than 130 years before he wrote.

Notice Ezekiel's message, a prophecy for the future, is primarily for the House of Israel (Ezekiel 2:3; 3:1, 4-7).

In chapter 3, beginning verse 17, Ezekiel is set a watchman to warn the House of Israel.

Message to Israel, Not Judah

Notice! Beginning chapter 3: After the prophet "eats the

roll"—that is, receives the prophetic warning message—he is to "go speak unto the house of Israel"—not to the Jews among whom he dwelt.

Remember he is already among the captives of Judah. But the Eternal says to him, "Go, get thee unto the house of Israel" (verse 4).

Surely we do not need to pause here to explain to readers that the twelve tribes of Israel had long before this divided into *two nations*—the ten tribes being the House of ISRAEL, while Judah, Benjamin and Levi composed the House of Judah, who, ONLY, WERE "Jews." For the benefit of those readers who do not understand this vital distinction—a veritable "key" without which the prophecies cannot be opened to understanding—the special book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* is available and upon request, a copy will be sent free.

The Jewish people of today are descended from the House of Judah. But the white, English-speaking people of the United States and Great Britain are the leading "birthright" tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, heads of the ten-tribed House of Israel.

Ezekiel's message is for our day—and it is, therefore, *a message for America and Britain, NOW!*

Notice chapter 4. The prophet

is to place before him a tile, and trace upon it the city of Jerusalem, and lay siege against it. The war pictured was against Jerusalem, capital of Judah. But "this" (verse 3) "shall be a sign to the house of Israel." Then follows the well-known key to the "day for a year" method of reckoning prophecy.

Continue chapter 5: "For," comes the warning message from the Eternal, "thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel" (verse 4). Notice, this is to portray vividly a warning of some FUTURE destruction upon the House of Israel! Not upon Judah, already largely conquered by Nebuchadnezzar. But upon Israel—the ten-tribed nation who had gone into its first and original captivity 130 long years before! The warning is not of the captivity already so far back in history. It says "thereof shall a fire COME" upon Israel! It is a prophecy relating to a FUTURE destruction and captivity.

No such destruction and captivity has ever *yet* come to the House of Israel since this was written. Therefore it is still in the future—IN OUR TIME. It is a warning to Britain and America—NOW!

A Captivity Yet Future

Notice more of this warning:

"A third part of thee [America-Britain] shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds [in captivity being removed from our own land and scattered over the world] . . ." (verse 12).

Coming to chapter 6, the local scene of the vision shifts to the mountainous land of ancient Israel, in the Middle East—but the message is for AMERICA AND BRITAIN, today.

Will we heed it? God help us to wake up!

Listen: "Behold I, even I," says the Eternal God (verse 3), "will bring a sword [invasion] upon you, and I will destroy your high

places. . . . And I will lay the dead carcasses of the children of ISRAEL before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars. In all your dwellingplaces the cities *shall be laid waste* [nuclear bombing]. . . . And ye shall know that I am the Lord" (verses 5-7).

Just a small remnant shall escape and be spared (verse 8). These are described in Luke 21:36.

Continue: "Thus saith the Lord God. . . . Alas for all the evil abominations of [not Judah, but] the house of Israel! for they shall [not *did*, in the captivity 130 years before Ezekiel wrote, but *shall*] fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence" (verse 11).

The Time Is Yet Future

This is not a popular message. You probably have never heard it before. The preachers and teachers of prophecy almost unanimously will rise up to deny this warning message—to apply it to a different time or people. But the warning is from the Eternal God, *and it is sure!* The reader will do well to heed.

Notice the time. It's important.

"All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water" (chapter 7, verse 17). "Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand. . . . Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: and they shall be afraid. . ." (Isaiah 13:6-8). Plainly, the TIME is the "Day of the Lord"—yet in *the immediate future!*

Continue: "They shall cast their silver into the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the WRATH OF THE LORD. . ." (Ezekiel 7:19). Now compare that with Zephaniah 1:14-15, 17-18: "The great day of the Lord is near. . . . That day is a day of wrath. . . . And I [the Eternal] will bring distress upon men. . . . Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's

wrath. . ." Both are speaking of the same time—a time shortly ahead of us now, in this present generation!

"Wherefore," continues verse 24 (Ezekiel 7), "I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: and I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease. . . . DESTRUCTION cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none. . . . then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest" (verses 25-26).

Yes, when this comes, our people finally will cry out for a true prophet or minister of the Eternal God—but it will be too late! For then shall have come the time spoken of by the prophet Amos, when there shall be a FAMINE OF hearing the words of the Eternal—(Amos 8:11)—an end of true Gospel preaching. Already the people and their paid ministers have turned their eyes and ears from God's law.

Notice chapter 11 of Ezekiel's prophecy. It is a message addressed to the House of ISRAEL (verse 5). ". . . I will bring a sword upon you, saith the Lord God. And I will bring you out of the midst thereof, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgments among you. Ye shall fall by the sword. . ." (verses 8-10). WHEN? It is future from the time Ezekiel wrote, and it has not yet happened since then. GOD SAYS IT WILL HAPPEN!

Chapter 12, verse 11: ". . . they shall remove and go into captivity." It is yet future—and it is the House of Israel. Not Judah.

When? "And they shall know I am the Lord, when I shall scatter them among the nations, and disperse them in the countries" (verse 15). The expression "They shall know that I am the Lord" is used repeatedly through the book of Ezekiel—always referring to the time of the Second Coming of Christ, and Israel's final restoration back to her original land. Many prophecies show that the modern nations descended from

ancient Israel are to be scattered in this latter-day captivity *when* Christ comes to restore them back to that land.

People Won't Believe It

Always the true prophets and ministers of God have stood almost alone and opposed by the overwhelming majority in Israel. That is Israel's history of old. It is true today.

The 13th chapter shows the declaration of the popular ministry of this day in Israel—in America and Britain.

"Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel. . . . Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord" (verses 2-5). It is speaking of the soon-coming "Day of the Lord"—not some ancient event! ". . . they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace. . ." (verse 10).

Our nations were not chosen for special favors. We were chosen for a service and righteous life we have failed to perform. Every time Israel of old disobeyed God, departed from his laws and ways and went into the pagan customs (as we have done today, actually deceiving ourselves by calling those customs "Christian"), they were invaded and conquered. Has God changed?

Ezekiel catalogs our sins—our customs and ways that seem right in *our* eyes but which are contrary to God's laws and an abomination in his sight. Some of them he mentions in the 8th chapter.

In chapter 22: "Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths," says the Eternal (verse 8). ". . . thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord. . . . And I will [not did, but *will*] scatter thee among the heathen, and disperse thee in the countries, and will consume thy

filthiness out of thee" (verses 12, 15).

"Her priests [prophetically speaking of modern Israel] have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean [Lev. 11], and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them" (verse 26). Our people today can't see where these things make any difference. But Ezekiel says the preachers have deceived the people, and led them astray. They have condoned all these things, until the people have lost God's pure TRUTH!

At this point, Ezekiel digresses through eight chapters, 25 through 32, to prophesy against a number of foreign gentile nations who have come in direct contact with Israel. In Ezekiel 33:11, the prophet returns to pleading with the House of Israel. "Turn ye, turn ye," God pleads, "from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Here, too, Ezekiel is again set a watchman to WARN ISRAEL—AMERICA AND BRITAIN TODAY—at the time when this prophesied foreign sword is coming. Ezekiel wrote the message—but it remains for us to whom God has revealed it today to actually shout and proclaim it to the people. God help us to be faithful in this solemn and grave commission!

In the 34th chapter, God tells him to prophesy against the ministers of our land. They have fed themselves and not the flocks. They have preached what people wanted to hear (II Timothy 4:3-4) in order to get their salaries.

The Coming of Christ!

And now the Eternal inspires the prophet to come to the solution.

"Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock. . . . Behold I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. . . . and will deliver them out of all places where they have been

scattered in the cloudy and dark day [the DAY OF THE LORD—yet future]. And I will . . . gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them [spiritual food] upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country" (Ezekiel 34:10-13).

Christ himself—for he is the Eternal—shall come and rescue our people, not only from the coming captivity and dispersion, but from the false Babylonish teachings that have been palmed off to our people cloaked as "Christianity." He will then set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people Israel (Isaiah 11:11). The spiritual blindness shall then be removed, and all Israel shall be saved! (See Romans 11:25-26.) The kingdom of God shall be established. Men shall be tired of their own ways, and seek God's ways—and his law shall go forth of Zion (Micah 4:2-3). And the nations shall find PEACE!

In the 36th chapter, the Eternal addresses the House of Israel: "Prophesy unto the mountains of Israel. . . . Thus saith the Lord God to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes, and to the cities that are forsaken. . . . But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come. . . . And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded: and I will multiply upon you man and beast. . ." (verses 1, 4, 8, 10-11).

Yes, the House of Israel is pictured returning to its original land, *not* from a condition of wealth and prosperity from Britain and America—not in the position of a people victorious in a great world war—but as a slave and captive people, scattered through the nations of the world. All prophecies picturing this rescue and regathering of Israel at Christ's coming give us the same

prophetic picture. Why be blinded to the truth?

Both Houses of Israel United

In chapter 37, the first part pictures the "valley of dry bones." This represents (verse 11), the whole House of Israel—including Judah. It has a dual significance. It pictures the rebirth and resurrection of Israel as a nation, from captivity, dispersion and slavery.

It pictures, too, the literal bodily resurrection of the individual who has long since died, after which the knowledge of the truth—spiritual knowledge—shall be revealed, and he shall be converted, and God's Spirit shall enter within, and he shall be saved. (For more information on this vital point in God's Master Plan, write for our free article, "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?")

Beginning with the 15th verse, the illustration of the two sticks shows the two houses, or nations, Israel and Judah, being once more united, under Christ at his Second Coming, in the land of Israel.

"... Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel [from the British Isles and America—from a position of wealth and affluence as recent victors in the world war? No, but] from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions. . . . And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt . . . they, and their children, and their children's children *for ever*. . . . Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an EVER-LASTING COVENANT . . ."—the

NEW COVENANT (verses 21-23, 25-26).

And Now Comes Gog

Notice, now the story flow—the time sequence: The prophet has carried us through the sins of his people, the coming invasion and captivity and dispersion, and the coming of Christ as deliverer to restore the fortunes of Israel. We have come to the time when both the Houses of Israel and Judah shall be reunited into one nation, rescued from captivity and dispersion and regathered again in their land, once again made prosperous, having learned our lesson, now living God's way, under his laws, enjoying his richest blessings, both material and spiritual!

And now we come to chapter 38. This chapter finds Israel restored in her land—"the land that is brought back from the sword" (verse 8). We find Israel now at rest, dwelling safely, totally unprepared for war—having "neither bars nor gates" (verse 11), in the desolate places of the land of Israel, now inhabited (verse 12)—yes, inhabited (same verse) by the people who are once again restored to great material prosperity—"which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land."

Notice it!

This prophecy does not picture the British Isles and America. It pictures the Holy Land. It pictures all twelve tribes having been taken there from a dispersion and captivity and slavery, gathered out of the nations where we had been scattered, now once again rich and increased with goods.

Notice it: the time of this prophecy is after—not before, but AFTER the Second Coming of Christ—after the great Deliverer has come and rescued our people and restored us to the land of Israel—AFTER Israel and Judah are reunited. Certainly the "latter years" (verse 8).

The place of this battle is not Britain or America—it is the Holy Land. ". . . thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the

mountains of Israel, which have been always waste [or "once a perpetual waste"—Moffatt translation]" (verse 8). The "mountains of Israel" is an expression used all through the book of Ezekiel, and always refers to the literal mountainous land of ancient Israel.

Our people shall have regained so much wealth that Gog and allies shall come to "take a spoil" (verse 13), "to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil."

Christ's Reign Contested

But this very fact—that this invasion will not come until *after* the Second Coming of Christ—will seem preposterous to many, at first thought.

That is because we have been accustomed merely to assume things that are not true. We have blindly assumed that when Christ comes, there will be no opposition. Every person and power on earth, we have thought, will simply submit meekly and instantly to him and his power. But that is not true!

The gentile nations understandably shall not submit until forced to. The final restoration of the Roman Empire shall be subdued and conquered at a battle commonly called "Armageddon." But the populous nations of Eurasia who know not God or Christ, shall still have to be brought to submission.

Not Previously Held Accountable

All nations, except those springing from ancient Israel, have been cut off from God, by God's own decree, since the time of Adam and Eve. These nations are not now being judged.

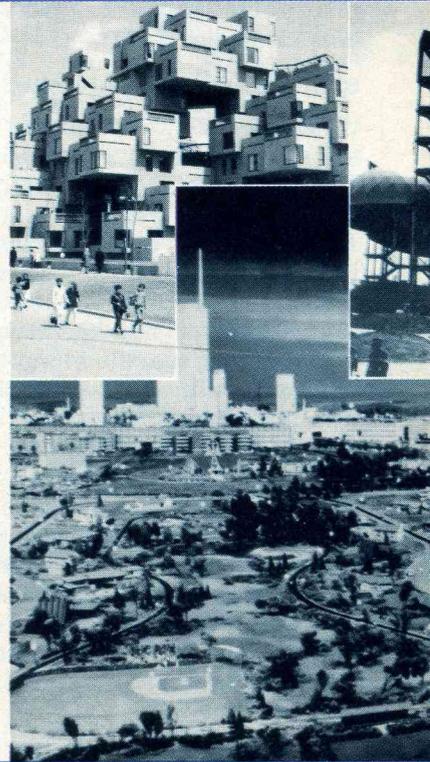
Jesus Christ emphasized this when he said, "No man can come to me, except the Father . . . draw him . . ." (John 6:44). Other nations have never known much if anything about God. In ancient Egypt they worshiped their fictitious gods. The ancient Greeks and Romans and the peoples of Asia, including Russia, had their idol gods.

They had no salvation—but
(Continued on page 26)

Sneak Preview: THE CITIES OF TOMORROW

by Jeff Calkins

And now for something completely different! Instead of piles of garbage, crime, fear, slums, rot and decay—splendiferous beauty, magnificent gardens, clean and secure city streets, inspiring architecture. The cities of tomorrow—what tremendous places in which to live!



YOU ALREADY KNOW that most of the cities of this world are a botch. They range from the barely livable to the insufferable. They are, as they were recently called by a group of Roman Catholic priests, “the pits.”

So instead of getting depressed with the squalor of today’s cities, let’s dwell on something more pleasant. Let’s cheer up with the GOOD NEWS of tomorrow’s cities!

Why Cities?

God has revealed in the Bible that *life will be better* in his soon-coming Kingdom:

“And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I am the Lord” (Ezekiel 36:11).

And cities are absolutely necessary for a good life. A famous pagan philosopher—wiser than many today—once said that men

came to the city to live, but they stayed to live the good life.

Concerts, museums, art galleries, sports events, restaurants, theaters, clubs, libraries—all require a certain physical closeness of people. Imagine trying to prepare a concert, or any other aspect of the performing arts, if people are separated by vast distances with limited means of communication! You need to get people together for rehearsals and have things such as costumes and musical instruments easily obtainable. If everyone involved lived in the country and didn’t have a next-door neighbor for miles and miles—putting on such a concert can be unthinkable. Cultural and sports events require a certain centralization—they must be easily accessible to both those who promote them as well as those who attend them.

If you want to know about a civilization or a culture—look at its cities. Cities carry on the activities that make life human and joyous—or squalid and fearful. Whether people can enjoy parks, sports and restaurants and theaters—or dash furtively in fear—depends on city life. In God’s world, people will be

able to enjoy these human, cultural activities—concerts, sports, performing arts—and that means cities whose inhabitants have all found the way to peace and harmony.

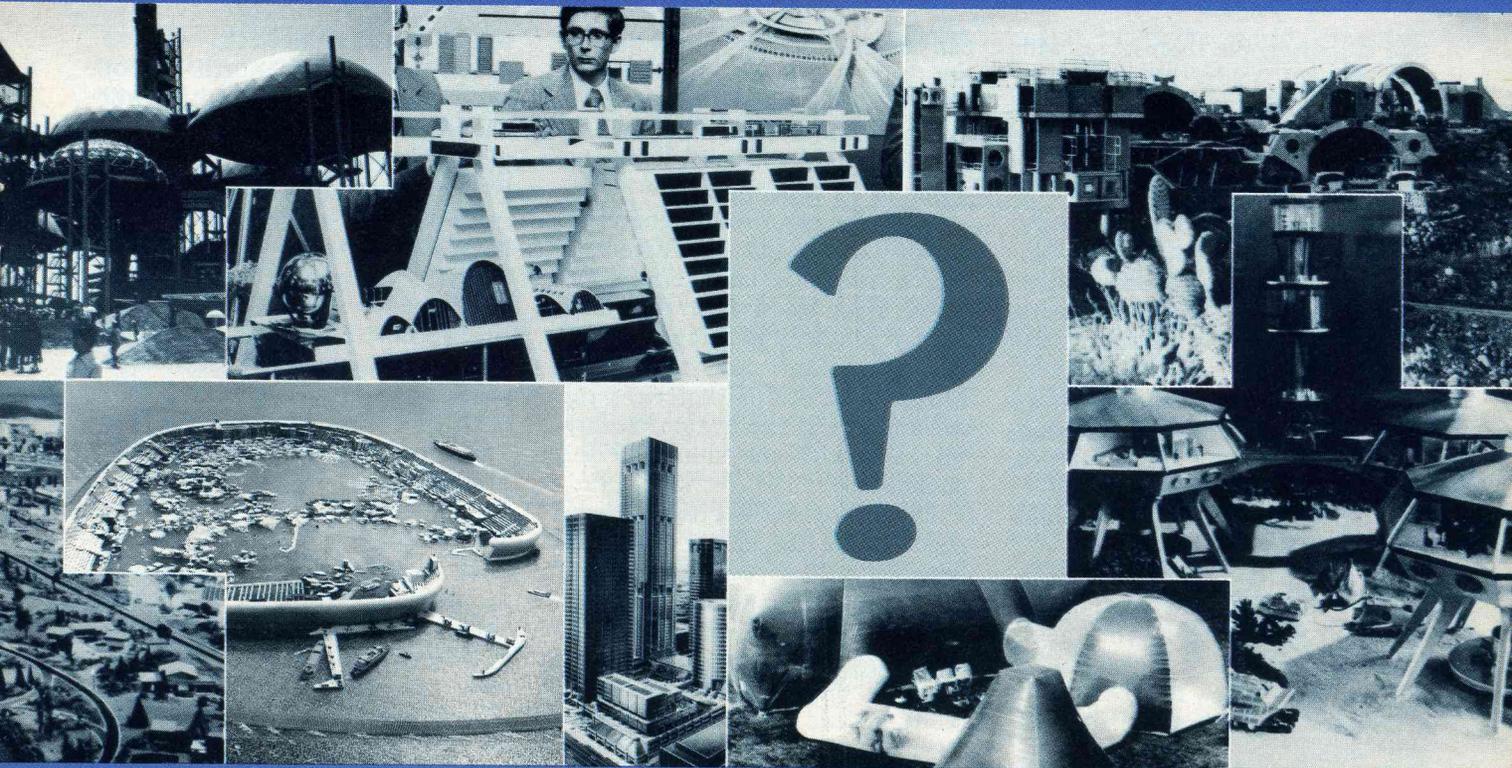
The Bible clearly prophesies the existence—and magnificence—of cities in the world tomorrow.

“... Thus saith the Lord of hosts; My cities *through prosperity* shall yet be spread abroad . . .” (Zechariah 1:17).

There will be numerous *cities*: “For God will save Zion, and will build the *cities* of Judah: that they may dwell there, and have it in possession” (Psalm 69:35).

And the cities of tomorrow will be built from the bottom up! They won’t have to compromise because of what has already been built—the builders of the cities of God’s world will have a free hand!

Such is the silver lining of the upheaval and destruction just before Christ’s return. “For thou shalt . . . make the *desolate cities to be inhabited*” (Isaiah 54:3). “And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desola-



tions of many generations” (Isaiah 61:4) “. . . the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded” (Ezekiel 36:10).

Remember, this will be done under the supervision of divine *spirit beings*. The human builders will not make the major mistakes of today—or throw up jerry-built, bland, cheap, slipshod buildings. Tomorrow’s cities will be “sparkling jewels”—places in which God’s concern for beauty and harmony will be reflected.

Safe Streets

If most of us could eliminate just one blight from today’s cities, it would be *crime*. Crime is the single most oppressive factor about today’s cities. Today, in the United States and Canada, at least, most people with any money choose to live as far away as possible from the inner city. Largely, this is because of crime. No one can deny that the great flight to the suburbs from the cities that has taken place since World War II was largely caused by *fear of crime*.

But tomorrow will be different. People will be able to enjoy benefits of city life without having to

live at a physical distance from those benefits:

“. . .they shall *dwell* safely, and *none* shall make them afraid” (Ezekiel 34:28).

In tomorrow’s cities, old people will be able to go about their business with safety and dignity—they will not live in terror from street punks as they do today. Notice this beautiful prophecy:

“Thus saith the Lord of hosts: There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age” (Zechariah 8:4).

No longer will elderly people have to live in fear—barely able to get out and shop because of the threat of mugging or assault!

“Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders . . .” (Isaiah 60:18).

Just think! Being able to walk a city street at night! In many of today’s cities it would be a risk. The pleasure of walking a city street at night is something that is a luxury if you can get away with it: in tomorrow’s world—an everyday occurrence.

THE CITIES of the future, as seen by today’s planners, all seem to have a science-fiction quality to them—emphasizing sterile, tasteless buildings. The Bible’s emphasis for tomorrow’s cities, however, is on changing people, not buildings.

Photos by (top, from left) Expo '67, Randall Cole, Wide World, Wide World. Bottom: Disney, Pilkington, Wide World, Wide World, Wide World

One of the reasons cities will be safe in tomorrow’s world is the lack of intense concentration of people. There will be no ghettos. No slums. No blighted “other side of the tracks.” No one will have to live in a city if he doesn’t want to! No one will be trapped in a crime-infested inner city slum!

In tomorrow’s world, every family will have a homestead outside of the city. (See generally Leviticus chapter 25, which describes the homestead system.) Say a person has agricultural skills or talents. In today’s world, such a person, if in a city, might find himself frustrated. In tomorrow’s world, such a person will be at his family’s farm and live a good and prosperous life in the country.

But the big reason cities will be

safe is that people themselves will be changed! A city where everyone observed God's Ten Commandments would be a wonderful place in which to live. No lying. No killing, assault, burglary—or family breakup. No illegitimacy nor pornography nor drugs. No store owners having to fear losing their lives in a robbery. Mothers not needing to fear for the safety of their children.

God will change the basic hostile, aggressive, selfish orientation that is now part of man's nature into something totally different—into God's own loving, out-going, giving nature:

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them" (Ezekiel 36:25-27).

In the cities of tomorrow, people will resist the temptation to degenerate. They will take pride in their homes and families. They will keep their homes and property in good condition. They will treat their neighbors with courtesy and respect. Children just won't wander around, unsupervised, getting into trouble. They will respect other people's property.

Physical Outlay

Tomorrow's cities will probably resemble today's smaller towns and better suburbs than they will great, suffocating megacities like New York or Tokyo. Skyscrapers probably won't be needed in most cities because there will be more land available on which to build. At Christ's return, the physical geography of the earth will be altered. Land now underwater will be raised. Mountains will be made lower, deserts reclaimed.

Skyscrapers are generally a product of expensive land. If you

can afford a little, you build up, not out. In tomorrow's world, there will be plenty of space to expand. Buildings won't have to be built umpteen stories high in order to be economical.

In the cities of today, there are usually slums and nice areas. In North America, the inner city has often become a concrete and asphalt jungle, and things get better the farther out you go. In Europe and Latin America, the central core is the livable, beautiful part, with the slums on the outside.

In tomorrow's cities, there need not be the sharp difference between where people work and people live. Of course, those who want to live in cities will be able to commute to their family homesteads when they want. But there really should be no reason why city neighborhoods can't offer employment, a spacious place to live and cultural activities within the same general area.

Today, many people cannot afford to live in "good" (meaning less crime-ridden) sections of cities because of high property values in downtown areas. Only prosperous businesses can afford to locate there. But in a world of low-priced land, and nonpolluting, clean industry, people could enjoy the advantages of being able to live, shop and work in a *safe* place—without a lot of driving or commuting. To be sure, there will be travel in the world tomorrow. But people will no longer have to spend years of their lives staring at the rear end of an exhaust pipe because the only relatively safe places in which to live or shop are many miles away from where they must work.

Or consider a small thing like parks. In today's cities, parks are often far and few between, and no sane person would dare use very many of them because they are places of mugging and rape.

But in God's world, the superabundance of land, and the incredible general prosperity will allow cities to support great amounts of greenery. There will be parks. There won't be the des-

perate pressing need to squeeze every last penny's worth out of every last square foot! Cities will be able to afford wide streets with plenty of foliage and immaculately kept up shrubbery.

There is a need most people have for contact with greenery. As the song goes, "In the mountain greenery, where God paints the scenery . . ." Today's cities lack adequate greenery because it costs too much to maintain public parks and trees, because land is so scarce that it must be put to more pressing uses.

No Overcrowding

God does not have anything against large cities, all else being equal. After all, Jerusalem will be a magnificent metropolis, and, after the Millennium, will become the very capital of the universe made new! (Revelation 21:10-27 and chapter 22:1-5.)

Indeed, the scripture indicates that Jerusalem will be an inspiring, bustling, dynamic city with great buildings symbolizing God's own glory:

"Jerusalem is builded as a city that is *compact together* [most probably some form of skyscraper]: whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. For there are set thrones of judgment, and thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces" (Psalm 122:3-7).

But most cities will not be as densely populated as Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a special city, which as God's future headquarters on earth, will require a special magnificence all its own.

God seems to have designed living beings to need a certain amount of open space for its own sake. You probably have heard of the various scientific experiments where rats—when put in crowded conditions—degenerated (if rats can be said to "degenerate"). As one article in *Science News* reported:

“Sexual perversion, irrational and excessive aggression, increased mortality rates, lowered fertility rates, maternal neglect of young, withdrawal and other psychotic behavior—these are among the reactions of rats, monkeys, hares, shrews and fish that have been experimentally forced to live in overcrowded conditions.”

In another study, scientists found that the blood pressure of a prisoner rises immediately when he is taken from his cell and put in a crowded dormitory.

This is why the Bible reveals that cities of the future will be places where the children will play *in the streets*:

“And the streets of the city [Jerusalem] shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof” (Zechariah 8:5).

The clear implication is that there will be large areas of open space between buildings without the vehicular traffic problems of today. In tomorrow’s world, people won’t have to flee to distant suburbs to find a little room to play with their children.

Transportation Solution

Notice also! Jerusalem will be “compacted together” but children will play in the streets. How explain? Such results could not be had without streets that were closed to car or auto traffic! Perhaps there will be cars in the world tomorrow—but they won’t be permitted to pollute and they are not going to clog up city streets!

There will, of course, be major highways (Isaiah 19:23). So there may be cars. But within cities, children will play in the streets—for Jerusalem is a model for the rest of the world. So cities will have just, efficient *working* (not broken down) forms of public transportation: probably something like Disneyland’s People Mover or Monorails.

How Possible?

How will it be possible to have nonpolluting cars? To have cities afford broad, open streets? For each city dweller to have his own

detached house—not some cramped condo?

Because the key curse that forces incredible evils on today’s world will be removed!

When Adam stole from the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden, and set mankind on the wrong course of life, he brought a curse on the earth. The good things of life became *scarce*:

“... cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life” (Genesis 3:17).

Do you want personal mobility? You must have a car. But a car pollutes. Why can’t we have a nonpolluting car? Because the easiest source of energy for a car is derived from oil, and burned oil

“

*The Bible clearly
prophesies the
existence—and
magnificence—of cities
in the world tomorrow.*

”

pollutes! Do you want to live close to your job? In today’s (literally cursed) world—you will probably have to live in a city or its suburbs. But living in a city is expensive. There’s only so much good city space to go around, and the price is bid up.

The point is, after Adam sinned, life became a series of compromises when it comes to material things. You can’t *have* your cake and eat it at the same time. Do you want a quality building? You must pay for it. If you want good food? Time and effort must be spent in its preparation, and someone has to clean up afterward. But life today is so short of time!

Do you want clean air? Are you willing to limit driving? Or limit the use of electricity to get it? In the world Adam bequeathed to his children, there is no such thing as a “free lunch.”

But in God’s world, you can have good things without having to sacrifice other good things: Clean air *and* personal mobility. A spacious place to live with trees and greenery *and* a job close to where you live. Sports and cultural activities close at hand *and* a crime-free neighborhood.

People will be living much longer and the rat race to get ahead economically and socially will vanish.

New Political Leadership

Tomorrow’s cities will have a different kind of mayor. Literally, they won’t be human beings. They will be SPIRIT BEINGS. Because they won’t be human, they won’t be susceptible to graft, greed, corruption or any other of the temptations that befall too many big city mayors. No more bribes. No more policemen “on the take.” No more payoffs, kickbacks or construction contracts to the mayor’s brother-in-law. It will be an era of HONEST government!

Tomorrow’s mayors will have qualified in this life. They will have overcome temptation in this life. They will have proved loyal to God and his government in this life—they will not be untried. And since they will have God’s CHARACTER, their rule will be just. No favoring one group at the expense of another. No “respect of persons”—justice will be “blind.” No petty politics. No more useless municipal boondoggles (wasteful public projects) so someone can feed his ego.

The cities of the world tomorrow will be happy, joyous places in which to live and work. There will be music, sports, art, glorious inspiring architecture; there will be no slums, blight, crime, decay.

Cities will be decent, livable places. That is certain. God will bring it about. What is uncertain, as yet, is whether you will be there. You can be—regardless of your age. You can even be one of the mayors. To learn how, write in for our free reprint article entitled “Prepare to Be a King.” □

RUSSIA

(Continued from page 21)

neither were they “lost”—God himself had cut off the descendants of Adam. They simply were not being JUDGED at all by God—nor are they even yet today. God is not judging them, so why should you or I? Some of us are called now. The world as a whole is not! Those now called to the Church of God are the “first-fruits”—merely the first small “harvest” of spiritual salvation. To all others, God said, in effect, “Go, since you (Adam) have rejected me, my government, my salvation, my revelation of knowledge, GO, form your own gods and your own religions—your own governments—your own fund of knowledge and education.”

And, for nearly 6,000 years, has the world so done!

It is important that you have this information before you read further.

“Gog” Identified

There is general agreement among students of prophecy that “Gog” in the land of “Magog” is the vast regions of northern Eurasia extending from the Baltic to the Pacific. “Meshech” is Moscow, “Tubal” is Tobolsk. The Bible margin says “Prince of Rosh,” which is Russia.

Notice the allies who come with them in this future battle. You will find “Gomer,” “Togarmah,” “Magog,” “Meshech,” “Tubal,” identified in Genesis 10 as the sons of Japheth, father of the yellow races. Ethiopia and Phut (mistranslated Libya) are descended from Ham.

Therefore, this prophecy of Ezekiel 38 shows who shall finally succeed in marshaling peoples of each major race into a gigantic invasion upon our people.

When God rules the world, through Christ—with his chosen people restored to great wealth in the land of Israel, the very center of the land surface of the earth (verse 12, Moffatt translation), this great Eurasian union of

nations shall finally rise up with the most overwhelming armies ever assembled by man!

Their mighty air force in that day will make those of the previous wars look puny. “Thou shalt ascend,” the Eternal says, “and come like a storm [in the air], thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land . . .” (verse 9). There shall be so many planes then that they will hide the sun from the ground below, like a huge dark shadow!

The End of World Conquest

The House of Israel—our peoples—shall not be armed or prepared. “In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?” asks the Eternal. “And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts [due north of the land of ancient Israel], thou, and many people [allies] with thee . . . a mighty army: and thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me [note the purpose], when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes” (verses 14-16).

But our people shall not have to fight in that battle. We shall have learned by then that God fights our battles for us!

“And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face” (verse 18). “So that . . . all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence . . .” (verse 20). It is after Christ’s coming!

“I will summon an utter panic against him [Gog], says the Lord the Eternal, till every man in his host shall draw the sword against his fellow; I will punish him with pestilence and bloodshed, I will rain on him and his hordes and all the nations in his train an overpowering flood, with hailstones, fire, and brimstone. I will let all the nations see my might and dread divinity—to teach them that I am the Eternal” (verses 21-23, Moffatt).

Notice, these heathen nations do not see and recognize the dread divinity, the might and power of the Eternal Christ, even after he has returned. He has to teach them that HE IS THE ETERNAL!

The 39th chapter shows in more detail the result of this great battle, in which Christ, with supernatural power, causes five sixths of these heathen armies to be slain in this battle.

Notice, again, the time: “Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel [Israel and Judah], and will be jealous for my holy name. . . . When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; then shall they KNOW that I AM THE Lord their God . . .”! (Ezekiel 39:25-28.)

Notice again! At Christ’s Second Coming, he shall gather the ten-tribed House of Israel—our British and American people—out of our enemies’ lands, not out of our own land of wealth and power, North America and the British Isles.

But by then, we shall be thoroughly chastened. We shall have learned our lesson. We shall live by GOD’S rules, and obey his law. “. . . for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God” (verse 29).

And then, beginning chapter 40, the remainder of the book of Ezekiel reveals the ideal theocracy—God’s new order of divine government upon earth—the permanent forms and institutions that shall express the ideal relation between God and man.

In the meantime, our job is to WARN America and Britain of what lies ahead. To shout the warning to come out of Babylon (Revelation 18:4), that those who heed may find God *now*—may come under his divine protection (Psalm 91), and by a true Spirit-filled life obedient to GOD’S ways and laws, be prepared to become a ruler or a teacher in Christ’s soon-coming glorious Kingdom! □

The Love that Conquers

FEAR AND

DEPRESSION

by Donald D. Schroeder

Here is the love, the faith, the power that will conquer every anxiety and fear you now have!

THIS is good news! There is a right and happy solution to human fears, to anxieties and mental depression!

False Solutions

Yet, why do so many depend upon temporary or false solutions to their problems?

The right way of dealing with problems and fears is not denying they exist. It is not drowning them in alcohol or drugs. It is not assuaging conscience or feelings of guilt with human-invented personal philosophies.

Nor is the solution to fears, worries and problems, as some religious people emphasize, just "accepting Christ" without facing the causes of depression and anxieties.

The cause of fear and depression is the breaking of God's spiritual laws. The solution is to teach humans how to obey God's spiritual laws, how to develop spiritual-mindedness, the attitudes and power of God, which is the love of God that conquers fear and worry. That love shows humans how to change, bear, escape and conquer problems, fears and worries *in this life* (I Corinthians 10:13).

Jesus Christ promised, "... ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32). He meant that truth—the truth taught in God's Word, the Bible—would open up to human understanding the real cause of human problems. He meant truth would set you free from the consequences of wrong knowledge and ways of thinking. He meant truth would set you free from hopelessness and depression, free from sin.

What, then, is the priceless truth—the good news that will set one free?

The True Gospel!

Jesus came with a message about government—God's government. It is a message about how that government and the *laws* upon which that government is based will be set up on earth. It is a message about how humans may qualify for rule in that government. It is a message about a *way of life*!

The laws of God's government are the laws of true love—the way of giving instead of getting. They generate the love that conquers fear and depression, the love that would, if obeyed, eliminate every evil afflicting mankind today.

God's love is revealed, in broad principles, in the Ten Commandments. Fear and mental depression are caused by breaking God's immutable spiritual—and, possibly, physical—laws!

Fear and depression are caused by wrong values, desires and attitudes. They are caused by wrong ways of thinking and living—the "get" way. The only true solution is to quit breaking God's spiritual and physical laws and start living God's way in all our thoughts and actions.

"There is no fear in [godly] love; but perfect love casteth out fear. . . . He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (I John 4:18).

Many wonder why they don't have that love, even if they want it. Here is why: This love is a product of growing out of wrong ways of living and thinking. No human called from sinful ways develops perfect love all at once. It takes time. But as we grow in God's love, fear and hopelessness diminish.

But there is an even more critical reason why many don't have perfect love. The reason is that God's love is a *spiritual* love—ruled by *spiritual* law (Romans 7:14). It can only be fully ful-

filled by spiritual, not human, love. You weren't born with that love. It must be given to you and developed by supernatural power.

There is something missing in the natural mind of man. Man was born incomplete. He was made to need a vital missing element. What is missing is the Spirit of God. It empowers the human mind to understand and obey God's laws. The natural mind of man—until worked with by the Spirit of God—does not understand that most of its mental and emotional problems are spiritual in nature. The natural mind, by itself, does not understand it is breaking spiritual laws.

The natural human mind is attuned only to physical causes and relationships, to things it can see or feel with the five senses. From this incomplete knowledge humans speculate about the causes of their or others' problems. Many blame their problems and fears totally on others, never on their own weaknesses or wrong habits of living or thinking which, in turn, are caused by a wrong spirit or attitude of mind.

The Bible reveals the *source* of that wrong spirit and attitude. Though some may not believe it, every human mind has been influenced by Satan's evil attitudes. Scripture reveals Satan as "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2-3). His influence permeates the earth. The results of his bombardment of evil moods upon the minds of human beings, moods that fuse into human nature, are listed in Galatians 5:19-21.

Notice these damaging actions and attitudes: fornication, adultery, idolatry, hatred, lust, sorcery, strife, wrath, envying, murders, drunkenness, uncontrolled living and thinking. From these attitudes and ways of living spring fear and depression.

This state of the human mind, called in Scripture the carnal or natural mind, is antagonistic to God's laws and ways (Romans 8:7). It refuses to totally yield and obey God in all things. It reasons

around what God says to do in areas it doesn't want to change. Even true Christians have to work to root out these attitudes from their minds.

What, in contrast, are the fruits of God's Spirit? Scripture again clearly explains: love, joy, peace (including peace of mind), patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, humility (Galatians 5:22-23).

Some totally unconverted persons have, through proper child-rearing, developed some attitudes that are in harmony with some of God's laws, whether they recognize God's laws or not. They reap the automatic blessings in their lives as a result. (See Romans 2:14.)

Love that Conquers Fear

The Bible reveals how mankind ought daily to be living in every sphere of life. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," said Jesus (Matthew 4:4). Jesus was quoting from Deuteronomy, chapter 8, verse 3.

Jesus quoted Leviticus (chapter 19, verse 18) when he said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

You can't love someone unless you know how. God's written words, in Old Testament and New, teach right marital, child-rearing and human relationships. God's Word also gives examples of wrong human relationships, examples of how not to live. Scriptures also teach basic health, financial and agricultural laws for human prosperity and success.

Most important of all, the Scriptures reveal God's awesome purpose for human life—that of developing holy, righteous character. The gospel of the kingdom of God that Jesus preached (Mark 1:14) is the good news about how that character is developed.

The way we achieve that purpose is by having God's Spirit or love in our mind. God's Spirit operates only in accordance with God's laws. It leads to a constructive, positive and upbuilding state

of mind. A human with this mind respects, not degrades, his physical, mental and spiritual potential. He also respects the potential of all other human beings, whether or not they yet understand God's purposes and laws.

God's love has a two-fold thrust. Love first means loving and trusting God. This is summarized in the first four commandments: it means having no other persons or things, as gods, in place of the true God. It means not serving false gods and ideologies. It means not defaming God's name in word or by the way we live. It means respecting the things that are holy to God.

The second thrust of God's law of love is love toward other humans, your neighbors. This is summarized in the last six commandments. It is honoring parents, doing no murder (that includes hatred, which is the spirit of murder), no adultery, no stealing, no lying (or slander or false witness), no coveting things of others. Jesus explained this two-fold thrust of God's law of love in Matthew 22:37-40.

True love, explained the apostle Paul, "works no ill to his neighbor." Of course not, because God's love "is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10).

God's love is not the way of hate, competition, lust, envy, jealousy, covetousness, selfishness or getting to exalt the self over others or to put others down. These ways are Satan's ways and attitudes, subtly placed in human minds by a clever devil. They produce the bitter fruits of strife, animosity, fear, guilt, walls of separation and loss of hope.

Obedience to God's laws of love produces the opposite results. Humans with this love have feelings of neither superiority nor inferiority toward others. We obey God's law of love and we no longer try to get the best of others and put them down. We no longer hate or fear those who set themselves up as our enemies or those that don't agree with our values or the way we live. We understand why they think and do what they do. They have been

influenced, though they don't know it, by wrong attitudes or moods from Satan's workings upon their mind, or by wrong cultural values, or wrong experiences derived from this devil-led world.

We recognize we couldn't see God's ways either except for God's mercy to us. And we realize if we had others' circumstances or experiences, our attitudes and problems could be similar or worse. Instead we have hope for all who sin in ignorance. We understand all humanity will eventually be corrected in God's own time and plan. Until then, we are instructed to do good to all men, not evil.

But true love commands us to go beyond this. We are to pray for those who hate or abuse us. We understand we can't argue anyone into conversion. That calling can only come from God (John 6:44). We pray that God will work with an antagonist's mind according to his will and wisdom because we can't always fully understand how to do that ourselves in the most effective or best way.

We also pray we won't set up stumblingblocks about God's way by wrong actions, attitudes or words on our part. These instructions in living are taught in Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 12:17-21 and Galatians 6:10.

When we understand God's love, we realize we also are imperfect. We, too, have wrong ideas, feelings, attitudes and habits to overcome. We don't exalt ourselves as great persons. We realize any true good or ability in us has come from God.

But we know God's love is also powerful toward us. Though we fall short in many areas of life—yes, even succumb to fear and depression on occasion—we have God and his mighty spiritual resources—*faith, hope* and *love*—to help us overcome.

Why don't more experience that mighty power and help?

The answer is sin, the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4). Sin cuts us off from understanding God and utilizing his

help. Sin against God and fellow-man hinders our prayers from being heard, unless and until we repent (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Incredible Relationship

Most humans have been blinded to the incredible relationship totally yielded persons could have with God.

That awesome relationship is a loving father-son or father-daughter relationship. "Wherefore come out from among them [sinful ways] . . . and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Corinthians 6:17-18; see also I John 3:1).

God can be a person's literal spiritual father. This begetting and sonship comes after God's calling, our true repentance and baptism. "No man can come unto me except the Father . . . draw him . . ." said Jesus (John 6:44).

These called and yielded persons are then in a covenant relationship, which is also a family relationship with God. They are potential members of the God Family!

God's part of the covenant is to be helper, provider, corrector and deliverer. That is what his name means—the Almighty, the All-Bountiful! The One who leads and guides! The One who delivers from evil!

" . . . my God shall supply all your *need* according to his riches in glory," amplified the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:19). God supplies true needs, not wrong wants or desires—things we shouldn't have or should wait for.

The converted human's part is to be obedient to all of God's ways, living by faith and strengthening that faith by asking God for physical and spiritual needs daily (Matthew 6:7-15).

But we must have our priorities straight. " . . . seek ye *first* the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: and all these things [food, clothing, shelter, etc.] shall be added unto you." " . . . for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things" (Matthew 6:33, 32).

Millions don't receive answers to their prayers because they don't put their *spiritual* needs **FIRST!** They are only concerned with their own selfish physical wants and desires, not in preparing for God's kingdom or serving others.

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by *prayer* and *supplication* with *thanksgiving* let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all [natural human] understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus," instructed the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:6-7, RSV).

Many fail to receive the help they need because they are *not thankful* for the blessings they have. Others fail to solve their problems and needs because of lack of a positive attitude and diligent effort.

Jesus taught those who would yield to God, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7).

When one applies the laws of success—among them drive, resourcefulness and perseverance—he will succeed in what really counts. These laws are explained in our free booklet *The Seven Laws of Success*, written by Herbert W. Armstrong.

God has immense spiritual resources to help you solve your problems and fears!

God will work through his Spirit and his Word, the Bible, to encourage, correct and empower you to live rightly and solve your problems—if you repent of breaking his law and totally yield to him. " . . . this is the man to whom I will look, he that is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word" (Isaiah 66:2, RSV).

God promises he will liberally give wisdom and "upbraid not"—but we must ask in faith, believing God's promise (Proverbs 2:6, James 1:5).

God knows no one can grow out of fear and with unforgiven guilt hanging over their head. God promises to forgive every sin,

if we repent truly and turn from sin (I John 2:1-2).

Once we have done this, we must go on, "... forgetting those things [sins and mistakes] which are behind, and reaching forth unto the things [spiritual goals and godly character] that are before" (Philippians 3:13).

You may feel you made some big mistakes in life. What's wrong with admitting you're not perfect? No one else is either! You can repent. God will forgive you. Life is a learning matter. Learn by your mistakes. Don't let them destroy you.

Right now maybe you or a loved one is sick with a serious illness. God can intervene and heal. But if God doesn't choose at this moment to intervene to restore full recovery, is this life all there is? No, thank God there is a resurrection of hope for all who have been called and faithful ("Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints"—Psalm 116:15).

But there is more good news. There is also hope for those who never had their minds opened to understand God's ways. You don't have to endlessly grieve over the death of a young person cut off early in life, or that of a loved one who never had God's calling to comprehend God's laws and ways.

If you really understand God's great Master Plan, you know all will be resurrected and given an opportunity to repent, overcome themselves and enter God's kingdom. Our free reprint "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?" explains this great hope.

Tap God's Spiritual Power

"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help..." said King David (Psalm 146:5).

God reveals his hand is not shortened that he cannot intervene in our lives to help us with our problems. It is our sins, our lack of faith and willingness to obey his ways—it is our wrong priorities that cut us off from God and his powerful help and intervention—until we repent (Isaiah 59:1-2).

God wants those he calls now to start living by his spiritual laws of love to solve their present problems and fears in life.

The apostle Peter taught Christians to cast "all your care upon him [God], for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7).

The Bible reveals God is the God of peace, the One who leads and guides and heals his people. He is the God of wisdom and understanding, the God of mercy and forgiveness, the God who gives victory over death, who offers hope to those who have never known hope. "I [God] dwell... with him who is of a... humble spirit... to revive the heart of the contrite" (Isaiah 57:15, RSV).

These are the spiritual resources and power that the god of this world—Satan (II Corinthians 4:4)—has blinded most of humanity from understanding or believing. And why? So they won't grasp the great purpose of their lives. So they can't experience the power of God to change their lives according to God's will. So they won't have real hope and faith in this world of failing hopes and immense difficulties.

We have our part to do. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." "A sound heart [or mind] is the life of the flesh..." "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (Proverbs 4:23, 14:30, 25:28). We must build and strengthen right character.

But the Bible gives us another warning. "... try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets [influenced by spirits from Satan] are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1).

How can you tell God's Spirit and teaching from a false spirit or teaching? God's Spirit leads one to obey God's laws. It leads one to *live the kind of life Jesus Christ lived!*

We start to conquer fear and worry by turning from the thinking and living that causes our fears and worries. We then ask God for forgiveness and mercy for our sins and weaknesses, ask-

ing him to "put a new and right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10, RSV). We then exercise that spirit, develop that attitude—which is the right way we should be thinking and living—even in the face of difficulties or wrong attitudes of others.

We build confidence and faith in God by drawing close to God in daily prayer and study of God's Word. "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you..." admonishes James 4:8 (RSV). We must act on what we know God wants us to do, having *faith* that God will work out what we need in our lives.

This growth process is summed up in II Peter 1:5-7. God inspired the apostle Paul to write to remind true Christians, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of *power*, and of *love* and of a *sound mind*" (II Timothy 1:7).

Ahead for You—Growing Faith?

We are nearing the end of this age of human misrule. Satan knows the end of his 6,000 years of sway and deception is close at hand. Great difficulties and trials are prophesied to try all humans that dwell on the earth.

God has chosen to allow this suffering to show rebellious mankind the horrendous end results of breaking his laws. But the good news is, God reveals a way for the world ultimately to escape these afflictions and fears.

Before humanity would destroy itself from the earth, Jesus Christ will return to restore God's government on earth and usher in world peace. A shattered earth and broken humanity will need healing of body, mind and spirit.

God will then fulfill the prophecy: "The Lord builds up Jerusalem... He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:2-3, RSV).

Christ, then, as he does now, will offer to yielded humans the ultimate solution for fear and depression: "... ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32), and "... men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1). □

WHAT PRICE YOUR BIRTHRIGHT?

by Sheila Graham

Women have had their traditional responsibilities of homemaking downgraded and devalued. Now they are out in vast numbers to prove their worth—but at what cost?

OUT OF the throes of inferiority a growing number of women are turning their backs on hearth and home. They are reaching out through a myriad diversified fields and occupations to prove their worth—but at what cost?

The undermining of the family!

And that is the admitted goal of a few zealots who feel women should be “freed” from the patriarchal nuclear family, who feel that *society*—not the family—should be more responsible for the care and development of children.

But not all working mothers are women's libbers—most women do not automatically agree with the so-called utopian social changes fostered by the feminists among us. Many women are forced to work in support of their family situations.

Today's Crisis

Families, today, often find themselves in precarious situations



Guy Gillette—Photo Researchers, Inc.

TODAY'S licensed day-care facilities do not begin to provide adequate space for the influx of children whose parents both work outside the home.

economically because of illness or death of the father, divorce, loss of work opportunities, high medical expense—situations that demand almost immediate solution. Mother goes to work and the preschool children go into some kind of day-care or nursery-school arrangement. Right or wrong, these are today's emergency tactics.

In the past thirty years, apart from emergencies, the number of women in the labor force has

increased dramatically. Far beyond the emergency needs of their families. Why? Besides more opportunity, a major factor is that women, along with men, have been deluded in this society to believe that *materialistic gain* is the primary measure of success. Working in a home environment does not reap the immediate rewards offered in the business world. And women, just as much as men, want and need to enjoy

feelings of self-worth too often missing in cramped urban apartments.

Also, women's value as the primary nurturers and educators of their children has been downgraded. Psychologists and others use such terms as “smother love” and “momism” to describe motherhood. Women who choose to stay home with their children feel they are expected to apologize for their occupation. Even on legal forms a distinction is made between women who “work” and housewives.

With most of the responsibilities of parenthood thrust upon them and the importance of this

commission devalued and downgraded, the outcome was predictable. The female invasion of the market is one of modern history's great sociological changes.

So who's taking care of the children?

At the time of World War II day care was considered another war-time evil similar to rationing. During the Great Depression (the only other period when there were national childcare policies) nurseries were created to provide jobs for unemployed adults.

Government Steps In

Government bureaucrats and others in the social reform era of the sixties were plagued with the results of the breakdown of social institutions. They reasoned that they needed to push organized day-care services as a means for reform in welfare. Day care for fatherless children—it was hoped—would compensate for faults in the family structure by allowing indigent mothers to work.

Politicians and educators, alarmed by studies showing the relatively lower academic abilities of "culturally deprived" children, began to advocate day care as a means of early child development.

In the United States the Head Start program, for example, was established in 1965 and by 1975 was serving 350,000 children a year. In 1971 the U.S. Congress authorized about two billion dollars for childcare services. But the Comprehensive Child Development Bill was vetoed by then-President Richard Nixon with these words, in part: "...our response... must... be consciously designed to cement the family in its rightful position as the keystone of our civilization... Good public policy requires that we enhance rather than diminish both parental authority and parental involvement with children..."

"...for the federal government to plunge headlong financially into supporting child development would commit the vast moral authority of the national government to the side of com-

munal approaches to child rearing over against the family-centered approach.

"This President, this government, is unwilling to take that step."

Nevertheless, studies have shown, over the past ten years, the number of families headed by women with children has increased at about ten times the rate of the traditional two-parent families. Today's licensed facilities do not begin to provide adequate space for the consequent influx of children.

Who's Taking Care of the Children?

Back in the sixties, day-care chains began to spring up—some still survive—but by and large, only the "white-collar" professional women—teachers, executives, lawyers—can afford these services.

More and more companies, educational and medical institutions are providing their own day-care facilities for their employees.

Nonprofit day care is provided by churches and religiously affiliated organizations, city and state government, foundations, private schools, etc. These may be subsidized by the federal government through food programs and other funding.

But the majority of working parents' children receive more informal care. Relatives or babysitters provide for more than half, while many others are cared for in family day-care homes.

Can organized, government-licensed and/or subsidized day care or franchised or corporation-provided day care or nonprofessional family care provide the answers to the diversified needs of our nation's families? It depends on whose needs you are most interested in—the parents' or the children's'.

Let's examine the evidence.

Marshaling the Evidence

In the Soviet Union, with a rigid commitment to the equality of women, highly trained personnel have been provided for institu-

tionalized child care for years. The participation of the Soviet population in these services has dropped to about ten percent. The adults who have emerged from this government-instituted day care are generally competent, responsible, hardworking and cooperative. But those unique traits that identify the creative person are too often missing.

In the People's Republic of China, day-care services are believed to be utilized by about 40 percent of the population. Older women care for the infants in facilities in or adjoining the factories where the mothers work.

The Chinese culture is very different from that of Western nations. Their definition of creativity is anything that innovatively furthers their cause. An individualistic, independent population is not in accordance with national goals. Group-dependent children mature into adults, also dependent upon the group. The majority of Americans would not agree with Chinese techniques of teaching a nationwide system of thought to preschoolers.

Unlike the Soviet Union and China, some in Israel (less than four percent) have used day care to restructure the basic family unit, almost completely freeing women from their domestic role.

In the Israeli *kibbutzim* (conditions vary), four- and five-day-old infants are taken from their mothers to the nurseries where they are cared for twenty-four hours a day, except for feeding times. The babies are weaned at about six to eight months. At one year they are transferred to the toddler's house, at four to the kindergarten, and go on into primary school at seven.

Also unlike the Soviet and Chinese children, the kibbutz toddlers are left unsupervised for long periods of time in playpens. Finally, in the absence of a supportive adult, the children begin to look to one another and learn to depend upon their peer group.

Again, many researchers agree that although kibbutz children generally grow up into compe-

tent, hardworking adults they often lack certain characteristics of personality and individual creativity.

And note this: in the three nations we've examined, the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and Israel's kibbutzim, all provide basically competent caretakers who generally take care of the same children throughout their tender early years. Unlike the United States, for example, the families in these countries are not so transient. Most U.S. children in day care will experience at least three or four caretakers annually because of the high rate of turnover among day-care personnel alone.

Impact on Infants

How does custodial care from this parade of caretakers in an indifferent environment affect fragile, impressionable young minds? Remember, this is an examination of day care at its best—with competent personnel and clean, properly furnished facilities.

Human infants begin to learn at birth, and before they are a year old, will have acquired more knowledge than they will in any other comparable year of their lives. Before babies can reach out, some researchers find that they have stored up, through sight, information about an object, and are not totally surprised at its shape when able to handle it. A baby quickly learns to recognize mother and definitely prefers her face and voice. (And more and more researchers are emphasizing the importance of the father in a child's beginning years of life, as well as later.)

By the time the baby is five or six months old, all mental and physical abilities acquired will depend upon the response and interest of parents, especially the mother. Parental response, of course, increases alertness even in tiny infants.

A baby left alone for long periods of time becomes not only lonely, but also frustrated. He or she is not able to exercise, and thus develop, all the new skills he or she is learning. Later the frequency

with which the infant expresses himself in making sounds will decrease and the child's language development will slow.

Infants and young children do not thrive physically, mentally and emotionally in day-care institutions.

Even more sobering, studies are revealing that a child's ability to form a lasting attachment to another human being—his capacity to love—is learned before age three. And that this ability to form a lasting mutual attachment is inexorably tied in with the formulation of the child's conscience. In other words, no human attachment equals no conscience.

From studies over the last twenty to thirty years infant psychologist Selma Fraiberg states: "... we have learned that the human qualities of enduring love and commitment to love are forged during the first two years of life. On this point there is a consensus among scientists from a wide range of disciplines.

"We are living in times," Professor Fraiberg continues, "when there are voices which denigrate the human family and even cry for its dissolution or its recomposition. I cannot identify the voices of infant psychologists among them" (*Every Child's Birthright: In Defense of Mothering*). It's unnerving to visualize what final impact the emotional near abandonment of our children will have upon our society.

Childcare advocates would not agree, of course. It's a controversial subject and books and articles expressing opposing views are numerous, but it's hard to deny living, breathing evidence.

The God-ordained Family

Broken homes are a tragedy. Children need two loving, concerned parents (especially their mothers, at an early age) to develop into mature adults capable of loving and caring for other human beings. Adults who can enrich the lives of others with their own unique creativity, who have exercised their God-given right, guided by loving parents, of independent thought and ac-

tion—parents are responsible for developing such character in their young children.

Preserving the nuclear family is not the panacea for all the world's social ills, of course. Our transient mobile society has robbed our children of the stable extended-family ties enjoyed by our grandparents. Therefore, most young people have little sense of the past and less regard for the wisdom of their elders. It should come as no surprise that youths have been wandering around for the last two decades wondering who they are.

The modern, highly transitory society we live in has made child rearing doubly difficult. Without the support of the extended family, parents' responsibilities today have never been more important.

Children need both their parents more than ever. To avoid future deepset emotional problems, there is no substitute for mothers during those early years.

For some of you—too many—you see no alternative available. Single parents trying to single-handedly hold your fractured families together physically and economically, as well as emotionally. You're caught, we're all caught in a system we didn't create for ourselves, but which the majority are paying more than lip service to.

For those with older children, depending on the family circumstances and children's ages, it may not always be as harmful for women to work, but for those of you with very young preschool children feeling the pressure to make a decision you may regret, quit feeling inferior—you're indispensable!

There are those already concerned about our children who are becoming the vanguard in a movement to turn parents back to their children and children back to their parents.

Write for our article reprint series titled "Are We Neglecting Our Youth?" for more information on this subject. And don't let anyone rob you, and therefore your child, of either of your birthrights. □

IS TITHING IN FORCE UNDER THE NEW TESTAMENT?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Here is an eye-opening article on a much misunderstood subject. Some ask, "Wasn't tithing just for the Jews?" Others, "Wasn't tithing done away?" Or, "Was it a form of national taxation in ancient Israel?" Or, "Was it to supply material needs to the poor?" Here is the New Testament teaching. You'll find this article interesting, enlightening, plain!

HOW SHOULD God's work be financed? Does God have a definite system? Is "tithing" obligatory in New Testament times?

Or has God left us to our own devices to raise money?

Or did God perhaps leave it for each one to give what he feels like—if he feels like giving it?

Others ask, "Wasn't tithing just for Jews?" Or, "Wasn't tithing done away? Wasn't it just part of the ceremonial system introduced by the old covenant law of Moses?"

Others, today, are taught and believe tithing was merely a form of national taxation in the civil government of the one-time nation of Israel. Still others teach that the tithe supplied the material needs of the poor, and was never put into the ministry.

What confusion today! What ignorance of the revealed laws and commands of God!

God Working Out a Purpose

Man was placed on earth for a purpose. And always, from the very beginning, God has had on earth a priesthood—a ministry representing him, making known

his will to man, carrying out God's mission.

It does cost money to carry on Christ's ministry. And today with super-powered facilities of radio, television and printing press, of rapid transportation to every part of the world—facilities making it possible to reach vast masses over great distances in short time—the carrying forth of God's last warning message to a deceived world is a herculean task of gigantic proportions requiring large sums of money.

Did Christ intend his specially selected and called ministers to be directed and controlled by boards of lay church members not called of Christ to the ministry? Or did Christ himself ordain a system providing for his work, leaving his true called ministers, like prophets of old, free to serve God alone?

Has not God, in his wisdom, provided for this financing? And in such manner that his true called ministers may be free to serve him alone, carrying his message boldly?

Is there a definite financing plan ordained in the New Testament?

If so, the plan will be revealed in God's Word.

But first, before looking to the

New Testament teaching to see whether or not Christians must "tithe," let us make clear just what that word *tithe* means.

What the "Tithe" Is

What does God mean by the word *tithe*?

It is an old English word, commonly used in England three and four hundred years ago. Today it is seldom used, except in this scriptural connection. This old expression "tithe" has been preserved in the Authorized, or King James translation, of the Bible—translated in 1611.

The word *tithe* means "tenth." A tithe of anything is the tenth part of it.

It is well known that the nation Israel, during Old Testament times, was required to tithe, that is, pay in one tenth of income. But the matter of to whom each Israelite paid this tenth, which tenth was paid, why and for what purpose, seems to confuse a great many today. And the New Testament teaching for Christians about tithing is understood only by a few.

Christ's Office, Now!

It is well recognized that the people of Israel, during Old Testament times, were required to

pay tithes. That is, one tenth of income—whether livestock, grain or money. But the New Testament teaching on tithing is not generally understood.

Yet the subject is mentioned many places in the New Testament. Since it is a priesthood subject—the financing of Christ's ministry—it's well to look first at the priesthood book—Hebrews.

You hear a great deal of a crucified Christ—much preaching about a dead Christ. But you hear almost nothing about the message he brought from God, and even less about the function of the resurrected living Christ of today!

The book of Hebrews reveals the Christ of the twentieth century—the work and office of our Christ today—Christ the High Priest of God! And it contains God's instruction for financing the ministry of Christ! The seventh chapter is the tithing chapter.

Speaking of the Christian hope of eternal life (which hope *is* Jesus Christ), we are told, beginning verse 19, chapter 6, this hope (Christ) has entered "within the veil"—that is, the very throne of God in heaven—"whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec" (verse 20).

The New Testament Priesthood

Jesus Christ is High Priest now. Let's understand it. Jesus of Nazareth came as a messenger, sent from God, bearing a message to man. His message is his gospel—the gospel of Jesus Christ—the good news of the kingdom of God.

After finishing his mission as messenger, Jesus took on himself the mission of Savior, paying in our stead the penalty of our sins by his death on the cross. But it requires a living Savior to impart to us the gift of eternal life! So God raised Jesus, by a resurrection.

And thereupon Jesus ascended to heaven, to the very throne of God, where he sat down and continues today as our everlasting High Priest. That is his office,

now. Soon he shall assume still another office, returning to earth in all the power and glory of God, as King of kings—continuing his priesthood office as Lord of lords.

It is in his office as High Priest that Jesus sits as *living Head* of the Church of God, the true body of Christ in this age. He is High Priest for this and all succeeding ages.

And as High Priest he holds a definite rank—a rank that outranks every priestly office—"after the order of Melchisedec," or, in the plainer English of the Moffatt translation, "with the rank of Melchisedec."

And who is Melchisedec? This is one of the intriguing mysteries of the Bible! Suffice it to say here, Melchisedec was the High Priest of God during patriarchal times. And Christ occupies the same office now, holding the same rank.

But the Mosaic dispensation was a purely materialistic, fleshly dispensation. The gospel was not preached in Israel, nor did their ministry carry it to other nations. Israelites formed a flesh-born congregation, not a Spirit-begotten church. The ministry consisted of rituals, carnal (fleshly) ordinances, substitute animal sacrifices and burnt offerings. This required of the priests much hard physical labor.

During those years a different priesthood of lower rank was in office—mere human rank, vastly inferior to the spiritual and divine rank of Melchisedec and of Christ. The priests were of the tribe of Levi. It was called the Levitical priesthood.

A Tithe-receiving Priesthood

Yet this lower-level priesthood had to be financed. God's financing plan from dim antiquity, through the Melchisedec priesthood, was the tithing system. This system was *continued* through the years of the Levitical priesthood.

Now coming to the seventh chapter of Hebrews, God's financing plan is explained. Notice the comparison between

the two tithe-receiving priest-hoods.

First read the first five verses, Hebrews, chapter 7: "For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all . . . abideth a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even *Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils*. And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law. . . ."

Let's understand it. This vital passage of Scripture begins to compare the two priesthoods. Notice, back in patriarchal times, tithing was God's system for financing his ministry. Melchisedec was High Priest. The patriarch Abraham, it is written, knew and kept God's commandments, his statutes and laws (Genesis 26:5). And he paid tithes to the High Priest!

Then the statement is made in this passage that, during that dispensation from Moses until Christ, the priests of that time, the Levites, took tithes from the people by law. It was a LAW, started in the beginning, continued through the Mosaic dispensation.

Tithing, then, did not start with Moses!

It is God's system for financing his ministry, which began from the beginning—from the dim antiquity of patriarchal times. It was a law. It did not start with Moses, it was merely continued on through the Mosaic period!

Tithing a Law from Dim Antiquity

Many excuse themselves from tithing today on the false impression tithing pertained to the Mosaic period only. They think it was for Israel, alone. And that illusion has brought a curse on our nations!

The old covenant is gone—that's true. But its ending could not take away what it did not bring! Tithing was God's law

hundreds of years before the old covenant started.

Tithing is revealed as God's system for financing his earthly ministry. Prior to the Levitical priesthood and the Mosaic dispensation, the ministry was under Melchisedec. And we see that ministry, from the beginning, was financed by the tithing system.

Melchisedec, "having neither beginning of days, nor end of life . . . abideth a priest *continually*" (Hebrews 7:3). Yes, he was High Priest from the beginning! Even from Adam! And the ancient patriarchs from Adam down through Abraham, Jacob and on to Moses, financed this ministry of God on earth by the TITHING system!

Merely Continued in Israel

Since tithing is God's permanent, continuous financing system, it had to continue through the Mosaic dispensation. During that period when the Levites were the ministers, their work and labors had to be financed. But when the priesthood was changed, God did not change his financing system. The Levites "had a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law."

And notice, the very subject of this seventh chapter of Hebrews is the tithing law!

Now continuing, the teaching concerns which of the two priesthoods—Melchisedec or Levitical—is superior, to determine which priesthood should receive tithes, now!

Christians of Paul's day did not need to be instructed that tithing is an obligatory and permanent law of God. But they did need much teaching to make clear to them that the old covenant was vanishing away—the Levitical priesthood changed and replaced by that of Jesus Christ—the Melchisedec priesthood restored! The only question was as to which priesthood tithes were to be paid.

To make this point plain, Paul proceeds to show the Melchisedec priesthood is superior—has precedence now.

Notice the scripture: "Now

consider *how great* this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils . . . but he whose descent is not counted from them [the Levites] received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him [Abraham] that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less [Abraham] is blessed of the better [Melchisedec]. . . . And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him" (verses 4, 6-7, 9-10).

The Melchisedec priesthood is greater—superior! It has precedence! And it is again in force as God's priesthood, under Christ! It, too, needs to be financed! Now notice the conclusion:

"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law" (verse 12).

It does not say the law was abolished. The change in priesthoods makes necessary a change in the law. What specific law? The very law this chapter is instructing New Testament Christians about—the TITHING LAW! ". . . the sons of Levi . . . have a commandment to take TITHES . . . according to the law . . ." (verse 5).

So tithing, far from being abolished, is New Testament law! But, the priesthood being changed to that of Jesus Christ—the Melchisedec priesthood restored—that tithing law is also changed of necessity, so as to become God's system for financing the ministry of Jesus Christ!

Actually, the law is merely restored as it was from the beginning!

How plain! Tithing is God's law—his system for financing his great work today; it's commanded, *now!*

Why God Retains the Tithe

But why does God retain for himself the ownership of that first tenth—that tithe—of your income?

Here again comes a truth man would never know, and could not find out, except by God's revela-

tion to man! What is man, anyway? Why is he? Where is he going? God has a plan! God is working out a great purpose! He reveals it in his Word—his revelation—the Bible.

For the carrying out of his holy purpose in placing mankind upon this earth, God has always had a priesthood—a ministry, representing him, serving him, carrying out his mission. Way back in the dim antiquity of patriarchal times, God's High Priest—his representative on earth—was Melchisedec.

During the national dispensation of Israel, under the old covenant, known as the Mosaic dispensation—those years from Moses until Christ—the tribe of Levi constituted the ministry of God, known as the Levitical priesthood. Then later, when Jesus Christ arose from the dead, he ascended to heaven as a living High Priest. Today he calls ministers as his true representatives in a darkened and Satan-deceived world, to carry on his plan. Today the Melchisedec priesthood is restored, in Christ.

Now it costs money to carry on the work of God. God's ministers who devote their entire time to God's holy and spiritual purpose are prevented from earning a living in the usual channels. Yet they work. If they are *true* ministers, they are men of ability who work hard, and long, observing no hours. Actually they earn a living—they have worked for their food, shelter and clothing and physical need—the same as the farmer, the laborer, the clerk or the merchant.

And so God, in his wisdom, has provided for financing his work, and for his ministers' living. In God's program, these true ministers work for HIM, and HIM alone.

In God's great plan, he pays his ministers. It is he who "hires" them—he who calls them to their work for him.

So, in order to provide for the financing of his ministry, God has from the very beginning retained for himself the first tenth of the income of every human being on

earth. The ownership of that first tenth of income is God's.

To Whom Tithes Are Paid

But how can you pay God's tenth to him? God is on his throne in heaven. And "no man," said Jesus, "hath ascended to heaven." You can't go there. You can't see God, or hand your money to him personally. How, then, can you pay him his tithe?

Well, some large corporations, perhaps in a distant city, cannot be directly contacted by their many customers. And so they send around representatives, collectors, to collect for them what you owe the company. The collector comes in the name of the company. When you pay the money that really belongs to the company to the collector, you have paid the company.

God's system of collecting from you his tithe is just that simple. Since you cannot see God, or go to God's throne in heaven, God instructs you in his revealed Word to pay it to his representative, who, in receiving it, represents God just as a collector to whom you pay a debt represents the company to whom you owe it.

And when you pay such a bill to a collector, you consider you paid the company—not that you made a personal donation of your own money to the man the company sent. You paid it as to the company. From there on it is the company's responsibility what happens to that money, not yours. And the company pays the collector his salary. He does not consider that you paid his salary—he receives his salary from the company.

This illustrates plainly God's true principle of tithing. When you pay tithes today you are instructed by God's directions to pay them to God's called and chosen representative—the true minister of Jesus Christ. But you pay it, not as a personal contribution of your own money to a minister—but as to God. The minister represents God—receives not your money but God's money from you for God.

Here again so many in this modern world have lost sight of

God's clear directions. When they give the tithe to a minister they seem to feel it is a special entrusting of their own money, and they make it their duty to try to supervise *how* the minister handles it—even, in some cases today, down to the supervision of what the minister and his family may eat or wear or have in their personal private family life!

When Your Responsibility Ceases

But God's revealed principle is quite different. That first tenth of your income is not yours—never was yours! It belongs to God. And the method God himself instituted for your payment of his money to him is to pay it to his called and true ministers.

When you have done that, your responsibility for that money ceases! You have no further concern, responsibility, or direction in the handling of it than you have in money you owe the electric power or the telephone companies that you pay to their collector. Once paid, you have done your part—you have acquitted yourself of your obligation.

Of course you are expected to be sure the collector is the company's approved representative—not a thieving imposter pretending to be the company collector. And you should be equally sure you are paying your tithe to a called and *true* minister of Jesus Christ. Satan has many more ministers today than Christ—and Satan's thieving imposters pose as ministers of Jesus Christ, put on sanctimonious airs, speak in pious and spiritual-sounding language! How are you to know? By their fruits, Jesus said, you shall know them! The fruits of God's Spirit and of Christ's true ministry cannot be counterfeited!

So when you pay tithes to God's true and accredited spiritual representative, you pay it as to God. It is not a charitable gift from you to the minister. It is not your money—but rather it is God's way for you to pay to God that which belongs to God.

And from there on, the minister who receives it is accountable

to God. And you may be sure that GOD's justice is perfect—that GOD Almighty will hold every minister far more strictly accountable than you would be capable of doing!

What God Does with His Tithe

Once paid, so far as you are concerned, you have paid God's tithe to God.

The question now is what does God do with it?

And the answer, which we will show by the scriptures inspired of God, is that God uses it for his ministry—for carrying on his work!

Now the nature of God's ministry on earth has changed with changing dispensations. Not much is revealed as to how God's ministry was carried on back in patriarchal times. We know Melchisedec was High Priest—that he held rank equal to that of Jesus Christ, actually one of the Godhead! The ministry, then, must have been of a spiritual nature. New Testament writings reveal that the gospel, God's spiritual message, was preached beforehand to Abraham. All we know of those days of the dim distant antiquity is that the tithes were paid to Melchisedec, a divine Being, for the service of God's ministry for that time.

But beginning with Moses, a new and different dispensation was ushered in. God formed Israel as a civil nation, and also as a church. (See Acts 7:38.) But between Moses and Christ under the old covenant, God's ministry was purely national, for Israel alone—and purely material, not spiritual.

As a church, or congregation, Israel was given a constant round of physical ceremonies and rituals—animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, carnal ordinances (see Hebrews 9:10)—which, note it!—means of a material, not a spiritual nature. Israel under the old covenant was not given God's Holy Spirit. They had no promise whatsoever of salvation, astonishing as that may seem! They were not commanded to go into all the world and pro-

claim the gospel to other nations. On the contrary, they were forbidden to have anything to do with other nations!

Consequently, the church ministry in Israel was one of ministering to all Israelites, and to Israelites only. There was no spreading of the gospel. The ministry, rather, was largely a matter of physical labor—preparing animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, administering the different washings and physical ordinances and rituals. For this service, God himself selected his ministers—the people had no choice as to who their ministers were. For this service, God took one whole tribe of the twelve tribes of Israel—the tribe of Levi. Every man born a Levite was a priest or minister.

The Levites owned no land—had no secular source of income—devoted their entire time to the physical ministry of that dispensation. Yet, though a physical ministry, this service was sacred and holy to God. And during these years from Moses to Christ, God himself paid his Levitical priests by turning over to them all of his tithe.

Today, we are in the age of grace, the New Testament gospel dispensation. Today the Levitical priesthood is gone, and Jesus Christ is High Priest. Today all true ministers of Jesus Christ are called by special spiritual call from God through his Holy Spirit—not by flesh birth—not by self-desire to become a minister—not by selection, appointment or vote of the people.

Jesus Christ came as God's messenger, bearing a spiritual message from God to man. That message of his gospel—the good news of the coming kingdom of God, a kingdom of immortals that human flesh and blood can never enter! One must be born again!

God Working Out a Purpose

And today, Christ's commission to all his true ministers is "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel." "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations." And, for our day now: "... This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world

for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end [of the age] come" (Matthew 24:14).

Today the ministry is a spiritual ministry—a ministry of prophecy—a ministry of salvation—a ministry of warning! Today it is not physical and national, but spiritual and individual—it is not for everyone in a single nation, but for a witness unto all nations.

Today Christ's true ministry is a huge undertaking. It requires, not the mere financing of the personal needs of a few ministers, but the employing of tremendous available facilities for proclaiming the world-shaking warning—for preaching the gospel of the kingdom into all the world for a witness unto all nations!

Financed God's Way

Today, God has provided for the financing of his powerful ministry by the same system he has used from the very beginning—his tithing system!

Thus Almighty God has pur-

posed that those whom he has specially fitted and called for this tremendous mission in this chaotic and dying world may be free to proclaim his truth fearlessly, boldly and with GREAT POWER!

They cannot be subsidized, controlled, coerced by men or organizations of men. They are not hired by, nor obligated to, men or any organized group or denomination. They are called by God, guided, protected and empowered by God, financed by GOD'S OWN TITHING SYSTEM!—yes, by GOD'S OWN MONEY!

That is how *The Plain Truth* is published—without subscription price, free to all who request it.

That is how the true gospel message is going out in greater power around the world.

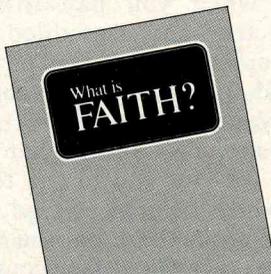
That is God's way, carrying out God's plan in his great purpose being worked out here below! We—and all our co-workers together—are happy to be privileged by the Eternal God to each have our small part in so glorious a work for him! □



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POT, ALCOHOL and PILL-POPPING

Some Shocking Facts You May Not Know

by Donald D. Schroeder

If you have a serious accident or health crisis, it matters greatly what drugs you have used!

I KNOW what it is like to feel the mind and life ebbing away. I once screamed futilely within my brain: "Oh, my God! I'm going to die!"

I experienced this totally helpless feeling just before passing into unconsciousness, after 16,000 volts of electricity hammered and shook my body like machine-gun blows.

This serious electrocution accident happened in 1975. I was in a tree trimming branches in my backyard in Pasadena, California. While I was moving to come down out of the tree, my pole slipped out of control and the tip nicked a high voltage wire in the alley.

I was instantly snapped back and paralyzed by the powerful hammering jolts. I desperately fought to break my grip on the pole for what seemed like minutes (in reality, it was only seconds). I couldn't. Gradually my mind and senses faded away.

I don't remember the 20-foot

fall. I only remember waking up on the ground with my wife shouting over me. The tree was aflame. It was a miracle that I was alive.

What does the near-fatal accident have to do with pot, alcohol and pill-popping? More than I ever dreamed it would. Let me tell you why.

Past Drug Use Matters

I knew I was badly hurt as I lay upon the ground, but I didn't realize how much. The palm of my left hand was badly burned. My clothes and skin were riddled with burnt holes wherever branches touched me and electricity arced through them to ground out through the sap of the tree. Paramedics had to cut some of my clothes off to check my wounds. They administered bottled solutions to ward off shock.

I was helicoptered to the University of Southern California (USC) Medical Center burn ward in Los Angeles. I lay stripped on a carrier with only a sheet over me in a lone room for what seemed a long time. My heart and pulse were being

constantly monitored by machine.

Before anything else was done for me, an intern came in and asked, "What drugs have you used in the last 20 years?"

He went down a checklist of commonly used drugs—barbiturates, sedatives, tranquilizers, pep pills, marijuana, heroin and many other drugs I can't remember. I had not taken any kind of drug—besides an occasional alcoholic drink and some novocaine at a dentist's office—for more than 20 years.

But that was not all. Two more interns came in at different times during that first hour and asked me the same questions. I didn't then grasp the significance of so much concern over a past drug and medical record. I only wondered, "When are they going to do more for my injuries?"

I was finally moved to a big room in the burn ward. With me in the room were many tragic burn victims. Some had had cars roll over on them, or else they were hit by another vehicle, and the gas tanks spilled and caught fire.

Some had been cleaning some-

thing with an inflammable liquid. One young man had been barbecuing and thought he could get away with pouring a little gasoline on the fading coals to get them going better.

Some were mechanics whose engines backfired in their face when they tried to start them by pouring gasoline down the carburetor. One teenager was a gang leader. He had several Molotov cocktails (gasoline bottle bombs) thrown into his car by an enemy gang.

Most of these burn victims suffered 15 percent to 50 percent burned skin damage. One was 85 percent. I was only 5 percent to 7 percent. Many of these burn patients had to have regularly spaced painkilling shots to endure the pain they experienced. They needed those shots to survive.

But here's the lesson. One young man of about 20 years of age was brought in with second-degree burns over his chest and stomach skin area. A metal-reducing furnace at his job exploded into him.

In agony, this young man wanted the powerful pain killing shot that the others received. A nurse went to get it, but just before administering it, she asked: "I forgot to check your record. Have you smoked marijuana in the last few days?"

The young man said, "Yes." The nurse said to him, "I'm sorry, you can't have this shot," and walked away. He had to take a less effective pain killer and endure some suffering. Do you know why?

The answer was driven home to me as never before: it does matter when you really need medical help what drugs—any kind of drugs—you have casually used in the past! You see, combining wrong kinds of drugs in the human body can lead to disaster or death!

This lesson—little realized by many in society—was emphasized to me yet again in the burn ward. My burns necessitated surgery to clean out dead tissue areas

so they could heal and also so I could receive some skin grafting.

But before I went into surgery, the anesthesiologist came to me to go over my total drug history again. After confirming that I had almost no drug usage for more than 20 years, and no kind of bad reaction from any drug before that, he said: "You are clean. It is unlikely we will have any trouble with you. It is the pill-poppers that we have to worry about. They cause all kinds of drug reaction problems because of the things we have to do to save them."

No Safe Drug

Millions in our society don't realize the true nature of drugs and what potential damage many drugs do. But the best doctors do. They don't like to take dangerous risks in administering drugs. They can't afford to in these days when so many costly malpractice suits are being brought against them.

Marijuana may seem as common as cigarette smoking in your area or school. Maybe alcoholic parties among your friends or peers are even more popular. Maybe you're pressured to get loaded or stoned with drugs or drink. Maybe pill-popping with uppers, downers, hallucinogens is the "in" thing. You know many of the various names—reds, blues, bennies, angel dust, etc.

What you may not know is there is no such thing as a totally safe drug. "The drug with no ill effects has yet to be made," warned a medical column in a newspaper a few years ago. Similar recent warnings from the medical profession go totally unheeded by many.

George P. Larrick, former U.S. Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration warned that data on the damaging side effects of new drugs can often only be learned by painful *experience*. "People die every year from drugs generally regarded as innocuous," he said. "The admin-

istration of potent drugs [by doctors] involves a calculated risk where the presumptive benefit is balanced against the possibility of toxic effects or [individual] idiosyncrasies" (*Chemical & Engineering News*, April 6, 1964).

Understand this. The administering of drugs by doctors is not a pure science. It is also an art. It involves some guesswork. The use of any drug involves taking chances and risks.

That's under *trained* medical supervision, even if single drugs only are being administered!

How much more dangerous is it for humans to assume they can casually take any drug they want, singly or in combination with others, simply because others are doing it and seem, temporarily, to be getting away with it. The shocking truth is, they really aren't getting away scot free.

"Whether or not you realize it, *every time* you take or are given a drug, you are conducting an *experiment*," said Dr. Harold Thomas Hyman, M.D., in a newspaper medical column (Newspaper Enterprise Association release, January 7, 1960, emphasis ours).

It is critical that you grasp this one point, if nothing else. Your life may depend on it. Not everyone responds to drugs in the same way. Humans metabolize drugs differently.

What kind of reactions may occur if you take medical or any other drugs after smoking marijuana or drinking alcohol or engaging in pill-popping for kicks and thrills?

There is no way one can tell with absolute assurance. The reaction may be negligible—or it could be a disaster!

Just how any drug will act in any one person depends on his or her age, size, health, medical problems and metabolism at a particular moment in time. No medical practitioner can predict precisely the side effects of any drug for any individual.

A person may respond well to a drug once, and then experience

the opposite at a later time. Yet millions today—adults, not just young people—pop pills as if they were candy, as if there were no dangers or risks in drugs.

All drugs by their very nature have potential side effects. That includes common nonprescription drugs you can buy over the counter. All drugs alter or interfere with the natural course of some bodily condition or function.

“The potential for drug abuse radically arises when drugs are not taken as prescribed [that is, are taken casually or as one wants], or are used in combination with other drugs, *or alcohol*,” says former drug commissioner Larrick.

Drug-Alcohol Dynamite

What catches many people by surprise—some too late because they are dead—is that some drugs react synergistically with alcohol and other drugs. That is, one drug plus another drug does not equal the effect of two drugs. The combination may produce a reaction within the body 10 or even 50 times greater than either drug alone.

The Bible reveals that alcohol has a proper use—in moderation and control at all times. But don't forget, alcohol is, technically, a drug. It is a readily metabolized one in most persons. Still, you need to understand that not everyone responds to alcohol in the same way. You are not proving you are a man or woman by unexpectedly getting smashed by alcohol or drugs. You are proving just the opposite.

Many medical personnel are alarmed. Adults as well as young people are mixing alcohol with other drugs in unprecedented and staggering proportions. A lot of these persons have been just plain lucky. Maybe they haven't suffered serious reactions—yet. But given time, many will. It could be you if you do it.

There is no way I can overemphasize this fact. *Every person's tolerance for drugs is different*, just as everyone's tolerance for

various foods is different. A drug—a tranquilizer for example—and alcoholic drink taken closely together may produce few or no obvious ill effects in one person and yet kill another with sudden ferocity.

Mixing medicines or drugs of any kind may make one drug act faster or slower than it is supposed to. It may intensify a drug reaction or neutralize it.

Joe Graedon, a pharmacologist writing in *Esquire*, May, 1976, warned: “Mixing medicines, even with nonprescription agents—alcohol, cold remedies, pain relievers, vitamins, antacids—is like playing Russian roulette: you



The administering of drugs by doctors is not a pure science. It involves some guesswork. The use of any drug involves taking chances.



never know when a particular combination will finish you off.”

He emphasized: “Booze and tranquilizers do not mix. Together they produce a deep sedation. . . . This drug interaction may lead to a big fall in blood pressure—and to a breathing failure.”

He also warned against mixing alcohol with such a commonly used drug as aspirin. “Alcohol makes your stomach supersensitive [to aspirin]. Significant bleeding from the stomach wall can result.”

Articles like this one in *Esquire*, entitled “Killing Combos,” pages 136-142, are important reading for everyone.

Harmless Pot?

What about pot? Lots of people you know or see may be using it,

and they may look and act OK the next day. But are they? No, they are not! They are walking time bombs!

Why? Because THC, the major psychoactive ingredient in marijuana smoke, has an affinity for fatty body tissues and brain tissues. Once you have used marijuana for any length of time, months of abstinence are required for all the accumulated THC to be excreted by the body.

But what if these individuals have an accident, or get sick with a serious illness, with marijuana substances or other drugs floating around in their bloodstream or body? What if they need potent medical drugs to save them? What will happen?

What these young (or old) pot, alcohol and pill poppers have done is multiply the chances of a serious drug reaction if other drugs must be administered to them for some reason. They may look all right to you, but the truth is their lives are more endangered!

“I get a very sick feeling in the pit of my stomach when I hear talk about marijuana being safe,” said Robert L. DuPont, former director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. “Marijuana,” he said in an interview recently, “is a very powerful agent, which is affecting the body in many ways. Now what the full range of these consequences is going to prove to be, one can only guess at this point. But, from what we already know, I have no doubt that they are going to be horrendous.”

Pot has been in popular usage in the United States and many other nations for only a little more than 15 years. It took 50 years of research for truly serious implications of cigarette smoking to become firmly established.

But already evidence of serious or potential health damage from pot smoking is mounting with each passing year. There is growing evidence that regular use of marijuana produces lung damage, immunity system damage and threats of cancer. Marijuana smoke has been found to contain

more possible cancer-causing agents than tobacco smoke.

If you're an honest, truthseeking person, you won't bury your head in the sand and disregard such findings. You won't be able to honestly say after careful research, "I don't think pot smoking harms anyone!"

The January, 1980, U.S. issue of *The Plain Truth* carried a thorough article on the subject entitled, "Marijuana—It's Far from a Harmless High!"

What If . . .

I have to look back at my near-fatal accident and ask what lessons I learned from it.

I am glad I never carelessly used medicinal drugs. I am also glad that I wasn't drinking or popping pills for kicks before it happened. I thought that I had taken reasonable precautions for my safety. But accidents and mishaps happen in life. Just a little slip, a little carelessness is all it takes. Accidents and sickness can happen to you too.

God doesn't want any of us to defile or ruin our bodies or minds by imbibing excessive amounts of alcohol, or casually using potent drugs just to thrill our senses, or so we will be popular with others.

What if I had chosen to disregard what I know about drugs and pop pills or smoke pot anyway? Would I have survived? I don't know. But if I did, I'm sure God would have allowed me to suffer an awful lot more than I did to teach me lessons about rebelling against His ways.

God, indeed, was merciful to me. He intervened and helped me survive my accident. Even the doctors said it was a miracle that I came out with as little damage as I did.

I can guess why I am alive today. Perhaps it was because God wanted to show mercy to my wife and my children. Yet maybe, just maybe, God also let me survive so I could share this critical knowledge about drugs with you! □

RECORD DROUGHT

(Continued from page 6)

tries rose by only 1.3 percent. This was only half the rate of growth in their population. The level of production per head dropped during the 1970s in no less than 61 developing countries. Fifteen of these countries actually produced less in absolute quantities than in 1970. The result has been a growing dependence by developing countries on a few developed countries. North America, Australia and Western Europe now provide 90 percent of Third World imports of wheat and coarse grains.

Developing nations will be importing 95 million tons of grain in 1981. That is an amount that already surpasses the requirements expected for these nations by the year 1985.

In 1950, these nations were virtually self-sufficient in food supplies. That's how rapidly the world has changed! But their uncurbed population explosion is bringing on them a heavy penalty.

Demand for U.S. grain exports alone are now expected to increase by 8 percent a year for the first half of the 1980s. Some authorities feel even that estimate is too conservative.

"We're using just about all the available land there is," said the director of food research at Stanford University, and more productive seed hybrids, he says, are "15 years down the road."

Increases in crop yields in North America have leveled off. And food authorities see no dramatic technological or biological breakthroughs to lead to another big leap in food production. Increasing water shortages in many areas also limit the amount of additional land that can be converted to agriculture by the use of irrigation.

And Now—Food Into Fuel

"Expected export trends, increased domestic requirements

and future ethanol production for fuel will put unprecedented pressure on the nation's best agricultural lands," says the former chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

Weather is the most important factor in world food supply. But many weathermen fear the United States is in the grip of a multi-year drought. Some feel the dryness is now as serious as the early years of the 1930s and 1950s.

What does it mean? It means we are living in a new era of not enough food for both growing domestic North American and soaring world demands. That translates into soaring prices.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says as a result of unprecedented exports to needy nations, world food stocks by autumn will be down to only 14 percent of yearly world consumption—well below the minimum 17 percent level generally considered necessary to safeguard world food security.

A FAO report says, "With stocks below safe levels and barely sufficient to keep supply channels filled until 1981 crops reach the market, the world will begin the 1981-82 season with virtually no cushion against major crop shortages." As a result, the FAO report concluded world food security will depend heavily on the outcome of this year's cereal harvests.

What does this mean to the new Reagan administration's efforts to beat down inflation? It means it must choose either unprecedented large jumps in food prices for U.S. consumers or grain-trade restrictions to customers abroad in an attempt to hold prices down. The latter choice is highly unlikely.

Foreign nations are willing to pay American farmers premium prices for food grains. But are American consumers, long spoiled by some of the cheapest food in the world, willing to pay world rates for their farmers' pro-

duction? No matter what government officials decide to do, the combination of heavy demands on food supplies due to bad weather, and other inflationary pressures, will cause food prices to increase between 12 percent and 20 percent this year, estimate economists.

World grain prices and inflationary trends may well cut America's premier protein, beef, out of the market. Grain costs to fatten beef to slaughter weight have shot up 25 percent in one year.

"Nobody can afford to feed beef animals \$4-a-bushel corn," said a livestock analyst. It's cheaper to raise chickens and hogs. "Beef," concludes this analyst, "is going to go the way of big automobiles."

What Weathermen Don't Know

Why is it that few understand the cause of continuous bad weather? Bad weather is a warning from the Creator God that a people are not living right! God controls the weather. He works out His purposes on earth through it. People will not listen to God's written Word, so He is speaking to them in a language (weather) they will understand! Weather is a powerful tool in the Creator's hand to warn and punish nations for their mounting sins. Sin is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4). Humans have too long defied that law!

Notice what God promises in His Word—the Bible: "And if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do *all* his commandments . . . the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, RSV). One of those promised blessings for obedience is proper amounts of rain when needed. "The Lord will open to you his good treasury the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to



Yvonne Hemsey — Liaison

RECORD LOW LEVELS of major river arteries and reservoirs plagued the U.S. midsection and eastern areas. The Mississippi River flowed 90 percent below normal, producing a graveyard of grounded barges and heavy shipping losses.

bless *all* the work of your hands . . ." (verse 12, RSV).

But if a nation persists in sin, God promises: "The Lord will smite you with . . . fiery heat, and with drought, and with blasting, and with mildew [excessive moisture and rot]. . . . And the heavens over your head shall be brass, and the earth under you shall be iron. The Lord will make the rain of your land powder and dust . . ." (Deuteronomy 28:22-24). These tragic conditions are happening in several nations today as a warning to others!

Listen to this remarkable prophecy!

"And also I [God] have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city; one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied; yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord" (Amos 4:7-8).

Prolonged drought is the result

of sin! "Yet have ye not returned unto me!" says God.

King Solomon understood this when he prayed at the consecration of God's Temple: "When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they [the people of the land] have *sinned against thee*. . ." But how many national leaders and peoples of nations have the wisdom to believe this today?

Yet God is merciful. Solomon also knew this, for he prayed in this same prayer, ". . . yet if they pray . . . and confess thy name, and *turn from their sin*, when thou dost afflict them; then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants . . . when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and *send rain upon thy land*, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance" (II Chronicles 6:26-27).

National and individual repentance is the only solution. Wealth alone will not save us. Great reserves of oil alone will not save us. Bumper crops are now gone—they cannot save us.

Only the Great Creator can save mankind from massive problems we now face! □

CENTRAL AMERICA

(Continued from page 4)

pected of leftist leanings “disappear,” apparently into the hands of either the government or various rightwing groups.

How Violence Began

The circle of violence began with the attempt on the part of Marxist guerrillas to “create a climate of revolution” where none existed before.

In El Salvador as elsewhere, attempts on the part of the government to deal with the violence, admittedly severe, is trumpeted in the popular press as “repressive.” The cry is that the government conducts “institutionalized terrorism.” This opens the way for the communists to further disrupt the economy, demoralize the police and other symbols of authority, and show that the government is incapable of maintaining public safety.

In El Salvador, leftist terrorism

has assumed a panicky, indiscriminate form especially since the government’s land reform policies stripped the leftists of their *cause celebre*. Their only option has been to try to shoot their way into power over the wishes of the public. (“First we will win the war, then we will win the people,” said one guerrilla.)

Misdirected U.S. Policy

For the time being, the leftist self-proclaimed “final offensive” in El Salvador has been blunted. The terrorists desperately tried to win before the Reagan administration assumed office.

Since their defeat Mr. Reagan has promised military assistance for the shaky central government there. But much damage has been wrought already.

Again, the United States bears much of the blame. The United States, following its policy of non-support for “outmoded dictatorships,” encouraged the coup d’etat in October, 1979, that brought a “moderate” military-

civilian junta into power.

The problem is, in Latin American societies, unlike largely middle class U.S., there is precious little center ground. In El Salvador the government rests on a narrow, shifting sandbar of unsupported, conflicting moderate factions, constantly assaulted by tides from the left and the right (who are naturally embittered over the loss of land and control of the economy). In the long run the risky U.S. experiment can’t last.

“Watershed Country”

It is no understatement that with Nicaragua lost, El Salvador has become the watershed country of Central America. Should the tiny, densely populated nation fall to the radical left, the communist tide will be hard to stem. At stake are other Central American dominoes—Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, Costa Rica and Panama.

Guatemala is embroiled in its own internal “dirty war” against terrorism. Communist guerrillas and their hard-core supporters number only about 25,000—hardly representative of a “popular force.” Yet Guatemala has drawn heavy fire for alleged human rights violations—the government, not the terrorists, that is.

In 1954, with a minimum of bloodshed, the Guatemalan people overthrew a Marxist-dominated government. At that time, the United States and the rest of the Free World applauded the action.

Costa Rica—Then Panama

The one country that has been the model of tranquility in an otherwise political storm is Costa Rica, a nation without an army. (It has a highly respected national police force.)

Now even Costa Rica has become enmeshed in the turbulent politics of the region. Even though the San Juan government has ousted communist agents out of Costa Rica, it permitted the

COMMUNIST-BACKED Sandinista revolutionaries in action in Nicaragua in 1979. War to overthrow Somoza government left Nicaragua in shambles, resulting in loss of 40,000 lives, 100,000 homeless and two billion dollars worth of destruction.



Photos by Susan Meiselas — Magnum



STATUE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, right, in front of El Salvador church is besmirched by revolutionary graffiti. Slogan says "Long Live the Progressive Clergy." Priests have been in forefront of demands for radical change in Latin America.

country to be used as a staging area for Sandinista forces as well as being a major trafficker of arms for their cause.

The biggest communist target of all, of course, is Panama. This country is not communist, yet it actively aided the Sandinista cause.

At stake is continued Free World access to the Panama Canal—the "jugular vein" of world commerce—now no longer in exclusive U.S. control.

Advocates of the new canal treaties claimed that the 66-year-

old man-made wonder was obsolete and was destined for greatly reduced use. Instead, so many ships are now using it that delays of several days at each entrance to it are common.

The relinquishing of U.S. sovereign control of the Panama Canal will ultimately prove to be the most serious U.S. blunder of all in the spreading chaos in Central America! (Write for Mr. Armstrong's free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to see why the English-speaking world has been

losing out in critical regions of the world, including prophesied strategic "seagates.")

Contradictory Reasoning

Ambassador Kirkpatrick states that it is time for the United States to begin "thinking more realistically about the politics of Latin America, about the alternatives to existing governments."

The previous administration, she stresses, "underestimated the fragility of order in these societies and overestimated the ease with which authority, once undermined, can be restored. . . . [It] could not grasp the problem of governments which became the object of revolutionary violence."

Strangely, the United States has asked other societies in the hemisphere to accommodate groups sworn to violence and overthrow, that the United States itself would not accept. Remember, Washington "repressed" so-called "liberation armies" during the chaotic 1960s.

The Communist Goal

In conclusion, one fact must be made crystal clear: resolving inequities that exist in many Latin American cultures is not the reason for Moscow's involvement in so-called "popular movements." The primary communist goal in the hemisphere is not to produce more just societies, but to undercut U.S. influence in the region.

Central America is a strategically crucial piece of real estate, made ever more critical by the loss of sovereign U.S. control over the Panama Canal.

Central America in communist hands would also cut North America, including Mexico, from South America, and lead to the downfall—"liberation" in communist terms—of conservative as well as pluralist democratic governments in the lower continent.

Thus, much is at stake. What will be America's response to the communist challenge in the months ahead? □

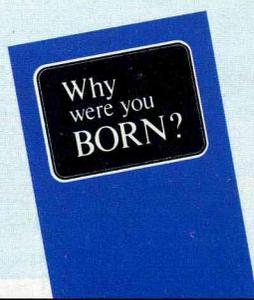
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