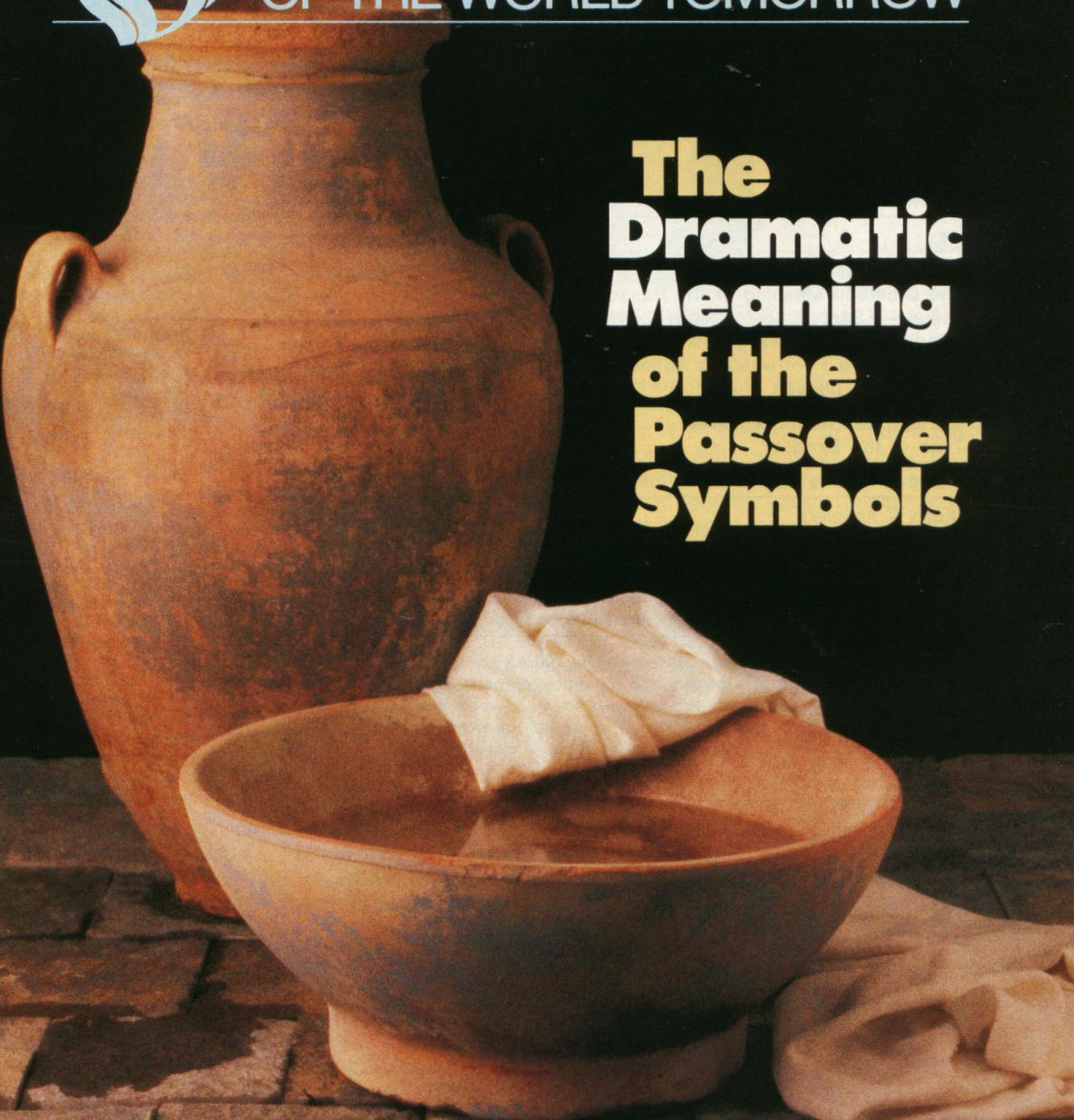


MARCH-APRIL 1988

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW



**The
Dramatic
Meaning
of the
Passover
Symbols**

Are You in a Foot-washing Attitude?

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

MARCH-APRIL 1988

CIRCULATION: 1,000,000

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19



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COVER: At His final Passover on earth, the night before His crucifixion, Jesus instituted the foot-washing service and had His disciples partake of unleavened bread and wine. Christ commands His followers today to keep the Passover in the same manner, in remembrance of Him. The section of articles beginning on page 3 explains God's spring festivals. Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

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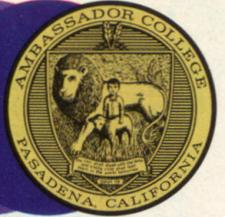
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Jesus Saves— But From What?

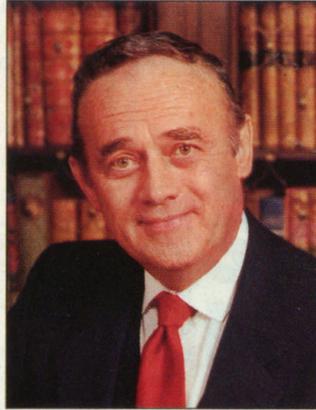
How merciful God is! What great compassion God has poured out upon us. Have you ever stopped to think about what God has done for every true Christian? We call Jesus our Savior. We call Him the captain of our salvation. But what is it that He is saving us from? Why do we *need* salvation?

God tells us through Paul that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Jesus Christ paid that penalty for us. But sin carries other penalties as well. Unhappy and unfulfilled lives, broken marriages, children with missing or part-time parents, war, terrorism, crime, poverty, disease, starvation — all a part of the *here-and-now* penalty of broken law.

What great mercy God has extended to Christians to open our minds to the *way out* of the disastrous results of life without Him! And the way out for suffering humanity as well. The time is coming when the *whole world* will be delivered, even as God has begun delivering His elect now.

Converted Christians, the saints, will have a part in bringing about the deliverance after Jesus returns and establishes the Kingdom of God on earth. At that time we will serve Him as not only begotten *but literally born* children of God (I John 3:1-2). We will be directly involved in bringing permanent *solutions* to the bewildering age-old problems of humanity cut off from God (Revelation 20:6).

Truly committed Christians have the unfathomable blessing *now* of being able to enjoy the fruit of God's holy spirit. As we submit to God's rule in our lives, allowing His spirit to lead us, we can experience the "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23) that are the product or



fruit of the holy spirit. These are the *opposite* of the natural inclination of our human minds. They are the opposite of the *way of rebellion* chosen and followed by the devil and with which he has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9).

There is indeed a vast gulf between God's way of give and the devil's way of get. God's way is based on what He is — LOVE. The devil's way is based on what he is — a rebel.

This vital lesson must be firmly implanted in our minds so that we never forget it for all eternity. God wants us, His children, to understand the difference! That is why *we must choose* the way God has commanded — the way that leads to *life* (Deuteronomy 30:19). We must live that way even unto death so that for all eternity we will *never* turn back from that way nor compromise with it.

We will *know* what the fruit of sin is, because we have experienced it, suffered it, been *redeemed and delivered* from it! We will never go back to it.

God has shown us how to avoid the natural consequences of sin — by obeying Him. He has shown us the way to avoid the emotional devastation of unresolved guilt — by *believing* in His forgiveness upon our repentance, made possible by Jesus' payment of sin's death penalty in our stead.

Yes, the perfect Jesus Christ is indeed the captain of our salvation! And as our High Priest, elder brother, master and King, He leads the way to unparalleled happiness forever!

Let's rededicate ourselves to following that way — and let's rejoice in the magnificent plan of redemption and salvation God has extended now to us and eventually to all humanity!

Joseph W. Tkach

Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

LETTERS

A united family

I would like to express my gratitude for the work that Mr. Tkach is doing to unite the Church as a family. He really has opened the eyes of the brethren to see where they were lacking in this area.

I do a lot of traveling with my job and attend many different congregations and can really see a difference in how close the brethren are and how much more new faces are welcomed in each congregation. The Church really is becoming a family, and the unity really stands out everywhere that I attend.

Jeffery B. Zoellick
Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

Tremendous job

I have never written in to the Work before except to ask for articles, but was inspired greatly by the article "Why Are You Reading This Magazine?" by Mr. Earl H. Williams (November-December) and decided to write and thank him . . .

I wish to thank you, Mr. Tkach, for the tremendous job you are doing. I know God is backing you all the way. My family and I pray for you daily.

Mrs. Russell G. Love Sr.
Alma, Ga.

Listened to early broadcasts

Re "How Others Learned the Truth" (November-December): I can remember listening to Herbert W. Armstrong when we were going across the desert in Nevada or Arizona back in the '30s or '40s when they had radios in cars first. We started going to California when I was in grade school in Electra, Tex. I now am 63 years old. Dad always drove across the desert in the night back then because they didn't have air conditioning. So we listened to the radio to stay awake — and Mr. Armstrong certainly kept you awake, that's for sure.

Jean Knox Ashcraft
Harlingen, Tex.

Prayer and faith

I have just finished reading "When Prayers Go No Farther Than the Ceiling," by Michael Feazell, and "If You Are Losing Faith," by John Halford (November-December). These two articles must have been written just for me! I have felt that way for months now.

I don't know if other members have this same problem but I do know God inspired these articles for members like me who love Him but feel inadequate

about how to pray, and not "good enough" to talk with God.

I found myself slipping back into more and more bad habits and felt so helpless to stop myself. I, too, have suffered from the "when-thens" for a long time now. These articles have literally been God-sent to me and I now feel encouraged to get up, dust off the dirt and draw close to my heavenly Father.

Member
Huntsville, Ala.

"A Sealed Prophecy"

Thank you immensely for the article "A Sealed Prophecy Now Open to Understanding!" As I read this article the true understanding of Daniel's prophecy became so plainly evident. And yet it has been read by men for some 2,500 years never being understood.

It was like opening an ancient tomb sealed some 25 centuries ago. And there before my eyes were treasures without human dreams. No dust, no tarnish, no cracks. Just sparkling treasure. Right before my eyes! Exactly as their Maker had placed them. Sealed in silence for two-and-one-half millennia.

What a precious gift it is to be given the miraculous understanding of the mysteries of God!

Michael Wayne Kiser
San Antonio, Tex.

Revelation's seven seals

I wish to tell you how much I appreciate the magazines you send to me.

The chart showing the seven seals of Revelation (November-December) is priceless to me. It was an answer to prayer. I had just gotten through reading Revelation and wished I could understand it better when this issue of *The Good News* came. I am keeping the chart and the article on Daniel 8 in my Bible for ready reference.

Alice Fern Love
Heyburn, Idaho

"Sharing the Pain"

I am a 15-year-old girl. I have just finished reading "Sharing the Pain" (September-October). I want to thank you for writing it.

There are a lot of pressures teenagers go through. I always hear, "Teenagers today know everything," but we really don't. We're only kids. Kids make mistakes just like parents do sometimes. We need to know that our parents are there to help us.

Most parents like to have a special

time when they can "communicate" with their children, but do they? It seems to be a big formal thing where the parents are actually making the kid talk.

Teenagers like to talk. But they like to do it when there is no pressure. Most do anyway. But do parents listen? I mean really listen? After the special "family time" the parents often feel happy because they "shared" with their teen. The teen usually is just happy it's over.

I'm not saying parents should just sit around and wait for their teen to open up to them. Just don't force them to. If they do have something to say, believe me, they will say it.

Of course, this doesn't apply to every family. Observe your teen and see how he or she reacts when you talk to him or her.

Sorry if this letter was too boring.
Reader
Murrieta, Calif.

Encouraging articles

Thank you for two very encouraging articles in *The Good News*, "Is Your Name in the Book of Life?" (August) and "Resurrected in Eden!" (September-October) . . .

Mr. Aust provides very specific scriptural facts with positive insight to encourage the reader. Both subjects seem to complement each other, pointing our thoughts to God and asking Him for help through His holy spirit. Thank you again, Mr. Aust, for allowing God to use your talents in this manner of godly encouragement. Keep up the pursuit of excellence you always display.

R.J. Antonacci Jr.
San Antonio, Tex.

New word?

In the November-December *Good News* "Prove All Things" section, you use the word *disannul*. What is this strange new word? *Annul* fits, but what is this double-negative word?

I thank God for you and the true Church of God and all her publications, but your vocabulary is strange here.

Thank you for your attention to what may be a trivial matter to you.

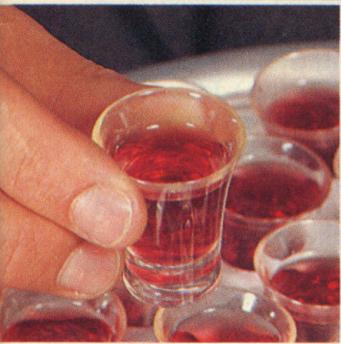
S.J. Shoenfelt
Harrisburg, Penn.

Good News usage is based on the 1981 edition of Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, published by G. & C. Merriam Co. This dictionary defines disannul as a verb meaning to "annul" or "cancel."

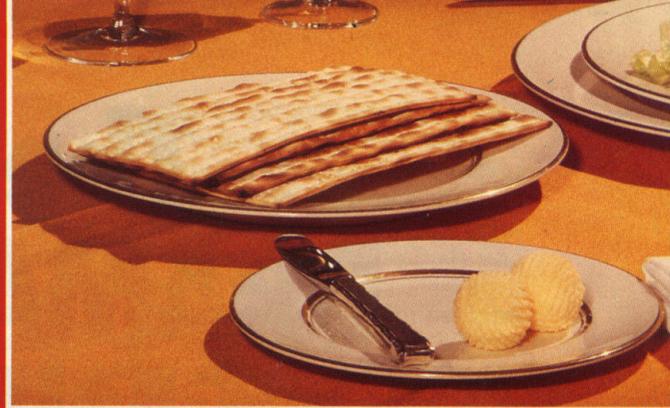
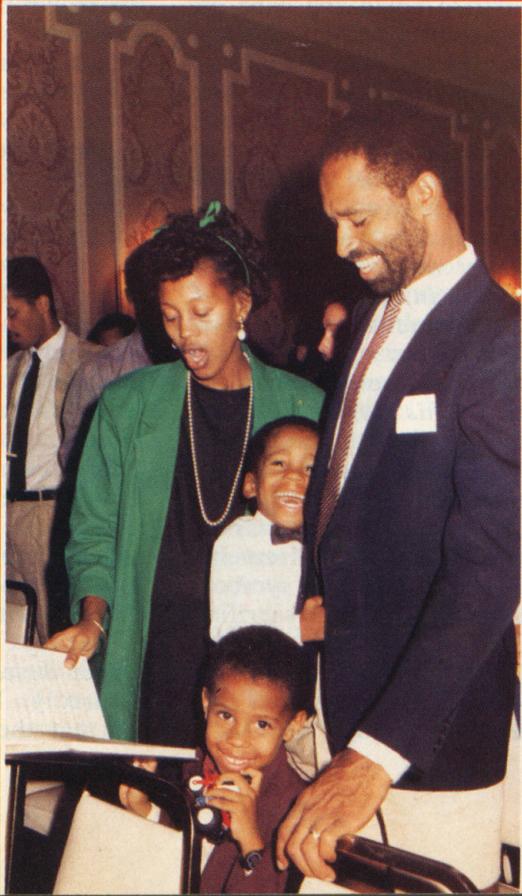


G.A. Belluche Jr. Graham Mocklow

Warren Watson



Graham Mocklow



Good News photo

God's Spring Festivals

Millions would be shocked — *if* they could learn about the seven annual festivals God has revealed to His one true Church!

But God has not chosen, in this age, to reveal His feasts (Leviticus 23) to all of mankind.

Unlike the humanly devised, meaningless “holidays” of this world, God’s festivals picture His plan of salvation. And God is not trying to save the whole world now! But for true Christians who keep them in the right way, God’s festivals and Holy Days are rich in meaning.

The first festival, Passover, commemorates the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who died to pay the penalty we incurred for breaking God’s law (Romans 6:23).

The next seven days after Passover, God’s people keep the Days of Unleavened Bread, God’s second annual festival. During this time, we make sure no leaven is in our homes, and we eat no leavened products. This pictures the removal of sin from our lives.

Several articles in this issue offer an inside look at God’s spring festivals.

Good News photo



The DRAMATIC MEANING of the Passover Symbols



Why do God's people partake of unleavened bread and wine at the Passover service? How well can you explain it?

By Joseph W. Tkach

God is the Creator. He is also the great Planner and Teacher. Whatever God does, He does with purpose.

So what purpose did God have in mind when He gave His true Church the Passover service?

Why must Christians partake of unleavened bread and wine on the 14th day of the first month of God's sacred calendar (Leviticus 23:5)?

Paul wrote: "The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; *do this in remembrance of Me.*' In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. *This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*'" (I Corinthians 11:23-25).

Jesus commanded His true followers to partake of the symbols of the Passover service in remembrance of Him! Those symbols remind us of His great sacrifice on our behalf. But what do those symbols mean?

Before taking the Passover this year, every member of God's

Church needs to know the profound meaning of the Passover symbols, and realize the tremendous significance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!

Why did Jesus Christ, who never sinned, have to suffer through a hideous scourging and hours of crucifixion?

Why did He have to endure the agony of the previous sleepless night, being betrayed by His friends, and the trial, mocking and ridicule described in the four gospels?

Why did He, the Creator of

mankind, have to die for His creation?

Christ's broken body and shed blood have far more meaning than most people who claim to be Christians have ever realized!

Let's review what Jesus Himself said about the awesome meaning of His sacrifice.

The sacrifice of Christ

In John 6 Jesus began to teach the crowd that had followed Him across the Sea of Galilee about who He was and His purpose.

In verses 32-33 Jesus explained, "My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

And in verse 35: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Jesus' statements in verse 51 are even more direct: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

Verses 53-58 go further: "Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of

Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

“For my flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

“This is the bread which came down from heaven — not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”

Jesus here stressed the symbols of His broken body and His shed blood. Christ made it plain that we must in a special manner eat His flesh and drink His blood to be granted eternal life!

He said that eating His flesh, symbolized by eating a piece of unleavened bread at the Passover service, shows that we are willing to let Him live in us so that we may live forever.

And Ephesians 1:7 adds, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

How pivotal are these symbols of unleavened bread and wine God has given us! Yet millions have never even heard of the Passover or God’s other festivals, let alone seen the need to actively keep these days year by year!

Reconciliation

The Bible says sin is the transgression of God’s law (I John 3:4). The basic law God set in motion is spiritual (Romans 7:14). It is the law of love — the *give* way of life. It is summed up in the Ten Commandments. The wages of breaking God’s revealed law is death — the second death (Romans 6:23).

All have sinned (Romans 3:23). And sin sets up an impassible barrier between the sinner and God (Isaiah 59:2).

Unless the sinner is *reconciled* to God, he has no escape from the *corrupt state of mind* brought on by sin — except in

death. Because of sin, each human is subject to eventual death all the days of his life.

Jesus took upon Himself that death sentence itself. But He also took upon Himself through His scourging and the suffering of crucifixion the awful and tragic *consequences* that our sins cause in this life for both ourselves and others. Jesus took the *whole burden* of sin and all its components — the full effect — upon Himself so that upon repentance we are no longer chargeable! We may then be *reconciled* to God — forgiven of *all* sins, because there is *nothing* humans bring on themselves that Jesus’ suffering did not cover.

Hebrews 2:17-18 reveals: “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted” (King James Version).

Jesus is our faithful High Priest who *understands* human suffering. He *knows* what pain and torment are all about. And furthermore, He set the example for us of *faith* in suffering, and makes that same faith available to us (Revelation 14:12). As we read in Hebrews 12:2, “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Christ never sinned. He never brought the death penalty upon Himself. But, since He was the Maker of all mankind (Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:13-16), His life was greater than the sum total of all other human lives. And when He died on the cross, Christ took our penalty on Himself. He paid the death penalty in place of us — *if* we repent and live by faith.

One supreme sacrifice

Notice Paul’s teaching about the Passover in I Corinthians 11:26-29: “For as often as you

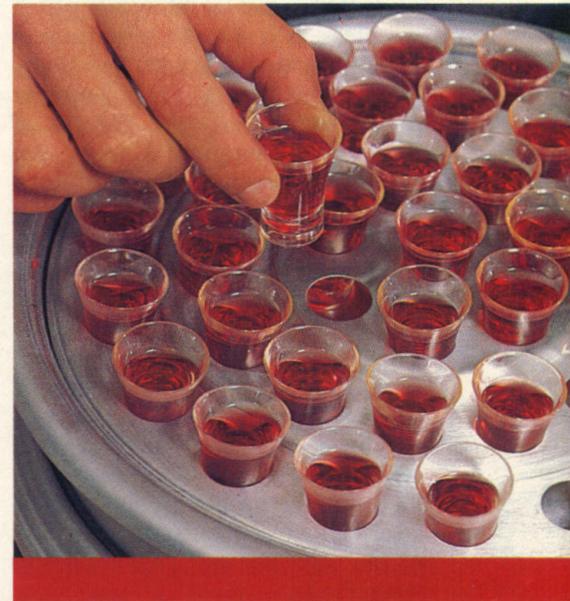
eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”

The body and blood of Christ provide one supreme sacrifice.

Notice Hebrews 10:10: “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

Continuing in verse 12, “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat



The reason for Christ’s sacrifice? To make it possible for sinful humans to be restored to a right relationship with God, upon repentance and faith.

down at the right hand of God." And in verses 19-20, "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh."

The reason for Christ's sacrifice? To make it possible for sinful humans to be restored to a right relationship with God, upon repentance and faith.

We accept Christ's sacrifice by turning from the old way we have lived and setting ourselves to live God's way from now on. Christ's sacrifice pays the penalty for our past sins.

The Passover symbols

Now let's go to I Corinthians 10:16-17. Speaking of the Passover service and symbols, Paul said: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, being many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread."

The Passover service is a magnificent reminder of the Christian calling!

The small piece of unleavened bread we eat symbolizes Jesus' body broken for our sins, and our calling to let Him live His life in us through the holy spirit.

The tiny drink of wine symbolizes Jesus' own blood, shed for us to make possible the forgiveness of our sins and our reconciliation with God.

Christ living in us makes us part of the one Body of Christ — His Church, the begotten Family of God!

Remember again John 6:56. Here Christ stated, "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him." It is plain from this verse that the Passover symbols show not only that Christ is in us, but also that we are "in Him." That is, our partaking of the symbols shows that we are in His Church and thus in the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12-13, 27), and that we are already begotten

members of His Family — the God Family! God's holy spirit in us serves not just to attach God to us but also us to God! See also John 17:21.

The members of that Body — that Church — that one Family — are unified in doctrine, in organization, in purpose, in attitude and spirit. We are unified in loving concern for each other and for all the rest of mankind, for we will have the chance to help God bring the rest of mankind into His Family in the wonderful world tomorrow!

What tremendous spiritual meaning the Passover's symbols have! Christ's sacrifice is central to every blessing we may receive from God.

Christ now lives in us

The Passover service, which most of the world ignores, is a solemn, sober occasion. It commemorates the suffering and death of our Savior. But it is also a time to show profound thanks, a time of deep spiritual joy in response to what the great God has done for us!

God gave His only Son as a sacrifice to enable us to be forgiven and rescued from eternal death. He has grafted us into and made us a part of the Body of Christ — that is, if we have truly repented of our sins, been baptized as the Bible commands and now live by faith in God.

And if we are to live by Jesus Christ (John 6:57), we must also partake of Christ's suffering. Paul explained that if we are children of God, then we are "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Romans 8:17).

Peter wrote: "When you do good and suffer for it, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps" (I Peter 2:20-21).

Peter went on to explain how to follow Jesus' steps. Jesus "committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth"; who,

when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (verses 22-25).

Living God's way

Jesus lived a way of life in total contrast to our natural, human way. His way was the way of love. Even when He suffered, He still expressed love.

Even in cases where human nature would have cried out to fight back or lash out, Jesus remained at one with His Father.

Christ paid the penalty for sin for us, and He set the pattern of how we are to think and live!

When Christians partake of the unleavened bread and wine at the Passover service, we show that we are totally committed to God and His way of life. We renew our total, unconditional surrender to God. We show that with all our heart we desire to live by Him and let Him live in us. We demonstrate our willingness to suffer as Christians, as Christ Himself suffered, for righteousness' sake.

We call to mind Christ's stripes, which He received for our sins, and we realize that God "has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:5-6). God "made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

And we realize the calling God has given us to be part of the one Body of Jesus Christ.

What wonderful truth God in His mercy has revealed to His elect!

Let us therefore keep the 1988 Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread "not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (I Corinthians 5:8)! □

Jesus—

Sentenced to Death for His Message!

*Would you be
willing to die for
that same message
today?*

By Victor Kubik

What happened to Jesus Christ on the last day of His earthly life — Passover, A.D. 31 — highlighted the whole purpose of His coming. It called attention to a dimension of His Gospel that most people do not understand even today!

“What accusation do you bring against this Man?” Pilate asked (John 18:29). Prompted by the angry mob, he then asked Christ, “Are You the King of the Jews?” (verse 33).

Was Christ a king?

Pilate was personally sensitive to any wind of insurrection against the Roman government. Consequently, he did everything he could to keep any public uproar from getting out of hand.

When asked if He was a king, Christ did not play down what Pilate meant by “king.” Jesus simply told Pilate who He really was: “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world” (verse 37).

At His birth, Jesus was recognized as a king. When the wise men from the east came to bring gifts to the infant Christ, they came to pay homage to a king;

when they reached Jerusalem they inquired, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:2). They were not looking for a religious leader or a reformer, but for a king.

The question created quite a stir in Jerusalem. King Herod, then ruler under the Romans, called on the chief priests and scribes for more information about the birth of Christ and whereabouts of this king.

They quoted Micah 5:2: “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel” (Matthew 2:6).

These were not words about a man of religion, but about a literal ruler.

Threatened politically by this attention to a potential new king born in his territory, Herod reacted by massacring all male children age 2 and under in Bethlehem. He knew well what the word *king* meant, and he wanted no competition!

Christ was born to be a king. But what kind of king? Merely a symbolic entity? A kind of spiritual figurehead for an emerging religion?

The angel who announced Jesus’ birth to Mary told her: “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:32-33).

The king prophesied

The prophet Isaiah spoke of Christ’s coming: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be



Ken Tunell

upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

And Daniel, speaking about Christ’s future coronation, said: “Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:14).

Announced during Christ’s ministry

During His ministry, did Christ make His role and coming Kingdom known?

Most assuredly! The biographies of Jesus clearly show us that the main thrust of His work was teaching about the Kingdom of God.

In Mark 1:14 Christ inaugurated His ministry: “Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the

Christ lived and died for His Kingdom! Are you willing to die, if need be, for that same Kingdom?

kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel'” (Mark 1:14).

Today, people are generally ignorant about what the Kingdom of God is because *what* Christ taught is not emphasized. People hear a gospel *about* Christ, but few hear the Gospel *of* Christ.

In the “Sermon on the Mount” Christ spoke about the Kingdom of God as the “kingdom of heaven” — the Kingdom coming *from* heaven, not *in* heaven (Matthew 5:3). Those who become humble, teachable peacemakers would “inherit the earth” (verse 5).

In the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32) Christ taught us that the Kingdom would begin small and will grow large. Christ’s earthly ministry had the humblest beginning — His return to earth with millions of angels will be awesome.

In the parable of the pounds of Luke 19, Christ taught that a person’s performance in this lifetime determined how he or she would be rewarded with a measure of rule in God’s Kingdom: “Because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities” (verse 17).

Jesus taught that the humble, dependent and teachable disposition of a little child is a model for those who expect to inherit God’s Kingdom (Mark 10:14-15).

In Luke 17:21, while talking to a group of Pharisees, Jesus announced that “the kingdom of God is within [more properly, “among”] you.” Christ was the embodiment of that Kingdom through His teaching and His works. He never missed an opportunity to talk about it.

Back to the trial

When Pilate asked Him who and what He represented, Christ replied, “My kingdom is not of

this world” (John 18:36). “World” comes from the Greek word *kosmos*, which means “society.” Christ did not deny He had a Kingdom, but that Kingdom wasn’t part of this world’s system of government. In the same verse Christ also said that His Kingdom was “not from here” — it was not *of* or *for* that time.

The chief priests used this occasion to pit Christ against Caesar as ruler. They shouted, “We have no king but Caesar!” (John 19:15). The governments of God and man collided head-on.

Christ could have saved His life simply by clearing up any misunderstanding — *if* there was a question about what He meant by the word *king*. But He did not — because He was a king in the purest form!

To placate the mob, Pilate pronounced the death sentence on Christ. For what charge? For claiming to be the King of the coming Kingdom of God!

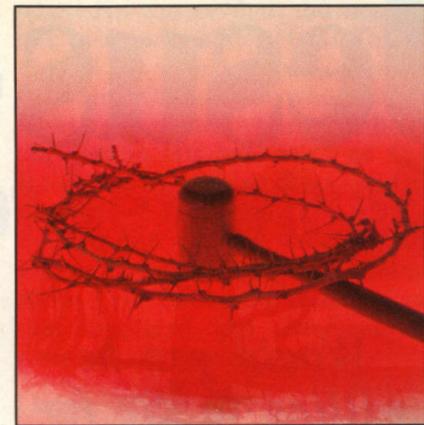
It was inscribed over Christ’s head as He was crucified: “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS” (John 19:19). It was of the Jews because Christ came from Judah.

At His trial Christ also addressed all Christians: “Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37).

Do *you* hear and understand Christ’s voice? Do *you* really understand that He is King of a government that is coming to replace this world’s governments, as foretold by Daniel? That it will be a real government, not what’s often portrayed as a church coexisting alongside civil authority? Or a “feeling” within you? Or some faraway place in heaven?

Do you also understand that the Kingdom is available to you?

Christ lived and died for His



Hal Finch

Kingdom! As a begotten child of God, destined to be a King and priest in His Kingdom, are *you* willing to die, if need be, for that same Kingdom?

Christ spent 40 days on earth after His resurrection. What did He do? To His followers He “presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3).

He continued teaching about the Kingdom!

What about today?

A few days before Christ died, His disciples questioned Him about what signs would precede His Second Coming and the end of the age. Christ gave them a list of coming upheavals and unprecedented troubles.

Among those signs, however, would be the restoration of the original Gospel: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

Who today is preaching that same Gospel about the Kingdom of God?

In this end time the Church of God has not deviated from the message of the Kingdom originally proclaimed by Jesus in Judea, Galilee and surrounding territories.

The Worldwide Church of God is fulfilling Christ’s prophecy of Matthew 24:14 by carrying the message of the Kingdom of God worldwide! □

'Daddy, Why Do We Eat Unleavened Bread?'

To teach our children about God's plan, we need to first understand God's Holy Days ourselves.

By Dexter H. Faulkner

God's Spring Holy Days will soon be upon us!

By the time you read this, Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread will be, at most, only a few weeks away. To God's true people, this season and all of God's Holy Days are deeply meaningful.

But how much meaning do they have for our children, those young ones whose teaching God says is our responsibility?

Do we ourselves deeply understand God's Holy Days? And, most important, do we set the right example in observing these days? Do we take them seriously? Unless we do, how can we effectively express to our children the significance of God's master plan?

Ancient Israel's example

The ancient Israelites, in slavery in Egypt, certainly were forced to take God's plan seriously when God began to work with them. Times of national cri-

sis — war, economic depression, enslavement of one nation to another — are probably harder on children than on any other single group within a nation. Without a doubt this was true during ancient Israel's hard bondage in Egypt.

Imagine the plight of Israel's children during the months and weeks leading up to the Exodus:

Slavery no doubt broke up families. The people lived in extreme poverty. The Israelite children were not afforded good opportunities for proper education.

The hard labor, from which even the children were not excepted, must have claimed a heavy toll in terms of the children's physical and mental health.

Nothing — not even human life — could stand in the way of the massive building projects that Pharaoh pushed so obsessively.

Then God intervened. Keeping His promise to the patriarch Abraham (Genesis 15:13-14), God began to deliver Israel. Moses arrived on the scene and God, through miraculous and devastating plagues, drove Pharaoh to release God's nation.

But think of the Israelites' children. While the grown-ups were no doubt bewildered by the course of events, the children must have been most confused —

even fearful. Israel followed God's instructions and prepared for the very first Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread (Exodus 12:1-25). God struck down the firstborn in every Egyptian home and Moses began to lead Israel out of the land of Egypt. These amazing events would only have added to the children's wonderment.

But God is not the author of confusion (I Corinthians 14:33). He wanted His people — every person, down to the youngest child who could understand — to know about His plan. So He provided a means for the children to learn about the events and ceremonies of these first Holy Days: Parents were to teach their children, then and for every generation thereafter.

Notice Exodus 12:26-27: "And it shall be," God told Israel, "when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the



Good News

children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.'"

God placed a heavy responsibility on parents. They were to teach their children about the things of God, including God's Holy Days, which show the plan of salvation.

One of the most effective ways for them to have done so was to have set the proper example of

Our children are in a situation similar to the one Israel's children were in. We parents are coming out of sin (spiritual Egypt), and our children may be confused.

obedience in their own lives. The Bible shows, however, the adult Israelites themselves failed to heed God's commands, let alone teach the younger generations. Therefore, God allowed Israelites past the age of 20, except Joshua and Caleb, to die in the wilderness rather than enter the promised land.

And Moses, before Israel crossed the Jordan River into Canaan, had to repeat for the younger people, in Deuteronomy, things their parents had failed to teach them. Sad to say, this younger generation also failed to teach their offspring about the ways of God, and the record of Israel's unhappy history shows the result.

Our children are holy

What does this example from Israel's history mean to us today?

Consider our children. Don't they also live in difficult, confusing times — one of the worst times in the history of the world?

Don't the pressures, temptations and enigmas of life in this world exact a high price in terms of our children's physical, emotional and — yes — spiritual health?

Aren't our children in a situation similar to the one the children of ancient Israel were in? We parents are coming out of sin (spiritual Egypt), and our children may be confused.

If we are truly called, begotten

children of God's Family, our children are specially blessed by God (I Corinthians 7:14). God wants them to know about His plan and His way of life, and God has provided a means by which they can learn.

That means is us! We are to teach them. And one of the most basic ways to explain God's plan is by explaining God's Holy Days, beginning with these Spring Holy Days just ahead of us now.

Children to be taught

Notice the admonition God gave through Moses to Israel's younger generations, when Moses reiterated God's law to them: "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up [in other words, all the time!]" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

These instructions apply just as readily to us today, for we, God's called-out people in this end time, are spiritual Israelites.

And teaching our children is not just a matter of speaking to them. Much if not most of our teaching is through the example we set. Are our children receiving positive impressions of God's plan by the way they see us act?

How can we promote our children's understanding of God's Holy Days?

We should rehearse the history of the Exodus with our children, helping them imagine what it was like to be a child in Israel at that time. This will make the story more interesting to them.

We can explain what these days mean now, in New Testament times — their meaning is much more profound today, to Christians.

We can review the facts about Christ's sacrifice and what it means to us now, and what it will ultimately mean to our children and to the whole world.

We can describe what we do on the Passover evening and tell

them what the various symbols — the foot-washing service, the bread and wine — mean.

Perhaps we could involve the children in baking unleavened bread this year. If the children help to make unleavened bread, this symbol will have more meaning to them — and to us! — than if we buy all the bread from a store.

We should involve our children in cleaning the house and premises, all the while explaining to them why we are cleaning — to symbolize that we must put every last bit of leaven, the type of sin, out of our lives.

Personal review

The Holy Days depict God's great master plan, to which we have devoted our very eternity! Shouldn't we have a thorough grasp of these festivals?

Our booklet *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days — Which?* offers, in detail, the background to the Holy Days in general and explains each one in particular. It proves, from God's Word, that we are required to keep the festivals today (could you prove it, if a skeptic asked you?), shows what each festival meant in both the Old and New Testaments and makes clear the meaning of the symbols associated with each Holy Day. The booklet also includes a handy Holy Day calendar for the next several years.

It would be a good idea to get out this booklet and review it before the coming festivals of God. Rereading the information will make it fresh in our minds, and we will be better able to communicate it to our children.

(If you don't have the booklet, you may send for a *free* copy by writing to the *Good News* address nearest you.)

Let's determine to deeply understand and appreciate God's Holy Days this year, beginning with the upcoming Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

And let's help our children learn about, enjoy and revere God's Holy Days by teaching our children as God commands us! □

Are You in a Foot-washing Attitude?

By Earl H. Williams

*Here is what
you should
learn from the
foot-washing
ceremony
at Passover
services.*

Have you listened to your feet lately? God made your feet for more than walking! He made them for teaching, too. Feet teach humility.

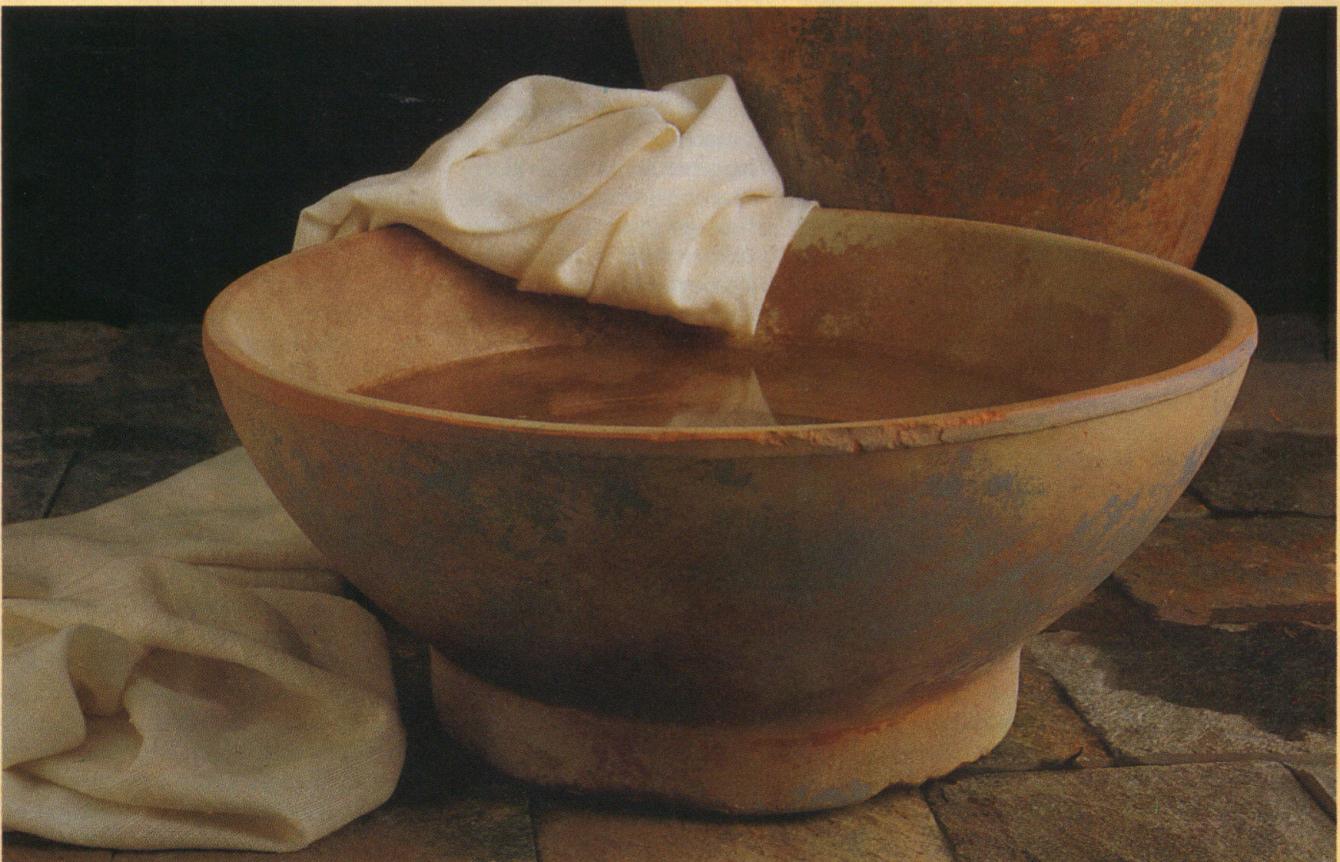
A ceremony for feet

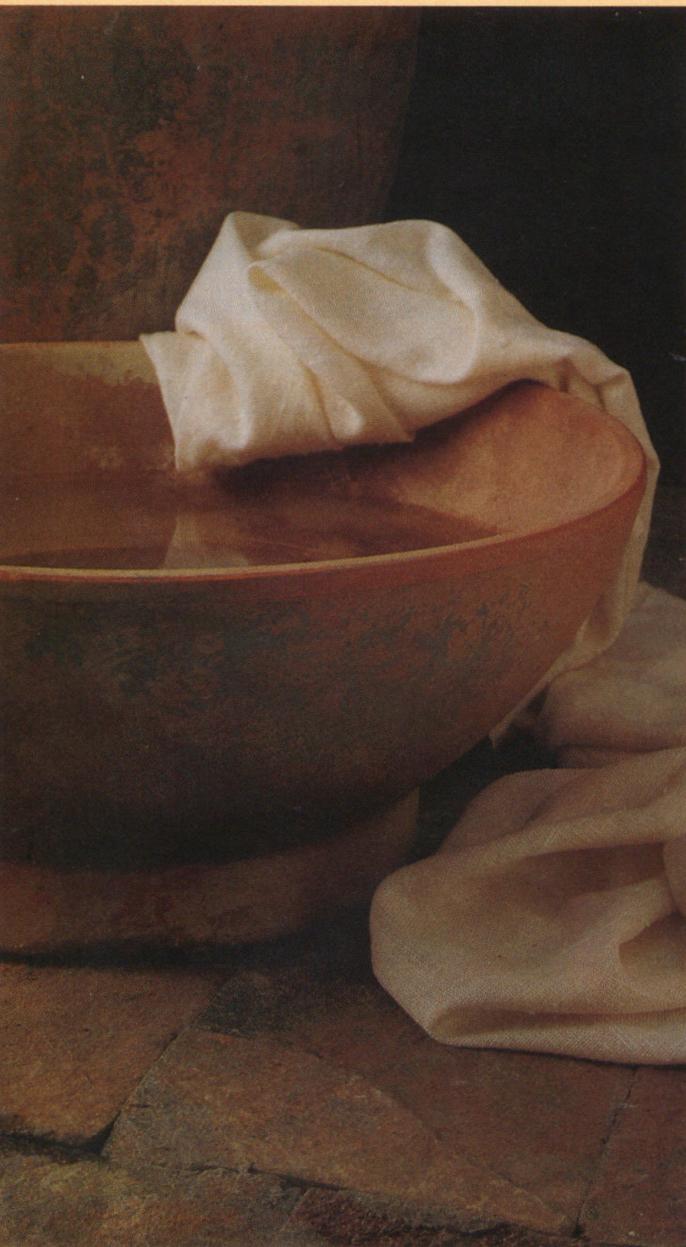
Did you realize that God created a ceremony just for feet? It's true! We call it the foot-washing ceremony.

Each year at the Passover,

Christians follow the example Jesus set more than 1,950 years ago:

"Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. . . . Jesus . . . rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He





Photos by G.A. Belluche Jr.

poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded" (John 13:1-5).

We wash one another's feet the way Jesus washed His disciples' feet.

Why? Because before we can partake of the Passover symbols of unleavened bread and wine, picturing Christ's body and blood, our attitude must reflect the essence of His life (verses 6-17).

Paul warns, "For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's

Before we can partake of the Passover symbols of unleavened bread and wine, our attitude must reflect Christ's own attitude of humility and service. Christ instituted the foot-washing ceremony to teach us many lessons about humility.

body" (I Corinthians 11:29).

What is a worthy Passover attitude? Paul says: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who . . . made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:5-7).

The attitude you need before the Passover is humility. Christ was a humble servant. God, in His wisdom, placed the foot-washing ceremony before the rest of the Passover service. Before

you go to the service, look at your feet and learn humility.

Important lessons

● *Feet are lowly.* Your feet are the lowest parts of your body. They must look up to all the other members. Do you have the same approach to the other members of Christ's Body?

Your feet tell you to esteem others better than yourself (Philippians 2:3). When you do, you are free of pride. And when the Body of Christ is free of pride, there is harmony and oneness and peace.

● *Feet are dirty.* Have you no-

ticed how much dirt your feet collect? They are simply collecting what you are made of — dirt! Remembering what God created you from will keep you humble.

Dirty feet also remind you of dirty sins. It is humbling to have your sins stare you in the face. When you see the dirt on your feet, humbly realize how much you need a washing of your heart by the blood of Jesus Christ.

If you humbly repent before your Maker, He says to you, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18).

● *Feet are meek.* Your feet go where your head tells them to go. They do not stop you as you are about to turn right and tell you they want to go left. Are you as meek (teachable) as your feet?

Our Head, Jesus Christ, wants all the members of His Body to respond uniformly to His leadership. Christ set the example for us by being meek and responsive to His Father (John 5:30).

● *Feet serve.* They carry the weight of your entire body all day long. They transport you wherever you want to go. They do so many things for you. Your feet point to the example of Christ, who said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

Humbly serve the rest of the members of Christ's Body the way your feet serve you. Carry their burdens (Galatians 6:2). And remember that, just as your busy feet serve, you should be busy serving in God's Work. Christ spent His life doing the Work of God. He said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34).

You can learn many other lessons of humility from your feet. Think about the many things they do, and how those things relate to your role as a Christian.

Are you ready to take the Passover? Do you have the foot-washing attitude? You will if you look down at your feet and learn from them. Remember: Feet teach humility! □

Beware the Leaven of Sin

*God's people
observe the Days of
Unleavened Bread
each year by ridding
their homes of all
leaven and leavened
products for this
seven-day period.
Why? Because
leaven pictures sin!*

By Samuel Kneller

The time of year is upon us when we will apply Exodus 12:19 in our homes: "Seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses."

The members of God's Church will be wiping, mopping, sponging, scouring, rubbing, dusting, washing and vacuuming to eradicate all leaven — just as we should do spiritually to erase sin from our lives.

It's important to remember that while we're cleaning our homes physically, God wants us to learn some important lessons.

Some time ago I was walking down the sparkling clean aisles in

the dairy section of the supermarket. A janitor had removed the skirt on the bottom of a freezer and was scraping off dirt that had built up underneath.

It seems that the machines used to clean the aisles push the dirt-laden water under the skirts. There the filth dries, unseen.

Do we do the same with sin in our lives? Does the outside look virtuous while the inside is encrusted and stinking (Matthew 23:25-28)?

During cleanup for the Days of Unleavened Bread, the accent is often put on cleaning the interior of cupboards, drawers and nooks and crannies where we don't usually look. Similarly, we need to get the "dead men's bones and all uncleanness" out of our spiritual lives.

Clean thoroughly

Cleaning out every crumb of leaven — symbolic, remember, of getting all sin out of our lives — takes time. Do we try to hurry through cleaning? Have you ever tried to speed up cleaning a bookshelf by squeezing a long row of books between your hands and moving them all at once? I did and — crash!

It's better to work a little slower and get the work done properly.

The Days of Unleavened Bread are a time for reorganizing and setting your life in order. Set aside enough time for deleavening (Ephesians 5:16).

Have you ever brushed off the seat of an armchair and then real-

ized you should have cleaned the back of the seat first? Or swept the floor only to notice that the cupboard above hasn't yet been cleaned? Or dusted a bottom shelf before the top one?

Ever forgotten to remove the leaven from everyday places? One year I omitted to clean the pad on the top of my desk. I sat at my desk preparing sermons, writing and reading for the entire Feast — in leaven. Don't overlook your purse, briefcase, vacuum cleaner or cleaning rag.

We all need to plan better.

Sure, it's work

Getting sin out takes work. It's the same for leaven. You'll perspire and get tired and filthy, but it must be done.

Like sin, leaven can be found in unusual places. One year, while dusting the lowest shelf of a cupboard we've had for 14 years, I discovered that the bottom is removable. You should have seen what awaited me — 14 years of dirt.

One summer, while moving some boxes in the basement, I found a small piece of toast neatly lodged behind them. How long had it been there? I really didn't know — perhaps from before the previous Days of Unleavened Bread!

God searches the recesses of our hearts for leaven, and we must, too (Jeremiah 17:9-10, I Corinthians 11:28, 31).

Yes, preparation for the Days of Unleavened Bread takes energy and work to eliminate the leaven and replace it with justice and cleanliness.

When I first looked at the basement, I thought, It's OK. After a few hours of work I contemplated the dustpan full of filth and reflected on the leaven in my life that still needs to be extracted. The basement, finally, really was clean — just the way my life should be.

Deleavening each year has deep spiritual meaning. As you go about it, why don't you write down some of the many lessons we can learn through cleaning up and reorganizing our lives? □



G.A. Belluche Jr.



*Read here
Egyptian accounts
of the pharaohs
who ruled at the time
of the oppression
and the Exodus.*

In 1898, local *felaheen* — Egyptian peasants — drew the attention of Loret, the French archaeologist, to a remarkable find in the Valley of the Kings.

It was an ancient tomb, carved long ago into the sandstone cliffs of the Theban hills opposite Luxor by the Nile.

As an excited Loret entered the tomb, he found a corridor, rough and undecorated, leading downward, deep into the hills. Following the sloping corridor, Loret eventually arrived at what proved to be a false burial chamber, created by ancient architects to confuse tomb robbers.

In the floor of this chamber, the archaeologist found a stairway descending into the actual tomb chamber, a large room supported by six pillars.

The false burial chamber had obviously failed in its purpose, for the stairway had been uncovered in ancient times by tomb robbers.

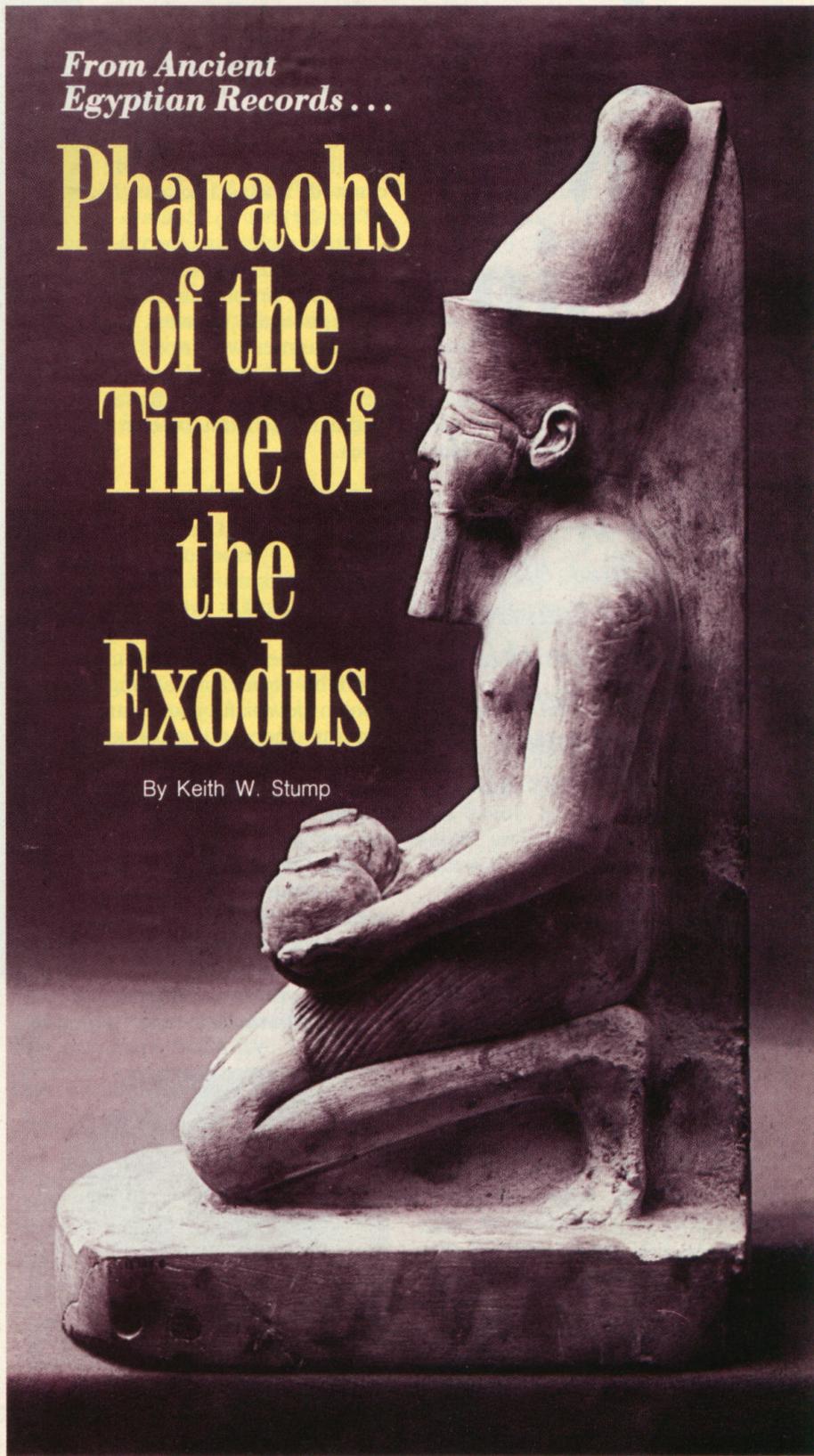
As he entered the funerary chamber, Loret found a magnificent quartzite-sandstone sarcophagus (stone coffin). The sarcophagus was all that ancient grave-robbers had left when they plundered the chamber long ago.

Inside the sarcophagus lay a mummy, festooned and garlanded. Loret quickly read the

*From Ancient
Egyptian Records . . .*

Pharaohs of the Time of the Exodus

By Keith W. Stump



Photos: Metropolitan Museum of Art



hieroglyphs to discover the identity of the mummy.

This was the tomb of Amenhotep II, a pharaoh of Egypt's Eighteenth Dynasty!

The find was significant. It was the first tomb ever opened in which a pharaoh was found where he had been laid, undisturbed by tomb robbers. And the burial chamber proved to be one of the most beautiful and impressive in the entire Valley of the Kings.

Few scholars suspected the full significance of this monumental discovery. For, unknown to Loret and his colleagues, the French archaeologist had entered the tomb of the Pharaoh of the Exodus — the very king who confronted Moses more than 33 centuries earlier!

Needless confusion

Much needless confusion exists regarding the historical setting of the biblical Exodus.

Most Bible scholars, ignoring or rejecting the explicit chronological information of I Kings 6:1, have not properly understood the time scheme of the Exodus. They have placed that great event around 1290 B.C. or somewhat later, during the reign of Ramses the Great of Egypt's Nineteenth Dynasty — a full century and a half *later* than it actually occurred! This late date must be rejected.

A careful consideration of all biblical and extra-biblical evidence reveals that the Exodus occurred in the middle of the 15th century B.C. — specifically, in the year 1443, during the reign of Amenhotep II, whose tomb Loret

excavated. *He* was the pharaoh who ruled from Thebes in Upper Egypt when the Egyptians would not let Israel go.

This date — 1443 — was 430 years after the covenant with Abraham, made in the spring of 1873 B.C. (Genesis 17:1, Exodus 12:40-41, Galatians 3:17). And it was in the 480th year before the laying of the foundation of the Temple in Solomon's fourth year (964 B.C.), as required by I Kings 6:1. An Exodus date of 1443 also harmonizes nicely with the Amarna Letters of ancient Egypt, which tell of "Habiru" (Hebrew) incursions into Canaan around 1400 B.C. — after the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

Now notice what Egyptian records say about this remarkable king and his dynasty.

Eighteenth Dynasty

The dynasty that enslaved Israel is known in Egyptian history as Dynasty XVIII, inaugurated by Pharaoh Ahmose about 1570 B.C. Amenhotep II — a descendant of Ahmose — was the sixth pharaoh of this dynasty.

Moses (born in 1523) was brought up as a prince of this

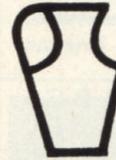
ruling family. The "daughter of Pharaoh" (Exodus 2:5) who raised him would therefore be known in Egyptian history as Hatshepsut. She was the daughter of Pharaoh Thutmose I, a son-in-law of Ahmose.

Notice that the word *mose* — meaning "child" or "son of" — often appears as a part of royal names of this dynasty. *Ahmose*, for example, means "son of Ah" (the god of light). *Thutmose* means "son of Thoth" (the moon god).

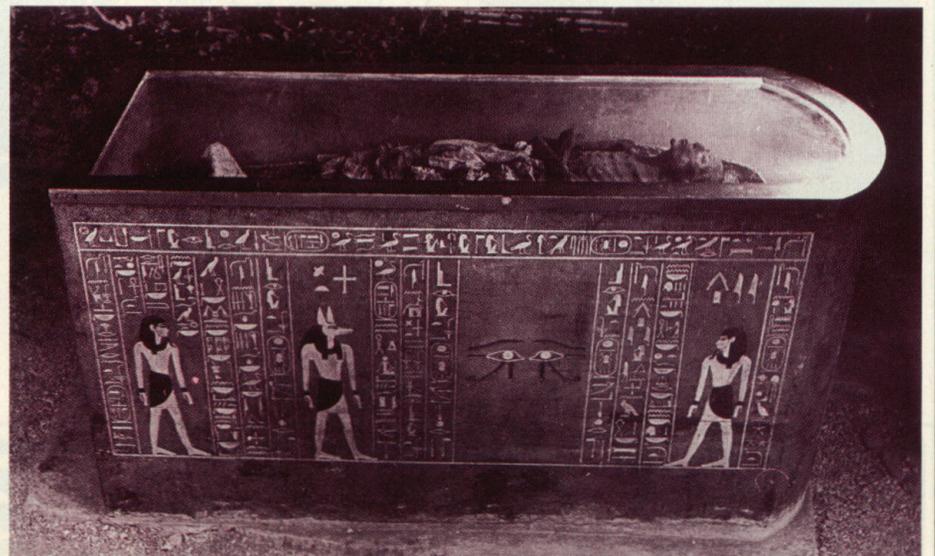
The Hebrew child drawn from the Nile by Hatshepsut was called simply *Mose* or *Moses* — for his parentage was unknown.

Amenhotep (the Greek form is *Amenophis*) was the son and successor of the great empire-builder Thutmose III, "the Napoleon of ancient Egypt." Thutmose — perhaps the greatest of the pharaohs of ancient Egypt — would therefore be the biblical "pharaoh of the oppression."

In 1483 B.C., Moses was ex-



Sarcophagus and mummy of Amenhotep II (below), discovered by Loret in the Valley of the Kings at Thebes in 1898.



Eighteenth Dynasty limestone sculpture shows Pharaoh Amenhotep II wearing the Double Crown (left). He is depicted as offering a libation (liquid sacrifice).





iled from Egypt by this Thutmose upon the death of Hatshepsut, Moses' foster mother and protector. Hatshepsut (Thutmose III's aunt) had governed as regent for Thutmose III while he was a minor. But Thutmose and his aunt had been bitter rivals. Upon the death of Hatshepsut, Thutmose III — in a fury of revenge — purged her name and image from everything she had built throughout Egypt.

It was during Thutmose' long reign that Moses lived in exile in distant Midian, tending the flocks of his father-in-law Jethro.

“The lord of glories”

In the latter part of 1453 B.C., as the long-lived Thutmose III felt his strength failing, he named his son, Amenhotep II, as his co-regent. Their reigns thus overlapped somewhat.

Upon the death of Thutmose in 1450, Amenhotep assumed the sole leadership of the country. By his side was his beautiful queen Taa. Egyptologist Sir Flinders



Sculpture of Amenhotep II (above). Oval-shaped cartouche encloses his royal name (right).

Petrie (1853-1942) estimated that Amenhotep was about 18 years of age at the time of his accession.

Now see what the ancient records reveal about this pharaoh. Amenhotep was a worthy son of the great Thutmose III. Physically, Amenhotep was a powerful man. Inscriptions reveal that no one in Egypt was his equal.

To illustrate: Amenhotep had a great bow, a bow so powerful that none of his soldiers was strong enough to use it. Only Amenhotep himself could draw it. This symbol of the pharaoh's unparalleled strength remained at his side throughout his reign, and was buried with him upon his death in 1425 B.C.

The fact of his unrivaled strength goes far in illuminating the character of this pharaoh who refused to “knuckle under” to Moses' God. Never in his life had Amenhotep been required to submit to anyone! He was accustomed to getting his own way. He was second to none. A man of great pride and given to boasting, he is referred to in ancient inscriptions as “the lord of glories.”

Amenhotep's upbringing was carefully planned by his warrior father. Great emphasis was placed on athletic development and skills of warfare. Amenhotep was an apt pupil.

Supremely confident in his strength and skills as a warrior, the newly crowned Amenhotep quickly set out to establish his renown. He personally led his forces in battle. Two campaigns to quell uprisings in Palestine occurred early in his reign. During the first campaign, the proud Amenhotep displayed his archery

skills before the people of Kadesh on the Orontes, a key north Syrian city.

These and other of Amenhotep's personal exploits are chronicled in the Temple of Amon at Karnak. We are informed that Amenhotep “was as a terrible lion” against his enemies. Scenes of him slaying his foes are found on numerous monuments. A scarab inscription calls him “the good god, lion over Egypt, lord of might, giving life like the sun.”

Hard heart

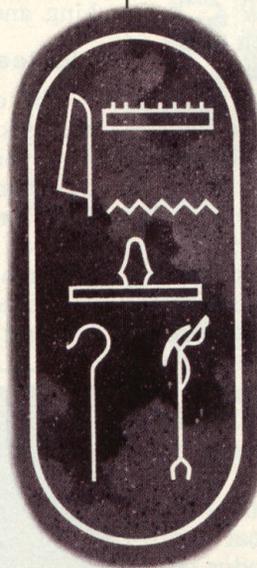
God, of course, knew of this great pride and stubbornness of Amenhotep. In Midian, God warned Moses, “I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go” (Exodus 3:19). It would be necessary for God to reveal Himself and His power and authority to this unresilient pharaoh in a series of devastating plagues.

Time and again, Amenhotep grudgingly conceded to Moses' demands — but only temporarily. His pride and stubbornness would quickly reassert themselves and he would change his mind — “harden his heart,” as the Bible says.

The carnal mind is indeed “enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be” (Romans 8:7). And Pharaoh Amenhotep was carnal! From his earliest youth, his pride and glorying were in the flesh — in his physical prowess, in his

skills of warfare.

Stubborn Amenhotep refused to humble himself. Only the death of his firstborn son got his full attention. With his once proud and powerful nation shattered, Pharaoh at last ordered the





Israelites out. But even then, he afterward changed his mind and pursued them to the Red Sea.

As mentioned earlier, the Exodus occurred in 1443, 40 years after Moses' exile in 1483 (Acts 7:30). This was at the beginning of Amenhotep's 10th year (as counted from his appointment as co-ruler in 1453).

The destruction of Amenhotep's armies in the sea at that time is indirectly reflected in the Egyptian records. Not surprisingly, there are no further records of foreign wars following the time of the Exodus. There is little information of any kind about Amenhotep's later years.

"Of the remainder of his reign we know nothing," Petrie observes. Egypt is silent about its great defeat by a "foreign god." The Egyptians obviously did not wish to record their misfortunes.

More corroboration

The events of that momentous year are well-known from the biblical record, and need not be recounted in detail here. But a few additional historical notes will prove of interest.

Egyptian history reveals that Amenhotep II was not himself a firstborn. Likewise, Amenhotep's son and successor — known to history as Thutmose IV — was not Amenhotep's firstborn. Thutmose IV was not at first designated to be his father's successor.

Historians do not know why Thutmose IV — a second-born son — succeeded to the throne instead of his elder brother. The Bible reveals the answer. Amenhotep's firstborn son died in the 10th and final plague on Egypt — the death of the Egyptian

firstborn on the night of the Passover (Exodus 12:29-30).

Also of interest from a biblical standpoint is a wall-painting dating from early in Amenhotep's reign, found in the tomb of the high-ranking official Rekh-mi-Re in the Tombs of the Nobles at Thebes. The remarkable painting shows captive foreign laborers — including bearded Semites — making mud bricks (compare Exodus 5).

Pharaoh's future

Contrary to the common notion about the Pharaoh of the Exodus, Amenhotep II did not drown in the Red Sea with his army. Read carefully Exodus 14:23-31. Ancient records reveal that Amenhotep II's reign lasted no less than into his 26th year. (This has been corroborated by a wine jar docket dated in his 26th year that was discovered in Egypt near the beginning of this century.) Sixteen of those 26 years followed the Exodus.

Upon Amenhotep's death in 1425, he was interred like his ancestors in the Valley of the Kings. There he lay undisturbed until Loret's discovery in 1898.

A controversy then arose as to whether Amenhotep's mummy should be left on site or whether it should be removed to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. It was finally allowed to remain *in situ*, but with an armed guard to protect it.

But three years later, in November, 1901, when the guards' backs were turned, the tomb was rifled and the mummy was damaged by looters seeking overlooked treasures in the folds of the cloth wrappings. Amenhotep's body — much the worse for

wear — was then quickly removed to Cairo, where it rests to this day.

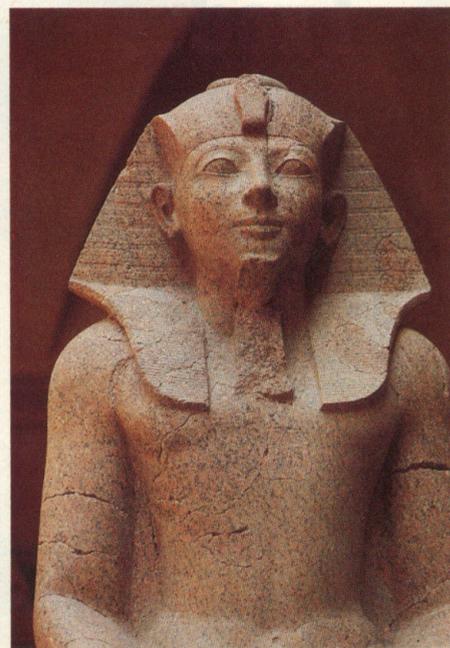
His limbs, now thin and withered, were in life robust and muscular. One day, just over a millennium from now, those limbs will regain their former vigor and Amenhotep will again walk the earth. The Word of God will be opened to his understanding (Revelation 20:12).

He will be shown the error of his ways and offered the gift of God's holy spirit — the power to overcome his self-will and obstinacy — by a merciful God who holds no grudge against him for his past rebellions!

Yes, one day Amenhotep and Moses will have the opportunity to again stand face to face — as friends and brothers in the Family of God. □



Queen Hatshepsut (below), shown wearing a false ceremonial beard as was customary on state occasions. Her cartouche is pictured at left.





Ken Tunell

The Untold Story of the Exodus

By George M. Kackos

The Israelites are finally free. After escaping the bondage of slavery, multiple thousands begin a jubilant march out of Egypt. After a few exhausting days of travel they reach an area near the Red Sea, free from the harsh Pharaoh.

But then the Pharaoh decides to pursue them with his mighty army. On the sixth day the Egyptians overtake the Israelites. But to the army's dismay, a cloud supernaturally separates them from the Israelites.

That night, Moses steps to the shore of the sea, stretches his hand over it, and a strong wind miraculously begins to blow. By morning, walls of water form and dry land

appears. The Israelites march across the dry pathway to safety.

But the Egyptians are less fortunate when they try to follow. Their chariot wheels fall off and the walls of water crash down, drowning the men and their horses. In safety on the opposite shore, the Israelites rejoice over their deliverance.

You've probably heard of these events since childhood. But what does this story have to do with *your* life?

Symbolic events

Let's consider the meaning of these events that took place more than 3,000 years ago as they apply to us today.

First, Israel leaving Egypt is symbolic of Christians coming out of sin. Both Egypt and leavened bread (the bread they were not to eat during the Exodus) are types of sin (I Corinthians 5:7-8, Hebrews 11:24-27).

Pharaoh represents Satan and the slavery of sin (Romans 6:16-18).

In contrast, Moses foreshadows and symbolizes Jesus Christ, our Deliverer from sin (Acts 3:20-22). The Israelites picture true Christians, and the promised land that the Israelites strove for symbolizes God's Kingdom (Hebrews 4:8-9).

Lessons for us

But more than just understanding what these events picture, what are some of the lessons we should learn from that Last Day of Unleavened Bread in 1443 B.C.?

- *Satan doesn't want us to escape from sin.* Just as those newly freed Israelites were pursued by Pharaoh, so Satan pursues newly baptized Christians (as well as older Christians). He is angry that we are escaping sin and wants us back under his evil dominance (I Peter 5:8-9).

- *We may want to return to sin.* Does this surprise you? When Pharaoh appeared with his army, what did the Israelites want to do? Return to Egypt, where their surroundings were familiar and less threatening (Exodus 14:10-12).

The same reaction can happen to us. Under temptation, we can easily want to sin because we are far more accustomed to leaning toward our own carnal, human ways than disciplining ourselves to be righteous.

- *God can deliver us from sin.* By themselves, the Israelites had no way of escape from Pharaoh and his army. They were trapped by the

mountains and the Red Sea. But God made a way of escape that led to the promised land.

Likewise, we, by ourselves, are unable to overcome sin (Romans 8:7). But with the help of God we can overcome. He can give us strength of mind and character to resist evil (I Corinthians 10:13).

For the Israelites, it was a watery grave that destroyed their adversary. For us, it is also a watery grave (baptism) that helps us leave behind our sinful way of life.

More importantly, God gives us the power of His holy spirit to overcome temptation (Romans 6:4, 6, Acts 2:38). However, this overcoming doesn't happen automatically. We must diligently call upon God — then put forth the effort to do the right thing.

- *Our deliverance from sin brings happiness.* The pursuing Egyptians were dead. The Israelites were finally free. Read Exodus 15 to capture their feelings of immense joy and jubilation.

For us, deliverance from sin brings much happiness, too. No longer must we eat the bitter fruit of sin, suffer the pangs of guilt or deny ourselves the joy of righteousness. Our life is much different — much better! And the end result is our promised land — eternal life!

"But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life" (Romans 6:22). No longer are we slaves to sin, but we are now servants to the great God who will guide us.

So think about it! Those momentous events have a lot to do with you and God's plan of salvation. Allow God to free you from sin so you can enjoy the fruits of righteousness — now and forever! □

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

The Worldwide Church of God offers, free, these fascinating booklets concerning God's true festivals:

- *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days — Which?*

- *The Crucifixion Was Not on Friday*

- *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday*

- *The Plain Truth About Easter*

For your copies, write to the Good News address nearest you. You will find our addresses on the inside front cover of this magazine.

Gossssssip

Doing the Devil's Work for Him

You've heard the phrase, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." It's not true — like a poisonous snake, gossip can kill you!

By Earl H. Williams

We live in a notoriously violent society! Under the influence of Satan, people hurt, maim and kill fellow humans with impunity.

What about you? Do *you* inflict injury upon your neighbors? Could *you* be guilty of murder?

"How unthinkable!" you may answer. "Never!"

Yet millions of seemingly harmless people hurt and even kill their neighbors every day. Their instrument of violence is not a steely switchblade nor a silver "Saturday-night special" (an American term for a cheap handgun). It's the tongue!

"The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor," says Proverbs 11:9.

Whether the gossip is premeditated or accidental, murder is murder. And when you're dead, you're dead.

Yes, words — in the form of gossip — *can* hurt you and other people. But gossip can be stopped! Let's learn how to prevent this deadly crime. First, what is gossip? Many people

don't know. Many *do* know, but pretend they don't. Many know, but don't care — they go right on anyway, murdering others with their words. So let's define this instrument of death.

What is gossip?

Gossip accuses people. It charges others with wrong. People love to talk about the alleged actions of others. Does the following sound familiar?

"Did you hear what he did?"

"No — tell me!"

"Well, just between you and me, he..." and on and on it goes.

Listen to what God says about gossiping accusers: "An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire" (Proverbs 16:27).

What happens to the victim of accusations? These accusers — this lynch mob of tongues — charge him, convict him and condemn him to death! Accusation is deadly gossip.

Gossip slanders neighbor. It destroys a person's character or personal reputation.

But beware! He who lives by the sword of slander shall die by the sword of slander. Almighty God says, "Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy" (Psalm 101:5).

Gossip talks indiscreetly. People who say just any-

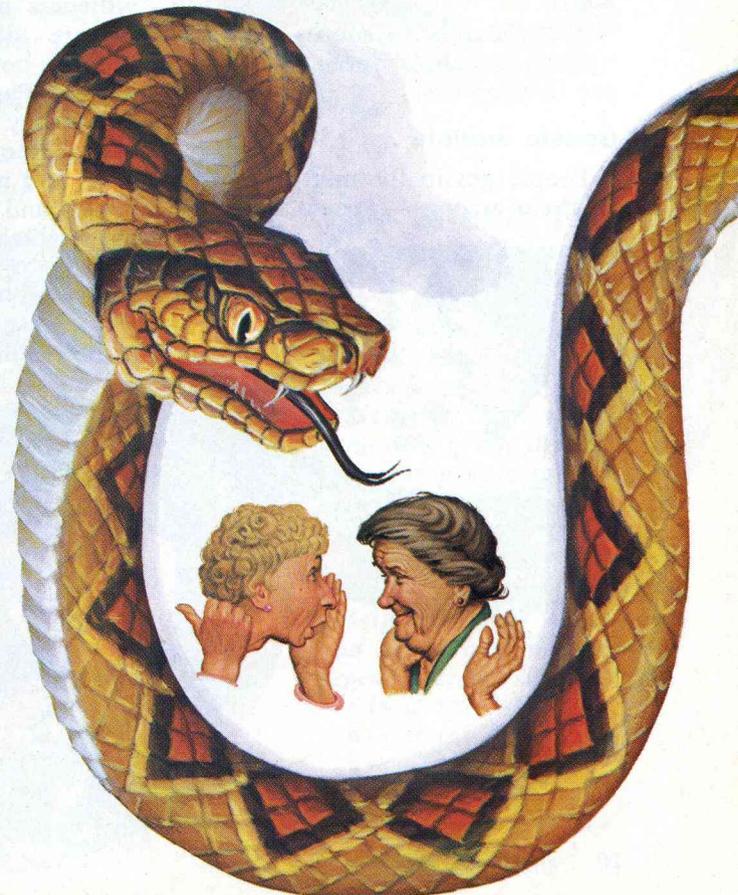
thing that comes into their minds spread gossip. They do not engage their minds before they engage their tongues. They do not evaluate what they are about to say or its effect on others. "A serpent may bite when it is not charmed; the babbler is no different" (Ecclesiastes 10:11).

In short, gossip is any communication that hurts people. "The words of a talebearer [a gossip!] are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly" (Proverbs 18:8, King James Version).

What is the source?

Now you know what gossip is, but do you know where it comes from?

Whether you realize it or not, when you gossip you are involved



in an encounter with the realm of evil spirits — an encounter with the longest and vilest tongue in the universe — that of Satan the serpent!

Satan started gossip. Jesus Christ said, “He was a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44). Satan probably used gossip to assassinate God in the eyes of one third of the angels, causing them to rebel (Revelation 12:4).

Jesus also revealed that Satan is a lying slanderer: “For he is a liar and the father of it” (John 8:44).

Satan accuses both God and humans today through unsuspecting people. He is called the “accuser of our brethren” — of God’s begotten children in His Church (Revelation 12:10).

Listen as Jude describes the gossiping nature of Satan and his demons — and people who follow Satan’s way: “Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. . . . But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves” (Jude 8-10).

Yes, Satan is the source of gossip. Do not allow Satan to whisper in your ear.

Gossip addicts

People gossip for many — all of them wrong — reasons. For

example, people of low self-esteem tend to gossip. They do not respect themselves, so they gossip about others and pull them down. This allows their own egos to rise on the ruins of others’. The gossipier experiences a temporary illusion of worth, but quickly descends even lower than before. He or she then yearns to gossip again, aching to experience another high. But down he or she goes again.

And another gossip addict is born! Some people are addicted to gossip just as much as some others are addicted to drugs.

Frustration produces gossipers, too. You can’t have everything you want. Perhaps you are dissatisfied with your situation in life. You hunger and thirst for satisfaction. So what do you do? Well, some people eat, eat, eat, desperately desiring to devour their frustrations away. Others talk, talk, talk and devour their neighbors away. After gossiping they feel better — for a little while. Then reality hits them again and the addictive cycle of frustration and gossip starts all over again.

Idleness breeds gossip. People who are idle with their hands tend to be active with their tongues. Paul comments: “And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not” (I Timothy 5:13).

No one wants to be a gossip addict, destroying those around. Can the addiction be cured? Can

gossip be stopped? Yes — here’s how!

The cure for gossip

• *First, realize how much God hates gossip.* Gossip-related sins appear three times on God’s “hit list” of the six most abominable things He hates: “A lying tongue . . . a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren” (Proverbs 6:17-19).

God hates to see His children hurting one another. Yet He sees some of us day in and day out destroying one another with gossip. He wants a cease-fire of the tongues.

God wants you to have the same attitude He has against gossip. So the first step toward stopping gossip is to hate it, because it hurts people. Once you come to hate gossip, then . . .

• *Repent of gossip.* Perhaps you don’t think about this as often as you should, but gossip is sin. Almighty God thunders in His Ninth Commandment, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16). A main thrust of this commandment focuses on the harm done to one’s neighbor by the types of accusation and slander that make up gossip.

James explains: “Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge” (James 4:11).

Gossiping is bearing false witness, and that brings the death penalty (Romans 6:23). So realize that gossip is sin. Repent and determine never to gossip again.

• *Realize the source.* As we saw earlier, Satan originated gossip. No Christian wants to be an instrument of the devil. Yet when you gossip you are being used by Satan. He not only started gossip, he now perpetuates it through humans (Ephesians 2:2).

The next time you are tempted to gossip, think about the source and bite your tongue.

• *Don’t listen.* Not only should



you repent of gossiping, you should stop listening to gossip.

Don't fool yourself. Just as it takes two to tango, it takes two to gossip — one to talk and one to listen. Gossip would stop instantly if everyone would stop listening. It's no fun gossiping to yourself!

Listen to John's instruction: "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds" (II John 10-11).

Just listening to gossip makes you an accomplice.

If anyone comes to you with gossip, do not listen. As gently and tactfully as possible, tell the person that the subject matter does not concern you and you'd rather not discuss it. Be as firm as necessary. The person will quickly get the message — and the gossiping will stop.

• **Detect gossip.** To stop gossip, you must recognize it. But how? God has provided you with a gossip-detection system. Let's take a look at that system, described in Philippians 4:8.

The first criteria for proper communication is that it be *true*. You should not listen to or say anything that is not true. In fact, you or the person telling you should be able to prove that it is true. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21, KJV). If it can't be proven, it shouldn't be listened to or spoken of.

But what if it is true? Should you get involved? Not unless it's *noble*. The information should not in any way tarnish the character, name or reputation of another person. Any hint of disrespect should set off an alarm in your mind that shouts

"Gossip!" Paul goes even further by declaring that the information must be *just*. This means you should not discuss or listen to discussions about the sins of others. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," says Romans 3:23. "He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates the best of friends" (Proverbs 17:9).

Another important part of our gossip detection system is *purity*. The words must be *pure*. In our sick society, blasphemy and profanity almost have become proper etiquette. "Their throat is an open tomb... whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness" (Romans 3:13-14).

God does not want His people listening to or spreading dirty words or stories. Keep your ears and mouth pure.

Accept only *lovely* things into your mind — things that affect you and others in a positive, uplifting way.

Make sure the words you speak and hear are *of good report*. Bad news bombards us constantly. Human nature seems to thrive on bad news. "For their heart devises violence, and their lips talk of troublemaking" (Proverbs 24:2). Paul tells us to avoid bad reports.

Use the gossip detectors of truth, honor, righteousness, purity,

loveliness and good reports to stop gossip.

• **Speak to edify.** In the same verse 8 of Philippians 4, Paul says that we should speak words of *virtue*. Virtuous words are words of excellence and value, words that produce good fruits, that build up the speaker, listener and everyone else.

Speak words of *praise* — words that praise the great works of God. Talk about His great creation in all of its wonderful glory. Talk about God's Work on earth today — the Work that's spreading the good news of the Kingdom of God all over this world.

Speak words of praise about the good in other people. Encourage others to do their best. Comfort other people when they are discouraged.

In short, use your tongue to bring life — not death!

Now you know what gossip is. You know its source. You even know why you gossip. More importantly, you know how to stop gossip. So work to stop this heinous crime! □



The Snake That Poisons Everybody

It topples governments, wrecks marriages, ruins careers, busts reputations, causes heartaches, nightmares, indigestion, spawns suspicion, generates grief, dispatches innocent people to cry in their pillows. Even its name hisses.

It's called gossip. Office gossip. Shop gossip. Party gossip. It makes headlines and headaches. Before you repeat a story, ask yourself:

- *Is it true?*
 - *Is it fair?*
 - *Is it necessary?*
- If not, shut up!*

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What does the Bible say about marriage and divorce?

God instituted marriage when He made a wife for Adam (Genesis 2:18). God instructed that a man ought to leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and that they should become one flesh (verse 24).

God intends that marriage endure for life, with each partner loving, honoring, caring for and cleaving to the other just as Christ loves and cares for His Church (Ephesians 5:22-33, I Peter 3:1-7). The Bible teaches the sacredness of marital vows.

But today, we live in an imperfect world beset by human weakness, hardness of heart, irresponsibility and every kind of sin, unfaithfulness and wickedness. People sin. Divorce occurs even though God "hates divorce" (Malachi 2:16).

The Bible makes it plain that when one repents and turns to Christ, all his past sins are forgiven (Acts 2:38). Thus, any divorce in the past is forgiven upon conversion, and it need not stand in the way of a happy marriage afterward. Paul wrote that those who have been "loosed" — divorced — from an unbelieving mate do not sin if they marry (I Corinthians 7:27-28).

Paul was inspired to write that converted people must not divorce or leave mates who are pleased to dwell with them (verses 10-13). God wants our marriages to last for life. To divorce a faithful mate and marry another is adultery (Matthew 19:9).

The unconverted world cannot receive Christ's teaching, but all who are His ought to obey Him implicitly, not only in refraining from divorce but also in doing all within their power to build a truly loving relationship, as explained in Ephesians 5:22-33 and I Peter 3:1-7.

Since Jesus Christ has overcome Satan the devil,

have all those who are Christ's — those who have God's spirit dwelling in them — also overcome Satan?

Jesus' struggle with Satan lasted His entire life, but Jesus never gave in. He decisively overcame Satan's temptations and qualified to take over rulership on earth at His Second Coming. Jesus' ultimate triumph over the devil came with His resurrection to eternal life.

Now what about those who follow Jesus Christ? Have true Christians automatically overcome Satan once and for all because they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior? Notice Revelation 3:21: "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne."

The Bible makes it clear that Christians must also overcome Satan, as Jesus did, if they are to reign with Jesus in the Kingdom of God. This is not something that just passively happens. Overcoming is an active struggle.

But how does this come about? Do we overcome Satan once and for all at baptism?

Revelation 12:11 states: "And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

Christians have overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus Christ), which pays for our past sins when we come to repentance and baptism. At baptism, we have overcome Satan the devil. But does our struggle with Satan then end?

Notice the words of Jesus Christ Himself in Revelation 2:26: "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works *until the end*, to him I will give power over the nations." Jesus said those who will rule with Him in His Kingdom must overcome *until the end*, not just until baptism.

Yes, we do overcome Satan at baptism, but the struggle doesn't

end there. We must continue to overcome the wiles of the devil for the rest of our lives!

The apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:11, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." There would be no need to put on such armor if the battle were already won. We are in constant warfare with Satan and his demons.

Peter warned: "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world [Satan is the god of this world — II Corinthians 4:4] through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning" (II Peter 2:20).

Yes, it is possible for a Christian to be overcome by Satan if he or she is not vigilant and strong to keep the upper hand in the struggle. How, then, can we be sure to win the battle?

James writes: "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

But, as mere humans, we cannot successfully do this without calling upon the power of the One who has already overcome Satan — Jesus Christ.

Paul explains: "I have been crucified with Christ [real repentance]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Jesus Christ lives in all who have received the holy spirit and whose lives continue to be guided by that spirit. By using God's power, imparted to us through the holy spirit, we can do all things (Philippians 4:13).

It is this power that we must use throughout our Christian lives — just as Jesus did — to continually overcome Satan the devil! □

Put Teeth in Your Baby's Bite

BY DEXTER H. FAULKNER

PART TWO

“Stephen has his first tooth,” my daughter-in-law Melody told me one day. “He was chewing on a toy while sitting with us at breakfast and Nathan thought he heard a funny little clink. Then Stephen laughed and smiled and we saw a white edge shining through his pink gum.”

“We were both so excited you’d think no baby had ever cut a tooth before.”

To new parents, a baby’s first tooth is a milestone. To Grandma and Grandpa it’s a moment to cherish. It seems to signal the end of helpless infancy and mark the beginning of active babyhood.

But most babies don’t just smile and display a new tooth one fine day. Before this significant moment arrives, their mouths feel quite tender for several weeks or months while a hard tooth is cutting its way through the gum. Because so many babies experience discomfort, teething



may occupy a good deal of parents’ concern during the year and a half or so that their babies’ teeth are emerging.

What is the best way to deal with the situation? Here are some suggestions that should be helpful.

The teething stage

Teething ages vary, as do the other developmental stages children go through. Children in the same family usually tend to teethe at about the same age. If

your child does not have his or her first tooth by the time he or she is 1 year old, you should consult a doctor or dentist.

The first teeth your child will get will usually be the lower central incisors (the flat teeth in the front of the mouth). These can appear at any time from 4 months to a year. The child eventually should have a full set of 20 teeth.

If your child doesn’t have a complete set by age 3, or if he or she has an extra tooth, take him or her to a dentist. Problems with baby teeth can indicate or cause problems with permanent teeth or speech habits later.

Your first indication that your baby is beginning to teethe may be that he or she wants to chew on things and drools more than usual. A small, pale bump will appear on the gum if a tooth is getting ready to come in.

If the baby is having trouble teething, often the skin around the bump will be hot and swollen. Your baby may refuse the breast or bottle and may not be able to sleep well at night.

A little food is often a good



Illustrations by Dan Andreassen

sedative. Give your child a couple of crackers or something to drink. But don't fall into the pattern of sticking a bottle or other food in his mouth every time he cries. This can lead to trouble later in life if the child learns that food is the answer to problems.

Two points to consider here: Your child may become accustomed to the hard nipple as a favorite teething object, and this may make weaning more difficult. Secondly, he may come to expect to have something popped into his mouth every time he wakes up.

Of course, you should cuddle and feed him at night if he is crying and nothing else will satisfy him. A little tender loving care when a baby needs it will soothe distress and keep him or her from getting into a crying habit.

It's not so bad

"Cutting teeth is probably not nearly as uncomfortable for babies as many people think," according to Penelope Leach in *The Child Care Encyclopedia*. Teething may make your baby uncomfortable and fussy, but if your baby has a fever, diarrhea or earache, you should consult your doctor. A slight elevation of temperature or slightly

looser bowel movements, however, is normal.

If your baby seems to be suffering discomfort, here are some ways to make him or her more comfortable:

Let your baby chew on something: a rubber teething ring (some are filled with gels that cool when put in the refrigerator), a clean, damp washcloth, a bottle nipple filled with ice cold water or juice or a soft toothbrush.

Rub the baby's gums with your finger (wash your hands and dip your fingers in ice water first). Don't rub a commercial numbing gel on your baby's gums unless your doctor recommends it. Some of these products contain a local anesthetic that is "neither necessary nor desirable," according to *The Child Care Encyclopedia*. Others have "aspirin-like chemicals which could overdose her."

Don't rub unwrapped ice on his or her gums as it could cause damage to them. Also, don't let your baby chew anything painted. The paint could have traces of lead. Most toys are painted with lead-free paint, but other items around the house may not be.

Another problem your baby

Teach your child to brush his or her own teeth as soon as he or she is old enough. Use a child's toothbrush and a small amount of toothpaste. Let your child imitate you while you brush.

may have is chapped skin around the lips from all that drooling. Keep your child's face as dry as possible. Use mild skin cream if necessary, especially at bedtime. Put a towel under the crib sheet to soak up drool if your baby sleeps on his or her stomach.

Caring for Baby's teeth

As soon as your baby's teeth come in, you should begin caring for them. You can wipe them off with gauze or a damp washcloth to keep plaque (a sticky, decay-causing substance) from building up.

Teach your child to brush his or her own teeth as soon as he or she is old enough. Use a child's toothbrush and a small amount of toothpaste. Let your child imitate you while you brush your teeth. Give him or her a glass of water to rinse out the sweet toothpaste.

Check his or her teeth often to see if he or she is brushing properly and to make sure no damage (such as a blow to the tooth) has occurred.

Be careful not to allow your child to go to sleep while drinking a bottle filled with milk or juice. The liquid can stay on the teeth for long periods and cause decay.

Sucking a pacifier, thumb or fingers is OK unless it goes on for long periods of time every day and at night. Thumb-sucking when the permanent teeth come in can cause problems with the positioning of the teeth or with your child's speech. Take care not to let this habit develop.

Dentists usually like to see your child by the time he or she is 2 to 3 years old and has a full set of baby teeth.

If I might conclude on a less painful note, Mark Twain wrote, "Adam and Eve had many advantages, but the principal one was that they escaped teething."

As positive parents we must endure the teething process, but it's worth it when we see that first smile exhibiting that first, pearly white tooth! □

Me? Teach My Child Science?

Mathematics, physical science, social studies — here's how to stimulate your child's interest in these important areas.

By Joan C. Bogdanchik

Math and science — so basic, so essential, so entwining in our lives — are often little emphasized to our children.

As a result, from kindergarten throughout the school years and beyond, these areas can — and do — present difficulty to many. Many youngsters become discouraged from pursuing deeper study in these subjects.

This need not be so!

Let's take a look at how naturally the sciences influence our lives in every area, and see how to present scientific subjects to our children in a positive way.

Math is everywhere

Numerals, math concepts, estimations, computations and prob-

lem solving are all around us. Daily life requires us to use all kinds of math.

First of all, our lives consist of a certain time frame. Each of us is allotted a designated number of days or years. How we use this time is determined first by others, then by ourselves.

Baking and cooking demand measurement and fractions. Mother, sewing at home, constantly uses math to measure her creations. Monthly, balancing our checkbooks tests our mastery of primary-school math. No home is built without measurements and the utilization of math and science principles.

The world runs on technology that cannot be separated from science and math.

Our days are divided into halves — night and day. The ticking of the clock further apportions our time. Hours, minutes and seconds, as

they are observed on a clock, can be valuable tools for teaching math to a young child.

In this connection, it is better to have a round clock with numbers than only a digital clock, until the child's time concepts are firmly established. This way the child can differentiate between what has transpired and what is to come.

Count with your child as the second hand sweeps around the clock face. Little children love to play with old alarm clocks with bells!

Time appears irrelevant to the very young child or infant. Hunger, which terminates in feeding time, and sleep periods are the only time-related activities the baby needs to relate to, in addition to night and day.

But as Baby grows, concepts of time do, also. How long till the walk in the park? Till Daddy

comes home from work? Till dinner? Bedtime?

Numbers and your child

Develop in your child a friendly feeling toward numbers. Be excited about them. Have your child discover them in the world all about him.

Let him or her "measure" with hands and feet. How many "hands high" are various items? Have a "growth line" on a wall. Mark off your child's height at regular intervals.

Purchase or make a large calendar and have your child add the date each day. Observe the weather and let your child draw in the sun, clouds, raindrops or snowflakes, as appropriate.

Give your child much experience in one-to-one correspondence. This means matching the actual number of objects with the right numerals: counting pebbles found in the yard, buttons on Mommy's dress or Daddy's shirt, shells found at the beach, wildflowers seen or picked or place settings put on the table.

How many forks will be needed? Spoons? Knives? Napkins or serviettes? Plates? How many more napkins are on the



table than plates? How many pieces of silverware in all?

No formal instructing or heavy correcting. Just fun! And look what you are accomplishing. "One, two, buckle my shoe" and other poems give delightful counting practice, as do jumping rope and playing hopscotch. Singing counting songs with children's records, playing with blocks to develop spatial relationships and, later, tree-climbing for surveying add to your child's experiences and abilities.

Remember, you want your child to think mathematically. But adding and subtracting are merely parts of this process. They work toward painting the whole mathematical picture.

Your child also needs experiences in estimating — a vital part of math. This he or she practices when you ask who is bigger — a child or a baby? Who is taller — Mommy or Daddy? Which object is longer or shorter?

Children also practice estimation when they guess how many steps it will take to get from the sofa to the chair, how many times the teddy bear will fit in the chair, how many lined-up spoons it will take to go across the table. Which can of food is heavier? Which box is lighter? Have your child measure to see how close he came with the estimate.

Practice in estimating comes when swinging, sliding or seesawing. What happens when Daddy sits on the other side of the seesaw? Why? What or who does the child need on his or her side to help balance it? Here are science and math concepts in full operation on the playground — and all in such fun! Do not make these formal lessons.

Drop a few marbles and have your child count them. Arrange them in different patterns. Do different patterns contain the same numbers of marbles? Have your child touch them while counting. This will open the sensory avenue to the mind.

Children will come to see that math is an organized series of patterns. (This is also true of language and spelling, as you will

recall from an earlier article in this series.)

As the family eats together, children are quick to put estimation into actual, tangible practice. How long did it take you to realize that your brother or sister had the biggest serving of mashed potatoes, or that you had the smallest slice of pie?

Learning to work with numbers

For math to become part of the mind, a child must understand.

Have him or her line up the shoes in the closet by pairs. Then socks can be sorted and matched by twos.

When grocery shopping, have your child find the round fruits and vegetables and the oval- or pear-shaped ones. Let him or her discover cylindrical containers and rectangular and square boxes. Elementary lessons in geometry are already underway!

To solve a math problem, a child must understand the important information given. Memorization of facts and counting are not enough (neither is the memorization of words in reading). He or she must make associations in the mind to visualize the problem. Patterns of problem-solving must come to mind, with the appropriate methods applied.

Giving your child repetitious, or similar, problems builds confidence. It gives children a secure base to attack future challenges. An alert parent knows when to add more new to the old, in small, steady steps.

Have your child practice problems and examples learned in school. Carefully look over your child's papers and see where he or she may be having difficulty. Start by giving similar problems, but on a slightly easier level at first, building to where he or she is. Create games and strategies that will strengthen these skills.

What a great blessing and privilege we have as parents! We help



Photos by Hal Finch

in shaping our children's minds and abilities, continually expanding their world.

What about physical science?

During the preschool years, the home and its immediate environs are the child's world. What the child thinks of himself is largely a reflection of what his parents think of him.

The child tries to become able. He practices what he learns about the important people in his world. Play is essential to this rapidly expanding world. It involves nearby objects.

Much interest in landmarks takes place at around age 3. How excited the child becomes when he or she sees a familiar one!

At about four years of age the child becomes increasingly aware of the sky and the sea. Next, animals and growing things become interesting.

Children love animals. And what an interest a young child can develop in flowers! Children often love to pick and look at them. What marvelous natural exposure to color and variety.

Through the seasons

Early on, nature's beauty begins to be appreciated. If you are

Do not let seasons pass without explaining their purpose in the cycle of life. Tie the seasons in with God's Holy Days.

an apartment dweller with nary a flowerpot, take your child into parks. Every city has some. Or go for a walk in the woods, especially in spring, when the fields are strewn in pastel shades. Spring's fragrance and color will greet your child's nostrils and eyes.

In summer point out the brilliant hues that show forth. Explain the longer daytime hours, which provide more growing time for plants and animals.

Appreciate the beauty of the sky. The glorious rainbows, including the ones made "accidentally" when sunlight plays upon the water from the garden hose, will thrill your child.

The different cloud formations and lightning displays during a thunderstorm are science lessons in action. Such wonderful opportunities for teaching are all around us all the time.

Water activities give the child further experience with science. Playing in a tub of water in the backyard on a hot day, under parental supervision, is fun for the child already. But add to this the splashing in it, filling up plastic cups, pouring from one to another, floating a toy duck and experiencing water's properties. These are preschool science water lessons at their best. And all in fun. Imagine!

At other times, add water to fascinating dirt. Mud! Creations innumerable can now take place. Watch your child's creativity and dedication to craft take wing. Wonderful science and math experiences in such humble, basic material — earthen clay.

At the seashore, sand mixed with water provides the same purpose. Finger dexterity, which helps future penmanship, simultaneously takes place while practicing science principles.

The dimensions of the sand

with its tiny bits of rock, tides, waves and moods of the sea make for lively discussions.

Do not let an autumn pass without explaining its purpose in the cycle of life. Tie it and the other seasons, too, in with God's Holy Days and our thankfulness for all the blessings God gives us. Explain how all is gathered in before the snows of winter.

In winter, the fascinating snow teaches countless lessons in beauty, excitement and pure fun.

Who is not awed as six-sided snowflakes, no two alike, drift picturesquely down to earth? As they land side by side and atop each other, soon the world the child knows is changed. It is covered with a mantle of white. Bushes, trees, fences and roofs take on a purity and softness that is breathtaking.

These snow crystals can be shaped into a ball! With Daddy's help, they can be rolled into a snowman. Arms, eyes, pieces of coal for buttons have to be counted.

Look at what happened to the water that was left in the pail. What is that hanging from the roof at nightfall? How were those icicles made?

Why are the days so short now? What happened to the pond down the road, or the lake in town? Valuable science lessons are taught through the wonders of nature!

If you have not realized what is going on behind the scenes here, do some reading on your own. Read to your child some simple books on these subjects.

Social studies learning

As your child moves from crib to room to house to block to town to school and then beyond, he is steadily widening his horizons. He learns about other families'

ways of doing things. He learns about the service organizations of church, school, doctor, dentist, police and fire departments. His studies of the social world — social studies — are underway.

Parents steadily expand their children's knowledge by trips to the supermarket and mall, by walking to the fire station, by watching the policeman direct traffic and on visits to the post office. Important lessons are being taught when a child sees a letter written, stamped and mailed. What does the mailman do? What time does he arrive at the child's home every day?

On a globe or map, let the child find each place the mail is from. What does your child know about his own county or state? Is it landlocked? On the coast? What is the capital? Where do grandparents and other relatives and friends live? Having his or her own child's globe can be invaluable in learning.

Let your child have some experience with money. He can count what he's put in his bank, and can pay for small purchases under your supervision.

Ballgames can promote understanding of social studies. Where are the teams from? What sports are played in other parts of the world? Math, too, makes its appearance in scores. Strategies are observed, and statistics learned, as your child grows.

Trips to God's feasts and at other times are invaluable learning experiences. To help with directions beforehand, place designations for north, south, east and west on the appropriate walls in your child's room. When traveling, help him connect directions with road signs.

Have fun playing geography games. How many different license plates can your child spot? How far is it to the next town? Counting cows and other farm animals promotes math skills.

The world is full of exciting adventures in learning, waiting to be tapped. With your diligence and your child's enthusiasm, who knows what heights will be scaled? □

Fruits of the Spirit

In his epistle to the Galatians, chapter 5, verse 22, the apostle Paul lists the fruits — or characteristics — of a mind led by the spirit of God. The second of these is joy.

Joy isn't just happiness. Paul is referring to something much greater than the joy generated by human emotions in a human mind.

The joy that comes as a fruit of God's spirit is different. Do you know how it is different? And most important, do you know how *you* can experience it?

Joy is the easiest of emotions to experience when everything is going right. But there are also the hard times in life. This is an imperfect and frequently tragic

world. Some of its wretchedness is bound to break on our emotional shores sooner or later.

Hard times and setbacks can stop us in our tracks and plunge us into the depths of depression. Then, frustration, misery and even despair seem to be the logical emotions to display. That's when we need God's help in being joyful, positive and constructive about our lives.

A Christian life must be spent going forward, growing in grace and knowledge, not wrapped up in a ball of misery. God knows that. That's why, as one of the fruits of the holy spirit, He gives us joy.

A lesson in joy

Some years ago I had an experience that taught me an important lesson about joy. It was in Calcutta, India, on what I thought was going to be one of the most *joyless* days of my life.

Calcutta is a sinkhole of human misery. Millions of its inhabitants live in horrendous slums. Countless thousands eke out a wretched existence on a few square feet of sidewalk.

Even for the able-bodied and sound-minded, life in Calcutta can be a continual trial. For the handicapped and retarded, it must be unspeakably dreadful. But it was the handicapped and retarded that I had come to see.

I had learned of a remarkable group of handi-

Reflecting True Joy in Your Life

Yes! You can experience real joy — even in severe trials. Our series continues.

By John Halford

capped people who had banded together in a courageous attempt to survive. A friend recommended that I visit them.

As my taxi plunged further into the maze of ramshackle streets lined with squalid shacks and hovels, and teeming with gaunt and ragged people, I wondered what I had got myself into.

I found the group I was looking for in a broken-down old building. I was greeted by a man who had no hands, who introduced me to his friend, who had no legs. Several physically handicapped and mentally retarded girls were working at old foot-operated sewing machines. A strong but retarded boy was packing envelopes into a box. A blind man squatted on the floor, trying to unravel a tangled mess of old electrical cable.

All together, about a dozen people were working in that small, stifling, hot room. Each one lacked something — limbs, mental capacity or some of the five senses. But they all had one thing in common: They were cheerful. That dingy room was a joyful place.

In Calcutta, even the able-bodied often resort to begging to survive. But these people wanted to work instead. Individually it was hopeless, but by pooling their resources, they did make up several complete human beings.

A man paralyzed from the waist down could be propped up at a bench to make envelopes. The strong boy who was slow mentally could be taught to fetch and carry. The old blind man still had nimble fingers.

A woman who had once been a fine seamstress, until an accident mangled her arms, still had her



mind. She could supervise the deformed and retarded girls as they did the work.

The man with no arms had a strong pair of legs. The others draped him with bags full of the things they had made, and off he would go to the local merchants and bring back the earnings.

In this way, this brave little band of people had stayed busy and maintained their dignity. And they were happy! These people faced a situation that could have plunged them into the most depressing misery, but they decided instead to make the most of it.

They weren't kidding themselves that things were better than they were. They were facing facts.

Get the facts

Often, we try to pump joy into ourselves (and others) with contrived cheerfulness. "Come on, cheer up," we say. "It's not so bad." That may be avoiding the facts. That kind of joy doesn't last.

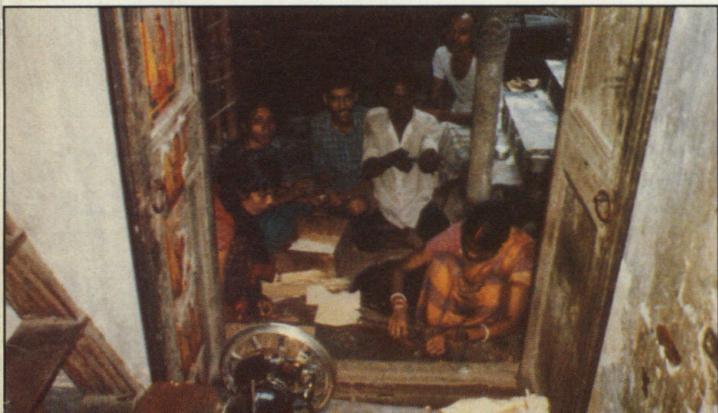
When Jesus encouraged His disciples the night before He was crucified, He wanted to help them face the future with genuine confidence. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you," He said (John 15:11).

Jesus realized that the loyal little team He had built was about to face some major traumas. For three years they had enjoyed His company, learning from Him. With His guidance and support, they had begun to experience a new way of life.

The years had been good. But now it looked as if something had gone terribly wrong. Jesus said He was going away. He had hinted that one of them was going to betray Him. He even said Peter would deny Him three times. It was unsettling. Soon the whole group was worried and confused.

Jesus saw this: "Because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart" (John 16:6). Jesus needed to encourage them. But He didn't just slap them on the back and tell them to

You can have joy in adverse circumstances. Though handicapped, this group in Calcutta pool together their resources and happily work for a living. It takes making the most of a situation. Photos by John Halford.



cheer up. He knew that to have real joy in the face of adversity, you must face the facts.

So Jesus explained the situation. Yes, He was going away. But what would seem like a catastrophe would be the best thing that could happen. He would be returning to heaven, to direct operations from there. The circumstances might seem to have changed, but nothing substantial had been altered.

He would still be with them, supporting, guiding and teaching. And they would still be working together. In fact, they would be accomplishing even more, now that He was back with the Father. They would have access to the holy spirit, and that would lead them into more understanding.

Look beyond the present

Jesus taught His disciples to look through the immediate adverse circumstances so that they could continue to be constructive and positive. It was a lesson they learned well.

"Count it all joy," the apostle James could write later, "when you fall into various trials" (James 1:2).

"Do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you," Peter wrote during some difficult times (I Peter 4:12), "but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy" (verse 13).

"You . . . joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods," Paul wrote in Hebrews 10:34, "knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven." They saw through the problem. It was a trial, not a catastrophe.

The apostles reminded the early Christians that, in spite of trials and persecution, they still had the Kingdom of God. They still had work to do. And — very important — they still had each other. "I have no greater joy," wrote the apostle John (III John 4), "than to hear that my children walk in truth."

Joy is not just a fringe benefit of the holy spirit, given only so that *you* can feel better. It must flow through you, so that the joy you feel will also be felt by others. Once you have let God, with His spirit, cheer you up, you then can help others in the same way (II Corinthians 1:3-4).

Have you ever tried to comfort someone who has been through some terrible trial only to come away feeling inspired yourself? Their courage and cheerfulness, which came through accepting the facts, has been passed on to you.

This world is in for some tough times. Before it is over, there will be tribulation and trials such as never before. It will not be pleasant. But God's people have all the facts. They know that the death throes of this world are also the birth pangs of the world tomorrow.

So when those times come, they, with the help of the holy spirit, will be able to "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy!" (Luke 6:23). □

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