

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1959



HERE you see a small part of the modern Mailing Department in the Ambassador Press Building. Thousands of letters requesting booklets, articles and special issues of The PLAIN TRUTH are daily addressed by these industrious students, who are working their way through Ambassador College.

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VOL. XXIV

NO. 9

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By the Radio Church of God

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No More Truth Since 1844?

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I hear your program over WKYB almost every day. We enjoy it so much. I have been writing you for sometime and asking questions, and I sure do appreciate the answers I have gotten. Since I first read your PLAIN TRUTH it has opened my eyes.

"I have been a member of a denominational Church for three years. Last summer my husband and little girl were baptized. She is eleven years old. And since we have been listening to your preaching and the scripture you read, we feel like they don't have the message for today. We want to do the will of God above all things.

"My Pastor wanted me to say that we would stop listening to you, but I told him we wouldn't. He says you couldn't have the last message because it didn't come about at the appointed time (1844) and that it wasn't world wide. But we are reading our Bible and praying to have a clear understanding. God

says if you want wisdom ask of God. So we are doing that. We have decided to send you our tithe."

Woman from Paducah, Kentucky.

Editor's Comment: Many scriptures were purposely closed and sealed until the "time of the end"—this 20th century, not 1844 during the Advent Movement! The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast is world-wide, reaching every inhabited continent with great power.

Narrow Conceptions Revised

"I have been a devoted listener of your inspiring radio program for a considerable number of years and I must say the quality of your program is approaching a zenith. The content of the message is so compelling, so lucid and logically overpowering that I have found myself forced to revise some of my previous narrow conceptions concerning the ultimate question of the universe. Even a fool would be astounded at the amazing relation between prophecy as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and the present trend of world affairs. From the impending crisis in Berlin right down to the fire-ant plague, I feel that your program brings this relation into such sharp focus that beads of sweat form on my brow."

Man from Boulder, Colorado.

An All-Night Reader

"I received a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH and have read part of it. Also the brochure on 'The U.S. in Prophecy.' I read all through that and believe me it was startling and uncanny to say the least, but so logical that it held me spellbound until I laid it down at 4 o'clock in the morning. I had read all night on the material you sent and dare say I certainly *can not be without* The PLAIN TRUTH."

From a subscriber.

Whole Family Enjoys Bible Story

"We have most of your booklets, and we are receiving The PLAIN TRUTH every month. We enjoy the reading material in each so much, we have to read and re-read them. Every time we re-read one of the articles, we learn something different and we can understand a little more each time. The children love to hear 'The Bible Story' and

we look forward to it each month. We enjoy it as much as the children do, and it has helped us to understand better what the Bible really tells us." Woman from Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Curiosity Aroused

"I have read all the pamphlets and PLAIN TRUTH magazines my mother has, and my desire to learn more of the truth is insatiable. When my mother first became converted I was skeptical to say the least. She wisely refrained from discussing these truths with me for she knew that with my make-up I would have rebelled and rejected anything she could say. She patiently waited until my natural curiosity got the best of me when I observed her keeping the Sabbath. Then she answered only the questions I asked.

"When I was a little girl I was dragged from one revival meeting to another . . . and as I grew older mother went to no church at all for she could find peace in none of them. I was confused and unhappy and began to wonder if there even was a God. Then I began to see the peace and contentment of my mother recently. I was afraid to open my ears and eyes for fear I would be disappointed—for fear this would be another 'crackpot' thing I could not accept. Suddenly one day I *had* to find out. Somehow the rebellion within me was gone. I felt I could ask my mother questions, read the pamphlets and magazines, and listen to your radio program; and calmly accept or reject. Need I say I accepted wholeheartedly? I found the light and am walking in sunshine at last."

Woman from Warren, Ohio.

Editor's Comment: This shows the fruits of NOT trying to "cram your religion down someone's throat." It really pays!

Now Enlightened

"I am writing to see if it is possible for us to get in contact with one of your nation-wide baptizing teams. We have wondered about this for many months. And after reading the article in this month's PLAIN TRUTH, 'False Conversion—A Mortal Danger,' we feel we need to talk with one of God's true ministers."

Man and wife from
Sebago Lake, Maine.

God's MESSAGE to This Generation!

You live in a DECEIVED world! The startling TRUTH of Jesus' message has been buried long enough. It has special reference to THIS generation!

by Roderick C. Meredith

VICE PRESIDENT Richard Nixon recently gave this ominous warning: "The overriding question facing mid-20th century America is simply that of '*the survival of our civilization*'."

Man has about reached the end of his rope! The threat of *human annihilation* is a REAL thing—right now, today!

The democratic nations are desperately seeking some kind of *international agreement* which will insure peace. Many thoughtful leaders have stated that the ultimate solution can come *only* through some form of WORLD GOVERNMENT—with the power to effectively *enforce* peace.

Yet, today, the great armed camps of the world seem further away than ever from ANY kind of real peace agreement. And the prospect of any world government by man is—at the least—*many generations* away. There is BITTERNESS, *strife* and *confusion* among the nations.

There is *no world government*—and, seemingly, no PEACE in sight for this doomed generation in which we live.

Religious Confusion

In addition to the chaos and confusion among the nations, there is great *religious confusion* in the western world today. In the United States alone, there are over *four hundred* religious bodies and sects all calling themselves "Christian."

They all claim to believe in the same Christ. Yet they all DIFFER on the *message* He preached, and on the *doctrines* and *practices* that ought to be in His Church.

In order to get around this problem, some denominations are now becoming "broadminded" in the varying kinds of doctrines and ideas they will permit

their members to hold. A recent news item shows that in the case of one denomination making up such a "broad-minded" statement of belief, "the effect was to arrive at a statement that would include the essentials, but be *broad* enough for persons of varying points of view."

In this modern day, *is it important which MESSAGE we believe?*

Today many modern ministers say, "Just believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved." What you believe *about* Christ and His message is not so important—they will often say—as it is to believe on and love *Him* and His person.

What about this? Is it important to believe the VERY message that Jesus Christ preached? Or didn't He preach any certain message? Or was His message broad enough so that we can get over four hundred denominational ideas and traditions out of that message?

The *inspired answer* to that question is found in the first chapter of Paul's epistle to the Christians in Galatia. The apostle of Christ was ALARMED that these people were already turning aside—NOT from Christ's person, but *from His message!*

"I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto *another gospel*: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would PERVERT the gospel of Christ" (Galatians 1:6-7).

Notice that Paul is alarmed because people were *perverting* the truth about Christ's MESSAGE—not about His person. He continued: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach *any other gospel* unto you than that which we have preached unto you, *let him be ACCURSED*." Then Paul repeated this denunciation—made this a *double curse*.

"As we said before, so say I now again, If *any* man preach *any other gospel* to you than that you have received, let him be ACCURSED" (vs. 8-9).

In the apostle Paul's mind, there was only ONE true gospel—any other gospel was a *counterfeit* that demanded a CURSE by apostolic authority!

What was this true gospel that Paul was trying to keep in its pure state? What was the TRUTH that God sent to this world by Jesus Christ His Son?

Christ Brought A Message

Christ came with a *message* from God the Father which would solve the problems of this last generation on earth today!

Note the prophecy in Malachi regarding His first coming. "Behold, I will send my *messenger*, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, Whom you seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the *Messenger of the Covenant*, Whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts" (Mal. 3:1).

Actually, here is Christ—as the Logos or Spokesman of the Old Testament speaking—and saying that He would send a messenger before *His* face who would prepare the way for Him, Christ, who was to be the *Messenger of the Covenant*.

In Acts 10 we find a description of that *message* as it was first preached to the Gentile Christians. The first part of the chapter shows how Cornelius was chosen as the first Gentile to receive the true gospel of Christ, and how Peter was sent to his house to bring the truth of God. In verse 34 we read, "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh

righteousness, is accepted with Him." (Acts 10:34-35). Here Peter acknowledges that now God is calling all the Gentiles to the *same truth* that had recently been opened to the Jews since the day of Pentecost.

He continues: "The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all:) that word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached" (vss. 36-37). Directly inspired of God to reach this first Gentile Christian, Peter immediately refers to the TRUTH as that word which God sent by Christ, to Israel, beginning from Galilee, after John's preaching.

Peter referred to this as the message for *both* Israel and the Gentiles. So this was God's MESSAGE for *all mankind!*

Now let's find where that message really began, and what Jesus actually taught! Turning to the first chapter of Mark we find the *conditions* that Peter gave for the beginning of this true message.

"Now after that John was put in prison"—this was to be the time—"Jesus"—here is the *Messenger*—"came into Galilee"—here is the *place*—"preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, the time is fulfilled, and the *Kingdom of God* is at hand: Repent ye and believe the gospel" (Mk. 1:14-15).

Here we find the true Messenger, the time and the place. And here we find the true MESSAGE of God! It is the Good News or Gospel of the *Kingdom of God*. Moffatt translates it "Reign" of God. It is the happy message of God's Kingdom—His RULE—His GOVERNMENT which will finally bring peace over this earth!

Notice that this true gospel is not man's gospel about the *person* of Christ. It is *Christ's* message. It is the message He brought from God the Father of the coming *government* of God, or *Kingdom* of God on this earth.

And it is VITAL that you *believe* and *obey* this message! For Jesus said: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath One that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John

12:48). So Jesus said you will be judged by *His Word—His message!*

Jesus Christ ALWAYS taught about the *Kingdom of God*. Luke records: "And it came to pass afterwards that He went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the *Kingdom of God*: and the twelve were with Him" (Lk. 8:1).

Even Jesus' parables were all concerned with the Kingdom of God. "And His disciples asked Him, saying, what might this parable be? And He said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the *Kingdom of God*, but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand" (Lk. 8:9-10).

What Is A Kingdom?

Since Jesus Christ and *all* of the apostles and prophets spoke continually about the Kingdom of God, we need to understand *what a kingdom is*.

There are *four things* which characterize every kingdom. First, there is a king or ruling agent. Secondly, there is a territory over which the kingdom holds dominion. Thirdly, there are subjects or citizens in every real kingdom. And, fourthly, every kingdom must have *laws* and a *form of government*.

Now let's understand how *God's Kingdom* is so organized. Isaiah reveals who will be the king or ruling agent in the coming *world government*.

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of His roots: And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him . . . He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes . . . But with righteousness shall He judge the poor . . . and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked" (Isa. 11:1-4). Here is the well-known prophecy that *Christ*—coming from Jesse through David—will be the king over all the earth after His second coming.

Before Jesus' human birth, an angel gave this prophecy concerning His future rule: "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there

shall be no end" (Luke 1:32-33). Christ is going to literally reign on the *throne of David*. That throne is on this earth today!

And He shall reign over the house of Jacob, or *Israel*. These are human beings here on this earth! If you do not understand the national identity of modern Israel, then write *immediately* for Mr. Armstrong's fascinating free booklet "*The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*."

Yes, *world government* is soon to come with Jesus Christ as Divine RULER!

One of the most tremendous events in all history is described by the apostle John in Revelation 11:15: "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of *this world* are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever."

Christ will show us how to have peace *on this earth!* This is the ONLY way we will ever have peace!

God's Government On This Earth

Having *proved* that Christ is King of God's soon-coming Kingdom, let us now see *where* that Kingdom will be located. Did you notice in the Scripture we just cited that "the kingdoms of *this world*" are to be ruled by Christ?

This is substantiated in Daniel 2:44. This is the conclusion of Daniel's prophecy about the four great world-ruling kingdoms which were to hold sway over the western world. As nearly all Bible scholars recognize, the fourth great kingdom is the Roman Empire which—with its various revivals—will hold sway to the end of this age. "And in the days of *these kings* shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall NEVER be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." This clearly indicates that God's Kingdom will be *on this earth*—Christ the "Stone" having crushed the other kingdoms and set up God's government to bring peace.

In the description of that Kingdom given in Isaiah 11, we also find that it will be *on this earth*. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain (*kingdom*): for the *earth* shall be

full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (vs. 9).

You have probably noticed by this time that the *subjects* or citizens of God's Kingdom will be physical human beings still left alive on this earth! Isaiah 11:10 describes Christ as the "Root of Jesse" and says, "to it shall the *Gentiles* seek." So here we find even the Gentile nations are being ruled over by Christ on this earth. Now continuing in verse 11: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt . . . and shall assemble the outcasts of *Israel*, and gather together the dispersed of *Judah* from the four corners of the earth."

This will be the time of the glorious regathering of the Israelitish people—including many of our deceived friends and relatives—who will be brought back from captivity at the second coming of Christ. They will then learn to *understand* and *appreciate* God's rule, His laws, His government and His *Way of life!* And what a wonderful world that will be!

The Laws of God's Kingdom

God *alone* knows the *WAY* to *peace* and *happiness!* He reveals this *way* from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation. It does not always agree with the way that "seems right" to a man, but it *is* the way to real peace on this earth.

Throughout the prophecies God shows that His Kingdom will be ruled *according to this way.* That way is based on His *law.* Notice Isaiah's inspired description of God's Kingdom and the way it will be administered on this earth: "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of *His ways,* and we will walk in *His paths:* for out of Zion shall go forth the *LAW,* and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:3).

Yes, God's rule is *according to His LAW!* The spiritual principles of God's Ten Commandments are the *way* to peace and happiness and everything this world really wants. But men are

running away from that way as fast as they can!

When Christ first comes, He will have to PUNISH the nations of the world to teach them to *appreciate* that *way* and His *law!* "And He shall judge among the nations and shall *rebuke* many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: and nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (vs. 4). As King of kings, Christ will have to REBUKE the nations and literally *teach* them the way to peace and the laws of God which will bring peace.

The prophet Micah reveals this same thing that is to take place in God's Kingdom: "For the *LAW* shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Micah 4:2).

Many people today are under the *false* impression that the New Covenant does away with God's law! However, in describing these very events which are to take place when Christ returns and sets up God's Kingdom, the prophecies reveal that God's law is the very BASIS of the New Covenant, and of the agreement which is made between Christ and physical Israel and with individual Christians of all nations as they are converted.

Have you enrolled in our free Bible Correspondence Course?

This is a totally new, *different* kind of Bible study course, designed to lead you, by the study of *your own Bible,* to UNDERSTAND the whole meaning of today's fast-moving SPACE AGE, of the PURPOSE being worked out here below, of PROPHECY, of SALVATION.

The most VITAL, most IMPORTANT questions of YOUR LIFE are thoroughly gone into, and you are directed to the clear, plain, simple answers *in your BIBLE!* You will learn HOW to study the Bible—WHY so few UNDERSTAND it. You will PROVE whether the Bible *is* the INSPIRED WORD OF GOD!

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"After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my *LAW* in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people" (Jer. 31:33).

Man cannot have peace until HUMAN NATURE is *changed!* God's law reveals the very *nature* and *character* of God. After Christ returns to convert all nations, He will write God's *law* in the very *minds* and *hearts* of people. Thus, it will become *part of their very nature!*

Then they will KNOW the *way* to *peace!*—and JOY!—and HAPPINESS!

Jesus Christ Himself revealed that God's law is the very BASIS of His Kingdom.

He said: "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the *LAW* to fail" (Luke 16:16-17). Here we find Jesus' clear statement that the law of God is an integral part of the message of the *Kingdom of God!*

But was Jesus speaking of the law of the Ten Commandments? Yes, He was! For He continued in the very next breath: "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery" (vs. 18). Here He showed that the law of which He was speaking included the *command* against divorce and remarriage based on the Ten Commandments of God.

That law is BINDING on us today! If we plan to be in God's Kingdom—a part of His government forever—we had better to learn to keep and OBEY God's law here and now in this life!

How to Qualify for God's Kingdom

To help us understand this principle of OBEDIENCE, let us turn to the very beginning of Jesus Christ's ministry and what He actually taught when He was here on this earth. When He was tempted by the Devil, He stated one of the most basic truths of all the ages: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

Remember that the only written word of God at the time that Jesus said this was the OLD Testament! This is the

Word that contains the law of God—the law which so many ministers seem to HATE today! Yet, Jesus said that we are to LIVE by this inspired Word!

After His temptation by Satan, Jesus began to preach the message of God's Government. "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent:

for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" (vs. 17). Again notice that it was *always* the message of God's Kingdom—or *government*—which Christ preached. He showed that men must REPENT of their ways and submit to that government.

The following three chapters in

Matthew contain what is popularly called "The Sermon on the Mount." Few seem to realize it, but this *entire sermon* is filled with Jesus' exhortation to OBEY *God's law!*

Notice Matthew 5:17-19: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or (Please continue on page 18)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

WABC—New York—770 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun., E.S.T.; 11:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.
 WNTA—Newark, N.J.—970 on dial—9:00 a.m. Sun.—7:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.—9:00 p.m. Sat.
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 WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—10:30 a.m.; 11:15 p.m., Sun., E.S.T. 10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.
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 2CII—Sydney—Sat., 10:15 p.m.
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 2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
 3AW—Melbourne—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
 3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 p.m.
 4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
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 4TO—Townsville—Fri., 10:15 p.m.
 4WK—Warwick—Tues., 9:30 p.m.
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 6IX—Perth—Sun., 10:00 p.m.
 6MD—Merredin—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
 6WB—Katanning—Sun., 10:30 p.m.
 7HT—Hobart—Wed., 10:25 p.m.

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The World Tomorrow in Spanish

RADIO LA CRONICA—Lima, Peru—7:00-7:15 P.M. Sundays
 RADIO COMUNEROS—Asuncion, Paraguay—8:00-8:15 P.M., Sundays
 RADIO SPORT—CXA19—Montevideo, Uruguay—4:00-4:15 P.M., Sundays

The LISTENING POST of the World

Millions are spent yearly to keep the Vatican informed! Read here of the MOST IMPORTANT NEWS GATHERING AGENCY ON EARTH—the listening post of the world!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

WHILE in Rome recently, my father and I saw and heard, from specially constructed close-up "box seats," Pope John XXIII give a dynamic, vigorous, forceful speech to thousands thronging the huge Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican.

The pope spoke for about 20 minutes in Italian, and then spoke for a few minutes in French. Afterward, other dignitaries acknowledged gifts and well-wishes from groups from many nations, making pilgrimages to the Vatican. The present pope occupies the same living quarters, in a north-east wing of an adjacent building, as did his predecessor, Pius XII. He keeps *well informed* of world news! He always has *inside* information on world affairs!

But how?

Perhaps many of you did not *realize* the vast amount of factual material that is received, sorted and filed in the vatican. Catholics from *around the world*, many occupying governmental positions or other key jobs, are pledged to supply the vatican with first-hand information.

From the careful cataloguing and sifting process, intelligent and trained aides digest the news, supplying the pope and his intimate advisors with only the most necessary and important items. And so it is that a man who must live virtually the life of a recluse is one of the *best* informed men alive!

News Agencies

Governments (and the vatican is a government, to which other nations send ambassadors) must be kept *constantly* informed of happenings in other nations. For this purpose, whole government agencies are established.

Some are of a secret nature, others on the diplomatic level, and some are private enterprise, such as the major wire services and news agencies. But

their objective is *one*. It is to keep their government, *and the citizens* (to a lesser extent), *informed* of world news!

Business may employ agencies whose sole purpose is to sift through major newspapers, magazines, radio and telecasts for information pertinent to that particular business.

But *regardless* of HOW WELL INFORMED are the heads of governments, religious leaders or *anyone*—it means absolutely NOTHING, *unless they know the real MEANING of world news!*

And, shocking though it may seem to YOU—the leaders of nations, great military leaders, great religious personages—DO NOT KNOW THE MEANING of world news!

Dead News

Why don't they know? Why CAN'T they know?

Because they are busily sifting through yesterday's news—or last month's news—or last year's news! One of the chief competitive factors between newspapers and wire services is to report the "least stale" news *first*.

Large newspapers rush to the streets with EXTRAS when vitally important news comes to them. But regardless of *how* fast they get it on the streets, or you hear it over the radio—you are only hearing what has ALREADY HAPPENED! You're hearing OLD news, even though you might hear it first!

But there is ONE source to which you can go to hear the LIVEST news that's ever been printed—the LIVEST reports of happenings you could possibly hear—future news in advance!

You're READING that source this moment! You're *hearing* it, each time you listen to the "World Tomorrow" program on radio!

Haven't you noticed, when our announcer comes on the air, he says, ". . .

bringing you the PLAIN TRUTH about today's world news, and the PROPHECIES of THE WORLD TOMORROW!"?

LIVE News

Yes, PROPHECIES! *Not* the dead, dry, stale news of *yesterday*—but the world the way it WILL be, TOMORROW! Most theologians seemingly *ignore* prophecy. Most people have never heard it preached. But almost one third of the Bible is PROPHECY, and prophecy was written expressly for OUR DAY—NOW! Jesus told His disciples, "*Watch* ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to *escape* all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

Jesus meant to *watch world news*. But just WATCHING, *alone*, will not do any good. If being informed of what HAS happened is what Jesus meant—then any government on earth *should* know as much of the prophecies as the true servants of Christ. But they *don't!* If they DID—they would be following totally different policies!

Christ meant MORE than that! Notice! Christ told the Pharisees and Sadducees they could foretell the *weather*, but remained in *ignorance* of the real *meaning* of the occurrences around them. "He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather, for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the *face of the sky*, but can ye not discern the SIGNS OF THE TIMES?" (Mat. 16:2-3.)

Christ's true disciples will understand the *meaning* of the times in which they live!

A Paradox

And now consider this startling para-

dox! Today, we are living in a world so breathtaking, so startling, so overwhelmingly momentous, that we have, as a people, become virtually *calloused* to unusual occurrences.

We have been dazzled by a whirlwind of invention and progress, frightened by perennial world disturbances and threat of war, terrified by strontium 90, nuclear fallout, disease epidemics, and upset weather conditions. We have, in short, become *so accustomed* to shocking news announcements we are no longer shocked.

Yes, what a paradox! NEVER has there been *so much* of real import happening *so fast*—and at the same time, *never* have people seemed to care less!

God's News Agency!

My father said on the radio recently that Jesus Christ was the greatest NEWS CASTER who ever lived! Jesus came as a Divine Messenger—a Messenger bearing NEWS! It was the *good news* of the world tomorrow, or the Gospel of the Kingdom of God! Good news *means* "Gospel!"

Jesus brought the news IN ADVANCE! He proclaimed it, and commissioned His disciples to spread it to the world, BEFORE it happened! Today, men have accepted the PERSON of Christ, but rejected His *message*. They paid no attention to the NEWS He brought!

But Jesus commissioned His "news agency." He told His true disciples to "watch!" And told them to "go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel [the advance news that Christ will soon govern the world] to every creature" (Mk. 16:15).

The Gospel is prophetic! It deals with NEWS! The Gospel proclaims the setting up of a WORLD-RULING GOVERNMENT! Could anything be MORE concerned with *nations*, with GOVERNMENTS, with WORLD CONDITIONS? Certainly not!

The Apostle Paul said, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be *sent*?" (Rom. 10:14-15).

Christ has *sent* His true ministers into the world to PREACH the advance news of His coming Kingdom! Isaiah

says, "Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth HEAR, and all that is therein; the *world*, and all things that come forth of it, for the indignation of the Eternal is upon *all nations* . . ." (Isa. 34:1-2).

Christ *promises* His Gospel will be sent to ALL NATIONS! "And this *gospel of the kingdom* SHALL be preached in all the world for a *witness* unto ALL NATIONS, and THEN shall the end come" (Mat. 24:14).

Must Be Informed!

Remember, Jesus said His true ministers must be WATCHING world developments! Since the Gospel has to do with world conditions, and the soon-coming *world government* of God, those preaching the Gospel MUST KNOW WORLD NEWS!

But to KNOW world news, without understanding its MEANING would be useless!

That's where PROPHECY comes in!

God has PROMISED to His true servants, "Surely the Lord Eternal *will do nothing* but He *revealeth* His secret unto His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). Did you notice? God says He'll do NOTHING, unless His servants know of it FIRST!

Prophecy is merely history—*written in advance*! And, just as a knowledge of world news ALONE is not enough to really *understand* world happenings, so a knowledge of Biblical prophecy ALONE

would not be enough!

BUT—when God's true servants can have at their disposal all the pertinent, vitally important, *inside* information of world happenings, AND *understand prophecy*, THEN IT REALLY MEANS something!

Your Watchmen!

Jesus Christ said plainly there *must* be a WORK going on, somewhere, somehow, ON THIS EARTH AT THIS PRECISE TIME, preaching His *true* Gospel, *warning* the world of the frightening conditions ahead! GOD HAS SOMEHOW BROUGHT YOU INTO A DIRECT CONTACT WITH THAT ONE WORK! May God help you to SEE it!

God has commissioned us as His WATCHMEN! God reveals, in Ezekiel's 33rd chapter, that it is our responsibility to WARN the nations—REGARDLESS of whether or not they will heed! "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a *watchman* unto the HOUSE OF ISRAEL [The United States, Great Britain and other democracies of northwestern Europe], therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and *warn them from me*!" (Ezek. 33:7.)

In order to effectively fulfill that commission—we must be completely *abreast* of world news—completely INFORMED!

In order to have at our fingertips a wealth of the latest, most vitally important news, we have established a whole new department here at Ambassador College.

We now have our *own* news gathering agency! Mr. Albert Portune, assisted by a competent full-time staff of trained college personnel, prepares a complete *digest* of the latest news each week.

To do this, he receives clippings from around the nation, special confidential reports from Washington, London and other world capitols. In addition to subscribing to the top national news weeklies, and newspapers, the Ambassador College news gathering agency receives special reports from all the ministers in this country, in the Philippines, Africa and the British Commonwealth. Full-time personnel sift this information, culling out the most pertinent material for broadcasts, articles, or class information. This highly condensed, streamlined

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EN VOILÀ SEPT!

Ces SEPT livrets français sont offerts GRATUITEMENT à tous ceux qui nous en font la demande:

"L'Observance Pascale—Quand et Pourquoi?"

"La Foi nécessaire au Salut"

"La Résurrection ne tombe pas le Dimanche"

"Quel est le Sabbat du Nouveau Testament?"

"Dieu guérit-Il toujours?"

"Qu'est-ce que la Foi?"

"Pourquoi êtes-vous né?"

Prière de s'adresser à:

LE MONDE À VENIR

Box 111

Pasadena, California

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

In this 20th installment Mr. Armstrong covers his first personal healing, how he entered a "million-dollar" clay business and the disastrous depression of 1929.

THESE were certainly the lean years—economically speaking! For one as ambitious as I—one who had driven himself relentlessly in study, in gaining experience, in achieving business success, a harder blow could hardly have been received than to see all my major clients—big business corporations, every one—swept away in the flash depression of 1920.

The Humbling Process Continues

And then again, in the fall of 1926, after starting and developing a laundry advertising service that was doubling the business volume of clients—that promised to expand to national scope—to see it all suddenly swept away by a \$5,000,000 advertising campaign sold by a smart advertising agent to the Laundryowners' National Association!

I could not understand, until later, that the Almighty God was intervening in my life—taking away every profit-making business I started—knocking me down, even as He did the Apostle Paul—taking away from me the idols of vanity, the desire to be looked upon as *important* by important business men, the desire for money.

But now, even in 1928, after I had been humbled—after I had been challenged into a study of the Bible and totally disillusioned to find that "all these churches *could* be wrong!"—after I had surrendered my life and my future unconditionally to God, and had begun to be a DOER of what I saw God commanded in His Word—after I had been converted, baptized, reconciled to God thru Jesus Christ, and had begun to preach somewhat regularly at the little church in Oregon City—yes, even after all this, God saw to it that the *lean years* continued quite a while longer.

But if these were the *lean years* financially, they were years of coming into

the *true* riches. Yet, I still had many lessons to learn.

Not only was there much more TRUTH to be discovered and dug out of God's spiritual gold mine—the Holy BIBLE—but there was much character to be developed through hard, cruel *experience*, the dearest teacher of all.

I should not have thought so at the time—but God *knew* that I needed much more humbling—much more chastening and punishment at the hands of God!

I had been humbled! O yes! And still, I know now that had God allowed me to have prospered financially at that stage of spiritual experience, self-pride once more would have seized me and the humility would have fled! The lessons so far received by all this chastening would have been lost! I was to have to suffer much more—and my family to suffer it with me!

Gagging on Macaroni

At this time, during 1928, we were living on Klickitat Street in Portland, Oregon. We were falling dangerously behind in paying the rent. The real-estate agent who collected the rent came very frequently to the front door. To others he was a kind and pleasant-looking man. He taught a Sunday-school class. But to us, he was a dark, foreboding, frightening, almost devilish-appearing man, when, of evenings, he so frequently stood at our front door, demanding in a deep, bass, stern tone: "Can I have the rent?"

We simply didn't *have* the rent! We began to live in darkness, without lights, in hopes he would think we were not at home. Whenever he came, we knew just how a whipped dog feels when his tail is between his legs. Actually, this man, who appeared to us almost as an enemy, was kind enough to pay our

rent a number of times out of his own pocket.

At one time we were in darkness nights against our will. The electricity was shut off because the bill was delinquent. My wife did her cooking on a small gas stove, and our gas was shut off. Only the water was left running. We were out of food, and out of fuel. Our heating stove was one my father had made, shaped something like an old covered wagon—with rounded top.

The children were crying with hunger. My stomach gnawed with pain. Like old Mother Hubbard's, our cupboard was bare, save for a little macaroni. But there was no cheese or any of the ingredients used in baking macaroni. There was not even a grain of salt. AND, there was *no money* to buy any.

I decided to try to cook some macaroni, even without the accompanying ingredients. Without gas there was no oven to bake it in; so I boiled it. Patiently I tore up and crumpled pages of magazines, so I could set a fire in the rounded-top heating stove for heat. I balanced a pan of water and macaroni on top of the stove, and kept throwing in more crumpled magazine pages to keep the fire going.

I offered this "delicacy" to my wife and daughters. We all tried it.

That is all we did. We tried it! We did not swallow it. We tried, but the slick, slithery, tasteless mess *simply would not go down!* You may laugh. I don't know why some Hollywood scenario writer never thought of this as a comedy idea. People love to laugh at the discomfiture of others in the movies. Movie actors pretend to suffer things like this to give audiences big amusement.

But we didn't laugh. It was not funny!

It was about this time, while still living on Klickitat Street, that I learned

what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote to the Corinthians of how God "also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit" (II Cor. 3:6).

The SPIRIT of the Law

Most people, I had noticed, thought that the "letter" was done away, and that the ministration of the *spirit* did away with the law and all obligation for OBEDIENCE to God.

I have told this many times in sermons, and on the air. But this experience occurred at this time, and I believe it belongs in this account.

Our eldest daughter, Beverly, then ten, had been in the habit of bringing books home from the school library. I had noticed they were always fiction books. She was an inveterate "book-worm," and a rapid reader. We had noticed that she was beginning to have a little trouble with her eyes, and we attributed it, at least in part, to excessive reading habits. Besides, I had noticed that the constant reading of these fictitious, ready-made day dreams—which is precisely what fiction is—was causing her mind to drift and wander, rather than to think actively.

"Beverly," I said one day after my wife and I had discussed it, "Mother and I want you to stop taking these fiction books out of the library. You are injuring your eyes with too much reading."

Two days later, I observed Beverly in her usual slumped-over position in a chair, with a book opened near the middle.

"Let me see that book, Beverly," I demanded. "Isn't this another fiction story?"

"Yes, Daddy," she replied, handing it to me. Already she had read it half through.

"Beverly," I said sternly, "didn't I tell you to stop bringing these books home, and rest your eyes?"

"Well, yes, Daddy," came the innocent reply, "But I didn't get this book at the library. I borrowed it from Helen."

Beverly actually *obeyed* the literal *letter* of the law, but she completely disobeyed the SPIRIT of what I had told her! The *spirit* of the law goes much further than the mere letter. It *includes* the

letter, but also its obvious meaning, or intent.

That is the way WE must obey God—*not only* the "letter," but the SPIRIT or intended MEANING of the law as well! Jesus explained this in His sermon on the Mount (Mat. 5:17-28—especially verses 21-22; and 27-28).

My First Personal Healing

It was also while living here, during 1928, that I had perhaps my first experience in applying God's miraculous power of healing, as a personal experience in my own body.

For fuel we burned wood—when we were able to have it. One day in chopping wood, the axe slipped, and struck my left thumb in mid-air. It cut clear to the bone. I had to pull the sharpened axe out of the bone. It had cut quite a deep gash.

Instantly I prayed, asking God to prevent pain, and to heal it over rapidly, as I ran into the house to wrap and bandage it. At first, such a cut often benumbs the nerves, as it did this time—but normally the pain soon follows. This time I felt no pain at all.

I made one slight mistake later, else I am convinced I should never have had so much as a scar. I left the bandage on for some three days. But I became over-anxious to look at it. When we trust God for healing, we need to keep our eyes and our minds on CHRIST—not on the physical part. I unwrapped it too soon. I experienced the only pain at any time from that severe cut in removing the wrapping to look at it, and pulling off a scab that had formed.

The result was that there is, to this day, just the slightest trace of a scar across the length of my left thumb. But, even so, it is so slight that one would never notice it unless pointed out. The cut was directly across the knuckle. I believe it could have robbed me of the use of the thumb. As it is, there is no impairment whatsoever.

Advertising Job—Rejected

It must also have been during this year of 1928 that another advertising job was offered me.

I believe I mentioned, in connection with the advertising service for laundries, the soap builder used by laundries

manufactured by the Cowles Detergent Company, of Cleveland, Ohio. This company was a subsidiary of the Aluminum Corporation of America. They manufactured an unusual product, unique and exclusive, so far as I know, in the laundry industry. I understood that this company was the largest operation in the laundry industry.

The Cowles Detergent Company had become familiar with the advertising I was writing and designing for laundry clients. Also they were familiar with the astonishing results. These ads had been building the volume of business of my clients in unprecedented fashion.

And so it was that, about this time, the sales manager of the Cowles company, a Mr. Fellows, came to Portland to interview me and offer the post of advertising manager of their company. Actually the job was to organize and establish a new advertising department! Up to that time, they had delegated all advertising preparation and placing to their advertising agency.

Bear in mind, I was not yet a minister. Although I had given a few talks that might, by a stretch of the imagination, have been called preaching, and had been speaking almost every Sabbath before the little group in Oregon City, I most assuredly did not think of myself as a minister. Nor did I expect, at this time, ever to be.

The laundries of the nation, thru their national association, had gone into their five million dollar national campaign. This had pulled right out from under me—like a rug being jerked out from beneath one's feet—all my laundry clients, save one. I still had the account of the National Laundry, second largest in Portland. But, as I believe I have mentioned before, this required only about 30 minutes a week of my time. It was our sole income—\$50 per month. It was not enough to pay house rent, and keep us fed and alive.

If you have been reading this autobiography from the beginning, you will remember that in 1924 I was offered the job of advertising manager of the Des Moines Register—rated by many as one of the ten great newspapers of the United States. I had turned it down because I believed that I was not an executive. I believed I could not direct

and supervise the work of others. I found it so distasteful to make out reports and keep records—which would have been a regular routine on such a job—that I felt I was simply not fitted for such an office.

I explained all this to Mr. Fellows. I told him frankly that one of my faults was that I worked in spurts. I felt I was moderately talented in certain directions, but this was off-set by serious faults I had not yet been able to master and overcome. At times my performance would be more or less brilliant. Results would be outstanding. But then I might go into a slump for a week or a month, during which I would accomplish little or nothing. What I did not tell him was that my wife and I had talked it over, and decided that, in order to obey God and keep His Sabbath, I must reject the offer.

Mr. Fellows thanked me sincerely for my honesty in telling him of these shortcomings. He returned to Cleveland. I never heard whether he found the man he needed, and started his new advertising department.

Actually there may have been some providential guidance in my supposition that I could not become an executive. Had I accepted this job, which, as I remember, would have paid a salary of \$8,000 a year in 1928 to start—the equivalent of a much larger figure in today's dollar value—and about \$12,000 if I made good, I would have been snatched away from the calling God was drawing me into. I would probably be back in the world today.

Actually I was mistaken about not being able to become an executive. When God later began to build His work around me, and the work began to grow steadily and continuously at the rate of about a 30% increase each year over the year before—which rate of growth continues to this very day—I *had* to become an executive! And with God's help and power, it was achieved, and the working in spurts was long ago overcome. For many years, now, I have had to work at the same steady pace day in and day out.

Cash Position Desperate!

Also it was about this time, late in 1928, that our position was so desperate

that I prayed earnestly and asked God to open a door for some income that very day.

Having asked in faith, in the morning, I took the street car to downtown Portland, seeking the "open door" to a job, or something with some cash in it. All the circumstances have dimmed somewhat in my memory, but I believe that we had to have a certain amount of money by 5:30 that evening, or be evicted from our home. But I *knew* that if I did my part, God would provide the need.

All day long I sought open doors—but every door was closed and apparently locked tight. My faith was being tried. Then 5:00 p.m. came. Time had almost run out.

But I still had faith.

At that moment it came to my mind to stop up at the office of a Mr. Davidson, manager of the Merchandising Service Department of the Portland Oregonian.

"Say," he exclaimed, "you're just the man I've been looking for. The advertising agency for the Bissell carpet sweeper people want a survey made in Portland on the relative opinions of women between the carpet sweeper and the vacuum cleaner. You are the only man I know with the experience to conduct such a survey. Can you take time to do it?"

I most certainly could!

It was going to pay just the exact amount I needed by 5:30 that evening to prevent being evicted. But the check would not be forthcoming until about 30 days, after the survey was completed.

With brisk step, after having been briefed on what the Bissell company wanted in the survey, I walked rapidly over to the offices of the mortgage company where the house payment had to be made, arriving right on the dead-line, 5:30 p.m.!

I explained about the survey to be made immediately. I offered to simply endorse the check and hand it over for our house rent when it came, if the company would accept it some 30 days later.

My word was good with them. Since it was definitely sure, they agreed to accept this check 30 days later, on my promise to endorse it over.



Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong's younger daughter, Dorothy Jane, with her curls, in front of the house on Klickitat St., in Portland.

And Now—1929!

1928 ended. It had been a year of great progress in my life. It had been a year of outstanding world events. Trotsky, Zinoviev and other Communists were exiled from Russia January 16th that year. The first all-talking motion picture was shown in New York that year on July 6th. This was preparing the way for our filming *The WORLD TOMORROW* for television, beginning 1955. October 13th of that year God had blessed us with the birth of our first son, Richard David.

In the spring of 1929 we moved to a house on 75th Street, north of Sandy Boulevard. 1929 was to be a year of struggle, spiritual growth, and miraculous answers to prayer.

1929 was an epochal year in world events, too! The notorious "St. Valentine's Day massacre" in Chicago occurred February 14th. On June 7th that year, the Papal State, extinct since 1870, was revived as a state, or nation. The Kellogg Peace Treaty, known also as the Pact of Paris, outlawing WAR, was signed July 24th. Albert B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior, came to his terrific FALL November 1, when he was sentenced for accepting a \$100,000 bribe. Commander Richard E. Byrd made the first flight over the south pole November 28. And, biggest event of all, the New York Stock Market crash oc-



After moving to the 75th St. house—Dorothy, Dickey, and Beverly, on a borrowed pony.

curred October 29th. 16,000,000 shares changed hands. The decline in value of stocks was estimated at 15 billion dollars by end of 1929. And stock losses, by 1931, were estimated at 50 billion, affecting directly 25 million people. It plunged America into its worst depres-

sion. It prevented me from making a million dollars!

Incident of the Mystery Woman

1929 not only *ended* as a depression year for us—as it did for millions of others—it *began* as just another of the

lean years! For us, it was another year of desperation to keep ourselves alive.

Very shortly after moving into the house on 75th Street, we had reached another crisis of hunger and desperate need. Again I prayed earnestly for God to either send us some money or provide a way for me to earn it.

An hour or two later, a strange woman knocked on our front door. Mrs. Armstrong opened the door. There was something mysterious about the woman's appearance.

Who was she? She did not introduce herself. She gave no inkling of her identity.

"If your husband isn't too proud to do it," she said in a low, quiet voice, "there are two truck-loads of wood he can throw in at this address. Jot it down." My wife jotted down the street and number.

The mysterious woman walked quickly away and disappeared.

People in Portland used wood for fuel. Portland is in the heart of the Oregon-Washington lumber country. Throwing wood into the woodshed, garage, or basement, was an odd-job customarily reserved for the bums who came along. Very few men in Portland threw in their own wood. To be seen doing it was to appear as a down-and-out bum.

We were totally perplexed as to the identity of this strange woman. How did *she* know we were in such desperate need? Who was she? We never knew.

But I did know I had just asked God to provide. And at once I recognized one fact. This woman was like the mischievous boys playing a trick on a poor widow. Her window had been open. She was praying aloud, asking God to send her some bread for her children. The little boys, playing just outside the window, overheard her prayer.

"Let's play a trick on her," said one of the boys. "Let's toss a loaf of bread thru her window."

When they did, she knelt again and gave God thanks.

"Ah-ya-ya!" jeered the boys. "God didn't throw in that bread—we boys did."

"Well," answered the grateful widow, smiling, "maybe the devil brought it,

(Please continue on page 19)

Twelve Reasons Why Jesus' Trial Was ILLEGAL

A Communist conspiracy is afoot today to prove that Jesus was legally crucified! It is time you became aware of what really happened at Jesus' trial!

by Herman L. Hoeh

Part II

IN THE previous issue we learned the shocking events surrounding the arrest of Jesus.

We also discovered that many prominent writers have been unconsciously influenced by Communist propaganda into believing that Jesus' arrest, his trial and conviction were legal and just!

We learned the Jewish point of view—and the devious means by which they try to deny that their own religious leaders bribed Judas to betray Jesus!

First Four Reasons Summarized

Then we learned the first four reasons why Jesus' arrest and trial were absolutely illegal.

First, Jesus was arrested illegally. He was arrested secretly, by night, on no formal charge of any crime, by those who were to be His judges.

Second, Jesus was illegally subjected to a secret preliminary examination by night, contrary to Jewish law.

Third, the indictment against Jesus was illegal because the judges themselves brought up a false and secret charge against Jesus without any prior testimony by witnesses.

Fourth, the trial of Jesus began illegally before sunrise in order that no one could testify on Jesus' behalf.

Now to continue with the second installment:

Fifth Reason

In the case of Jesus, the Sanhedrin was illegally convened to try a capital offense *on a day before an annual Sabbath.*

Notice why: "They shall not judge on the eve of the Sabbath, nor on any festival," says the *Mishna*, "Sanhedrin" IV, 1. In Wise's *Martyrdom of Jesus*, page 67, we read the following conclusive evidence: "No court of justice

in Israel was permitted to hold sessions on the Sabbath or on any of the seven Biblical Holy Days. In cases of capital crime, no trial could be commenced on Friday *or the day previous to any Holy Day*, because it was not lawful either to adjourn such cases longer than over night, *or to continue them on the Sabbath or Holy Day.*"

The Jews even violated their law by arresting Jesus on the day before an annual Sabbath. They arrested Him on Wednesday in 31 A.D.; the annual Sabbath was Thursday.

Sixth Reason

The trial of Jesus was illegal *because it was concluded in one day.*

We read from Jewish law: "A criminal case resulting in the acquittal of the accused may terminate the same day on which the trial began. But if a sentence of death is to be pronounced, it cannot be concluded before the following day" (*Mishna*, "Sanhedrin" IV, 1). This was to allow sufficient opportunity for any witnesses in support of the accused to present themselves.

The Jews did not want to allow Jesus this opportunity.

Seventh Reason

The sentence against Jesus was illegally pronounced by the Sanhedrin *because it was founded upon Jesus' uncorroborated statement.* The Jewish Court pronounced sentence on Jesus with no supporting evidence whatever!

Consider! The only evidence presented by witnesses to the Court was given by two false witnesses. *But their testimony was not even used by the Court in sentencing Jesus to death.* Here is what happened.

The Jews obtained two false witnesses who testified that Jesus said, "I will destroy this temple *that is made with*

hands, and in three days, I'll build another made without hands" (Mark 14:58).

The Jews used this statement as an indictment against Jesus. But this piece of evidence was *not* what Jesus said. He never said the words "that is made with hands." Jesus was not referring to the physical temple erected by human hands, but to His body (John 2:19, 21) which would be raised in three days.

Then "the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God" (Matthew 26:62).

The question the High Priest asked Jesus had nothing to do with the indictment! Jesus was indicted on the false charge that He would destroy the physical temple, and rebuild it in three days' time.

But they condemned Him on another matter altogether. Notice! They asked, "Tell us plainly if you are Christ, the Son of God?"

"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death."

Do you see how quickly the trial was over? Upon the sole testimony of the One who was being tried, the judge said: "What do we need of any more witnesses? What do you all say?" The jury responded: "He's guilty."

Jesus was indicted on one charge,

tried on another, and condemned on His own testimony without any witnesses!

Jesus was not condemned because He said, "Within three days I will build this temple." He was condemned on the false charge of *blasphemy!*

Here is what Maimonides wrote in his book, *Sanhedrin IX, 2*. "We have it as a fundamental principle of our jurisprudence, that no one can bring an accusation against himself. Should a man make confession of guilt before a legally constituted tribunal, such confession is not to be used against him unless properly attested by two other witnesses" (*"Sanhedrin" IV, 2*).

Notice what the high priest said: "What further need have we of witnesses?"

Jesus was condemned on His own testimony, even though His testimony was not proved blasphemous!

The Jews didn't even examine Him according to the law to see whether His statement was blasphemy! They only demanded: "Are you the Son of God?" And He responded: "You're going to see *the son of man* seated at the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven . . ."

Was this blasphemy? Of course not! Jesus did not even refer directly to Himself. He merely said "the son of man." The Jewish Court did not seek to prove who the "son of man" was.

They knew, of course, that Jesus meant Himself. For all through His ministry, they came and purred in front of Him, and asked, "How long dost thou make us to doubt? If you be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not" (John 10:24,25). What hypocrites they were!

But as soon as Jesus even gave an indirect statement at the trial, they did not doubt whom He meant by the "son of man"!

On this testimony Jesus was condemned.

Even Mr. Radin admits that Jesus' testimony was not blasphemy. On pages 248 and 249 he says: "The 'blasphemy' which the Pentateuch mentions is a literal cursing of God or a direct defiance of him. The only pentateuchal reference makes this clear. It is in Leviti-

cus, chapter 24, and the incident which gave rise to the statute indicates the character of the offense of blasphemy in Jewish law. The half-Egyptian had cursed God—the Israelitish God—as under the circumstances of the quarrel there described he would have been likely enough to do. *No such thing could have been charged against Jesus by his most inveterate enemies.*"

Yet the Jewish religious leaders did this very thing!

Now consider another violation of Jewish law in extracting this testimony from Jesus: "No attempt is ever made to lead a man on to self-incrimination. Moreover, a voluntary confession on his part [on the defendant] is not admitted in evidence, and therefore *not competent to convict him*, unless a legal number of witnesses minutely corroborate his self-accusation." (Mendelsohn, *Criminal Jurisprudence of the Ancient Hebrews*, page 133.)

Eighth Reason

The condemnation of Jesus was illegal *because the merits of the defense were not considered.*

When they heard Jesus' statement, the high priest shouted: "He blasphemes." But the law in Deuteronomy 13:14 says, "Then shalt thou inquire, and make search, and ask diligently."

The Jewish law in the Mishna says: "The judges shall weigh the matter in the sincerity of their conscience" (*"Sanhedrin" IV, 5*).

Ninth Reason

The condemnation of Jesus BY PART OF THE SANHEDRIN was illegal *because those who would have voted against*

the condemnation of Jesus were not there!

Notice what took place at Jesus' trial before dawn according to Mark 14:64. "You have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they ALL condemned him to be guilty of death." It was unanimous. There was no investigation, no examination, to see if He did or did not blaspheme. They just used His testimony against Him without any proof, without any witnesses. They all did it immediately, instantaneously, simultaneously. It was *mob spirit* that condemned Jesus!

Here is what Mendelsohn states of such a procedure: "*A simultaneous and unanimous verdict of guilt rendered on the day of the trial has the effect of an acquittal.*"

The verdict against Jesus was simultaneous and unanimous, although the Jewish law required at least one of the Council to serve as a defense counsel.

The proper method of voting was to have "the judges *each in his turn* absolve or condemn" (*Mishna, "Sanhedrin" XV, 5*). "The members of the Sanhedrin were seated in the form of a semicircle at the extremity of which a secretary was placed, whose business it was to record the votes. One of these secretaries recorded the votes in favor of the accused, the other against him," states the *Mishna, "Sanhedrin" IV, 3*.

"In ordinary cases the judges voted according to seniority, the oldest commencing; in a capital case, the reverse order was followed. That the younger members of the Sanhedrin should not be influenced by the views or the arguments of their more mature, more experienced colleagues, the junior judge was in these cases always the first to pronounce for or against conviction," says Benny, in *Criminal Code of the Jews*, pages 73-74.

Furthermore the high priest rent or tore his clothes at the trial (Mark 14:63 and Matthew 26:65).

In Leviticus 10:6 and 21:10 the high priest is forbidden to do so. "And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, *nor rend his clothes.*" They tore their outer garment to stir up emo-
(Please continue on page 22)

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leiden?“

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What Is a REAL Christian?

It's SHOCKING, but it's TRUE! Most professing "Christians" today are not REALLY Christians! Read this frank, vital article proving it—and find out what YOU need to be doing about it!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

WHAT IS A REAL Christian? Perhaps you've heard *many different, conflicting* definitions. I have. But have you ever heard the real BIBLE definition?

It is time you understood the very basic, down-to-earth, FUNDAMENTALS of Christianity—the very HEART, the *root* and *core* of the teachings of Christ!

So listen! I want you to *realize*, once and for all, that most professing Christians today believe the exact opposite from the very SIMPLEST, the CLEAREST teachings of Christ!

And so, let's go to the very basis of REAL Christianity!—what is commonly called the "Sermon on the Mount."

The "Sermon" on the Mount

Actually, the scriptures found in Matthew's 5th, 6th and 7th chapters are *not* a "sermon" though they have been labeled as such by men who did not understand the Bible.

This is one of the very first *opposites* you will see in comparing these plain, clear statements of Christ with the commonly accepted beliefs and practices of a modern "Christianity."

"And *seeing the multitudes*, He went up into a mountain, and when He was set, His disciples came *unto* Him . . ." (Mat. 5:1). Yes, Christ wanted to ESCAPE the big crowds. Notice it!

But haven't you always heard differently? Haven't you always taken for granted that Christ spoke in *parables*, similes, or analogies so the people could *understand* more easily? But that's NOT what Christ Himself said!

"And the disciples came, and said unto Him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is GIVEN UNTO YOU [His disciples] to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, *but to them it is not given*. . . . For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, LEST at any time

they should see . . . and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Mat. 13:10-15).

Christ said, in quoting Isaiah, that the people *could not* understand—that He deliberately *clouded* His meaning, LEST they should be converted!

HOW UTTERLY DIFFERENT from what you've always assumed!

You see, Jesus *did not come* to convert the world *then*. He came to ESTABLISH HIS CHURCH, to DIE FOR THE SINS OF all mankind, to commission His Disciples who were to carry His MESSAGE to all nations. Christ came for MANY reasons—none of them to save the entire world *at that time!*

He was a Divine Messenger, *sent* from His Father in heaven, to *teach* and *train* His disciples. "Disciple" merely means "student," or "learner."

Notice then, Jesus "opened His mouth and *taught* THEM [His disciples, or His students] saying. . . ."

So, you see the "sermon" on the Mount was not a sermon at all, but a private, personal *lesson* Jesus gave to His Disciples. He was *sitting down*.

"The Beatitudes"

The next few verses are among the best-known in the entire Bible. Perhaps many of you can say them by memory. That is exactly why I wanted to write this article. I wanted to ANALYZE, CAREFULLY, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM! I wanted to take the CLEAR, BEST-KNOWN parts of Christ's teachings—and show you FROM THEM how UTTERLY REMOVED from *true Christianity* are most professing Christians today!

Christ said, "Blessed are the *poor in spirit*, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (verse 3).

What does it *mean*, to be "poor" in spirit? Certainly Christ didn't mean to be LACKING in the Spirit of God, for He urges, through Peter, "GROW in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ" (II Pet.

3:18), and inspired Paul to write, "Now if any man have not the SPIRIT of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9). Jesus said, "If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, *how much more* shall your Heavenly Father GIVE the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" (Luke 11:13.)

No, Jesus doesn't mean to LACK the Spirit of God, as the foolish virgins, but means *blessed* are those who are truly LOWLY, HUMBLE, YIELDING in attitude of heart and mind!

HOW MANY "Christians" are *truly Christlike* in spirit? Jesus was *completely* "poor in spirit!" He was completely HUMBLE! A greater man never lived—a man never lived who could exercise more gigantic, all-encompassing POWER than Christ! There never was a more dynamic, lively, energetic, personable, talented man! There *never was* a man with more REASON to get all "puffed up" and *proud*—filled with HUMAN VANITY! But yet—Jesus was humble! Paul wrote, "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but *condescend to men of low estate*. Be not wise in your own conceits" (Rom. 12:16).

Christ *went about with* publicans, sinners, harlots and the very *lowest* (in man's eyes) of the society of His day. For this He was constantly criticized by the haughty, proud, puffed-up denominational leaders of that time.

What about OUR time?

It just isn't too "popular" to help out a tramp, to comfort a diseased, afflicted person, to care for invalids, to GIVE something of yourself to someone who is really in *need*, is it? To be really *poor in spirit* is a great RARITY today!

"Theirs Is the Kingdom of Heaven"

Here is the *next* diametric opposite!

Skipping ahead just two verses, Jesus said, "Blessed are the *meek*, for THEY shall *inherit the earth!*" Does Christ mean to imply the "poor in spirit" are

going to "heaven," but the MEEK are going to remain on earth?

Look at it! What does it SAY? IF Jesus promised HEAVEN to the poor in spirit—then it is VERY CLEARLY stated the MEEK are going to stay ON EARTH!

But *did* Jesus promise "heaven" to the poor in spirit?

No! *Nowhere* in all the Bible is HEAVEN promised as the reward of the saved. Here is another GREAT OPPOSITE that is the very BASIS of "Christian" doctrine today—and *did not come out of the Bible!*

Read it again carefully. Christ said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom OF heaven" (verse 3). That little word "OF" qualifies the verse, makes it plain! It is a KINGDOM God promises His elect—a kingdom ruled by God, FROM HEAVEN! It is a kingdom OF heaven—but not a kingdom IN heaven, and there is a great difference! Notice just a FEW of the HUNDREDS of Biblical proofs!

Jesus is pictured in Luke 19 as a young nobleman who *went* into a FAR country to get for himself a kingdom—and *to return!* When He returns, he apportions RULERSHIP to His faithful servants over cities, on this earth! Read Luke 19:12-27!

John was inspired to write, of the saints of God, "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign ON THE EARTH!" (Rev. 5:10.) Jesus promises, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in MY throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21). Christ came to inherit the "throne of His father David" (Luke 1:32) which is ON THIS EARTH!

The Apostle Paul wrote of our *citizenship* which is IN heaven! He likened the Saints to foreigners, as did Peter, and as strangers, sojourning in a strange country! "For our CITIZENSHIP [margin] is in heaven, FROM whence [He is to return to the *earth*] also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20).

Many prophecies illustrate the return of Christ to *this earth*, and His RULE over the earth. Daniel's second and seventh chapters both illustrate Christ RULING ON EARTH! ". . . and the stone [which is Christ] that smote the image

became a great mountain [type of a kingdom—or a *government*], and filled the WHOLE EARTH" (Dan. 2:35). "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, One like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven . . . and there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a *kingdom*, that all PEOPLE, NATIONS and LANGUAGES, should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13-14). People, nations and languages are ON THIS EARTH! "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise *out of the earth*, but the Saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever" (Dan. 7:17-18). The Saints *take away* the rulership OF THE EARTH from carnal-minded men!

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom UNDER THE WHOLE HEAVEN, shall be given to the people of the saints . . ." (Dan. 7:27). UNDER heaven is ON EARTH!

Notice further! Isaiah prophesied of the setting up of the Kingdom of God ON EARTH! "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and ALL NATIONS shall flow unto it. And many PEOPLE shall go and say, 'Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, and He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths, for OUT OF ZION [In Jerusalem! On earth!] shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord *from Jerusalem*'" (Isa. 2:2-3).

Notice Micah's 4th chapter! Read all of it! "But in the *last days* it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains . . . and people shall flow unto it . . . for the law shall go forth *out of Zion* and the word of the Lord *from Jerusalem*. And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation, and the Lord shall reign OVER THEM IN MOUNT ZION from henceforth, even forever!" (Micah 4:1-2, 7).

"Behold the day of the Lord cometh . . . and His feet shall stand IN THAT

DAY upon the MOUNT OF OLIVES, which is before Jerusalem on the east . . ." (Zech. 14:1-4).

Read the entire 14th chapter of Zechariah! "And the Lord shall be king OVER ALL THE EARTH!" (verse 9). "And men shall *dwell* in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall be safely INHABITED!" (Verse 11.) The remainder of the chapter pictures nations being punished to force them to *keep God's annual feasts* to keep them in mind of the *plan* He is working out here below!

Remember! The Bible does NOT contradict itself! The oft-quoted and well-loved scripture in I Thessalonians the 4th chapter means what it says! But you have not heard what it actually SAYS!

And so now, after reading these MANY scriptural *proofs* that Christ is coming to *this earth* to REMAIN here, ruling with His Saints, let's candidly read this often-quoted, completely misunderstood text.

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thes. 4:16-17).

Notice there is not one single word about Saints going to heaven!

What this passage does NOT say is clear! It does NOT say the Saints are going to HEAVEN!

What it DOES say is equally clear! It DOES say the saints will rise to meet the Lord IN THE AIR! Notice it! Jesus is going to "DESCEND FROM HEAVEN" and the resurrected and changed Saints will be caught up "IN THE CLOUDS, to MEET the Lord IN THE AIR!"

Recently, my father and I returned from Rome to New York on a big, Boeing 707 jet airliner. We were sped through the thinner upper atmosphere, HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS at the flashing speed of about 600 miles an hour! We actually flew in a man-made airplane MUCH HIGHER than your Bible says the Saints will rise when Christ returns! The Bible says IN THE CLOUDS —NOT UP IN HEAVEN! This earth is

enveloped by layers of *air*, composed of PHYSICAL SUBSTANCES. Air is composed of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and many types of gases. Clouds are merely formed of vapors and mists, the condensation of moisture when cold air masses meet warm air masses. As such, air and clouds are a PART OF THIS EARTH! They belong to EARTH, not to Heaven, which is far beyond the outer reaches of man's telescopes which only *begin* to probe the vast, incomprehensible reaches of the universe!

Think for a moment!

If an intimate friend of yours were returning to stay with you after a long absence, and you went to the gate to *meet* the friend—wouldn't it be silly if you *left* your home, turned around and went back to HIS home with *him*? Christ is to RETURN to the earth, FROM heaven!

Paul wrote, ". . . and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (verse 17). Yes—we shall be WITH the Lord, where HE WILL BE! And where will HE BE? ON THE EARTH, as you have already seen PROVED from your own Bible!

Christ said, ". . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that *where I am, THERE YE MAY BE ALSO!*" (John 14:3.) Where will Christ BE?

ON THE EARTH!

Yes, here is another of the amazing, breathtaking OPPOSITES of your Bible from the commonly accepted and assumed teachings of the world. The ideas of men do not fit—even with the "Sermon on the Mount!"

The Kingdom OF Heaven is a kingdom RULED by Heaven, which is to come down OUT of Heaven—to *this earth!* Just as the house OF John is not IN John, so is the Kingdom OF Heaven NOT to be IN, but FROM Heaven!

"Blessed Are They That Mourn"

". . . for they shall be comforted" (Mat. 5:4).

Surely you would believe there is no conflict HERE. Surely *all* professing "Christians" *believe* this scripture?

I suppose hundreds of thousands *do* believe these words of Christ—but how many really discern their meaning?

Jesus said, ". . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it *more abundantly*" (John 10:10).

Christ wants us to have life brimful and running over with JOY! One of the FIRST attributes of God's Holy Spirit, the very mind and nature of God, is JOY! (Gal. 5:22.) But Solomon wrote, "For in much wisdom is much grief, and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow" (Eccl. 1:18).

Christ was called a ". . . man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief . . ." (Isa. 53:3). But why? Because of the EVIL of man! Because of SIN!

When all mankind went the *wrong way* after God had revealed the RIGHT way to him, God ". . . saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented [made sorry] the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart" (Gen. 6:5-6).

Yes, the One who became Christ was made MOURNFUL, and SORRY, when He saw the wretchedness, the sickness, poverty, squalor, war and death man was *bringing on himself!* And so it is with a TRUE Christian! Even though Christ wants us to have more abundant life, He also inspired Solomon to write, "To everything there is a season, and a *time* to every purpose under the heaven. . . . a time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance . . ." (Eccl. 3:1-4).

Yes, BLESSED are they who MOURN NOW! For they SHALL be comforted! They will experience GREAT JOY, *happiness defying description* in the Kingdom of God! Many mourn because of persecution! But do MOST modern Christians receive any persecution whatsoever for accepting the "modern" POPULAR concepts of "Christianity?" Certainly not! But Jesus said, ". . . In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

No, rather than suffering persecution, being given cause to MOURN—most professing Christians today have come to believe the exact opposite! They feel, instead, that "belonging to a Church" or "having some faith" will give them better standing in the community, result in better business relations, make them an accepted, integrated part of community life! This, too, is a direct OPPO-

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"Blessed Are the Meek . . ."

There is a difference between being meek, and being *weak!* Jesus was MEEK but not weak! Even though he was weakened *physically* when suffering the terrible beatings and lashings prior to His crucifixion (Paul said, "For though He was crucified through weakness, yet He liveth by the power of God . . ." (II Cor. 13:4). Jesus was physically *strong* and *healthy* throughout His earthly life.

Remember, Christ never sinned! He obeyed *perfectly* the *physical* laws of God which regulate health and strength, as *well* as the spiritual laws!

What does it *mean* to be really *meek*?

LOOK for examples in modern Christianity. Where do you find very much gentleness, kindness, yieldedness? To be meek means to *yield* rather than cause an argument or trouble. It means to be HUMBLE, to be LOWLY in spirit and attitude. A truly MEEK person will be CHRISTLIKE in Character.

Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart . . ." (Mat. 11:29). Paul was inspired to write, "I therefore . . . beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and *meekness*, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love . . ." (Eph. 4:1-2).

A truly meek person will not try to justify the self, to feel the self is "better" than others, to "get even" with others. Rather, a meek person will be *imitating* Christ.

(To be continued in next issue)

Listening Post

(Continued from page 8)

resume of the news is then published weekly, and distributed to ministers, department heads and other key personnel in God's work.

A copy is always right on the broadcast studio desk, right next to the microphone.

In addition, we send *our own men* abroad, to get *first-hand* information. We have sent men into most parts of the world, including such far-flung corners as Yugoslavia, Turkey, the Mid-east, Africa, Argentina, Scandinavia, Central America, and in all Europe.

My father and I have only recently returned from just such a trip—and probably you have already read an article or two inspired by our recent travels in Europe and Scandinavia.

Yes—WE WATCH WORLD CONDITIONS!

But we also STUDY THE PROPHECIES!

That's WHY you see articles appearing in the *Plain Truth* about conditions in Germany, the Mid East, Africa, Russia, the Far East, South Africa—articles on the financial conditions of nations, world trade, weather conditions, crime statistics. You'll notice articles on *space* flight, nuclear weapons, latest military developments. Always, you'll notice a *healthy balance* of articles in the *Plain Truth*. Some on prophecy, world conditions and their meaning. Others, on spiritual subjects, and down-to-earth Christian living! Others, special features such as the Bible Story, and Mr. Armstrong's autobiography!

THIS WORK—the World Tomorrow broadcast, and THIS VERY MAGAZINE, the PLAIN TRUTH, emanate from the REAL LISTENING POST OF THE WORLD! THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH WHERE TODAY'S NEWS—AND THE NEWS OF TOMORROW—IS RECEIVED AND UNDERSTOOD!

God's MESSAGE

(Continued from page 6)

the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill"—that is to *do* or PERFORM, *setting us an example*. "For verily I

say unto you," Jesus continued, "till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled"—or be *in effect*, as the original Greek indicates.

Then Jesus concludes: "Whosoever therefore SHALL"—notice this is *future* tense—"break one of these *least commandments*"—no matter which men might call the least—"and shall teach men so, he shall be called the *least* in the Kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall DO and TEACH them, the same shall be called *great* in the Kingdom of heaven."

Jesus said that as long as heaven and earth stand, God's law will NEVER be done away! And those who are to be *rewarded* in God's Kingdom shall both *do* and *teach* even the "least" of God's laws and commandments!

WHY HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THIS KIND OF PREACHING?

A young man came to Christ asking: "Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" Here was Jesus' golden opportunity to tell him—as modern ministers would put it—that there is NOTHING he had to do.

"Just *believe*," they will say, "and you will be saved." "Give your hand to your preacher and your heart to the Lord" seems to be the modern method of salvation.

But what did *Jesus* say on this occasion? He said, "If you will enter into life, *keep the commandments*." And when the young man asked *which commandments*, Jesus began to state some of the *Ten Commandments* (Matt. 19:16-19). Here is the WAY to eternal life as taught by Jesus Christ the Son of God! Will we believe HIM?

Is This the ONLY True Gospel?

Is this message of *obedience* to God's laws and preparation for His coming Kingdom—or world-ruling government—the ONLY way of salvation? Wasn't some of this message just for the Jews of Jesus' day? Was there some OTHER gospel introduced for Gentile Christians?

Here is what Jesus Christ *commanded* after His resurrection from the dead! "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy

Spirit: teaching them to observe ALL things *whatsoever I have commanded you*: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:19-20). Here Christ commanded His apostles to go to all the world and preach *exactly* the SAME message of obedience to God's Kingdom and laws that He had taught them!

We must REPENT of our ways and sins, *accept* Christ as Saviour and RULER, and begin to let Him—through His Spirit—live a life of obedience in us to prepare us for *eternal life* in God's Kingdom and to be BORN as a member of His very family! This is the VERY gospel you must *believe* and *obey* in order to be saved!

Jesus told His apostles: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that *believeth* and is *baptised* shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16).

You must BELIEVE the joyous message of God's soon-coming government to bring peace through His *ways*, and His LAW! And you should *prepare* for your part in that Kingdom *here and now*.

What should you do, then?

Showing the way to begin this life of obedience and surrender to God, Peter said: "*Repent, and be baptized* everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

You must repent of SIN. And God tells you in I John 3:4: "*Sin is the transgression of the law*." The *Bible* says that sin is *breaking God's law*!

You must REPENT of this—and of your entire attitude of disobedience and hostility toward God's rule and authority over your life. You should become humble, as a little child, and let God guide you and teach you day by day through His Word. You should be *baptized*—as an outward symbol of your willingness to *bury* your old self under the water, and to give your life literally to God to use as *He* sees fit.

Then God PROMISES to give you of His precious Holy Spirit. This is His very *nature*, His *life*, and His *character* which He places in His begotten sons.

Notice that even the Holy Spirit is

received through obedience, because Peter describes "the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that OBEY Him" (Acts 5:32).

After *repentance* and *baptism*, a true Christian can begin a life of overcoming and *obedience* to God's law and His Kingdom here and now. This is done through the Holy Spirit and its *power* within him. This was the message ALL of God's servants preached throughout the early inspired New Testament Church!

When Philip went down to the Gentile city of Samaria, notice what he preached. "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the *Kingdom of God*, and the *name* of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women" (Acts 8:12).

The apostle Paul preached this gospel to the Gentile Christians at Ephesus. He told them on his last visit: "And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the *Kingdom of God*, shall see my face no more" (Acts 20:25).

At the very *end* of his ministry—*after* he had turned away from the Jews—Paul continued to preach *this same message!* "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, preaching the *Kingdom of God*, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him" (Acts 28:30-31).

The *message* of the soon-coming Kingdom of God was the *ONLY* message of Jesus Christ! It was the *only* message His inspired Church and apostles taught the world! It has been the *message* of God's true Church through the ages!

The Real Goal of the Christian Life

The reason the Christian religion seems so *empty* and *dead* to most people today is that they are in ignorance of the *real goal* of the true Christian life.

We are NOT put on this earth by God Almighty just to attend Church once a week, or to enter into "Christian" charities, or to hear sweet stories about the "little Lord Jesus," or to make *this* human society a better world through confusing—often contradicting—human efforts.

We are put here to prepare to *RULE FOREVER*, in the Kingdom or government of God! That is why—through God's Spirit—we must acquire God's *character*, and learn to live by His *LAWs* which *alone* will finally bring this world *peace* and *happiness!* These *spiritual laws* show the *WAY* to peace and happiness and right government throughout all eternity.

True Christians, then, have a *JOB* to do! They must demonstrate in this life—through God's help and His Spirit—that they will *keep God's laws* and develop His character so that they may be qualified to *RULE* others later, and teach them the same happy way of life. Notice the reward for those who overcome their own human nature and qualify: "And he that *overcometh* and *keepeth my works* unto the end, to him will I give *POWER* over the nations: and he shall *RULE* them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers; even as I received of my Father" (Rev. 2:26-27).

Jesus repeats this same promise—speaks of this *same reward*—again and again. "To him that *overcometh* will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with my Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21).

In Revelation 5:10, John was inspired to show that the saints shall become "*kings* and *priests*; and we shall *reign* on the earth."

True Christians—those who *overcome* themselves and develop God's *character* through living by His laws—will be given *authority* as kings and priests in God's Kingdom to be set up on this earth after Jesus returns. What a *tremendous* GOAL we can have in this life!

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be *priests* of God and of Christ and shall *REIGN* with Him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:6). Under Christ as King of kings, the overcoming saints will help *RULE* this earth and bring it peace and joy at last!

That is *WHY* we must learn to *obey* God and His laws now! That is the real *PURPOSE* of the true Christian life.

There is only *ONE* true gospel—one truly "good news"—and *this* is that

VERY gospel which Jesus preached!

Jesus Christ said His *true Church* would be preaching that very gospel as a last "witness" to all nations in our very day just before He returns again! "And this *gospel of the Kingdom* shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and *then shall the end come*" (Matt 24:14).

You are receiving that gospel this very instant! Through the "*World Tomorrow*" broadcast and the *PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, this message of Christ is being taken to all nations as a last "witness" to the world. May God help you to *UNDERSTAND!* May He give you the *wisdom* and *strength* to *OBEY* and to fulfill the very purpose for which you were placed on this earth!

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 12)

but just the same *GOD sent it!*"

No matter who this mysterious woman was, I knew *God sent her!* And I realized instantly that God was answering my prayer *HIS* way, and not mine. I knew He was giving me a test to see whether I would accept a humiliating job. I realized I had not yet been freed completely from ego and pride. I knew that God was giving me a lesson in humility at the same time He answered my prayer.

I walked immediately to the address the woman gave. It was about a mile from our house. There was a large pile of wood in front. I went to the door, asked for, and got the job of throwing the wood in the basement.

Realizing God was teaching me a lesson, I resolved to do it *HIS WAY*, which was to do the best job I could. A thing worth doing is worth doing *right!* Now that God allows me to be the employer of many men, I insist that they do their work in the *right manner*—or else tear it out and do it over.

I stacked the wood up as neatly and orderly as I could. I worked rapidly, and did it as quickly as I could. Several people walked past the house. Every time one saw me, I winced. I knew they thought I was a down-and-out bum. Each passer-by knocked off a little more of that vanity. But I just prayed silently

to God about it, and thanked Him for the lesson, and asked Him to help me to be humble and industrious.

When the job was finished, the woman inspected the piled wood in her basement.

"Why, you've done that so neatly, and so fast, I'm going to pay you double," she said.

The satisfaction and inspiration this gave was a far bigger reward than the extra money.

Clay Mine a GOLD Mine?

About this time a clay mine was brought to my attention. It promised to become a million dollar "gold mine."

My former associate on The Vancouver Evening *Columbian*, who had been its Business Manager, Samuel T. Hopkins, brought it to me. He had encountered an elderly man who owned a farm on which a mysterious kind of clay was mined. It was located in the foothills of the Cascade mountains, in Skamania County, Washington.

One day this farmer had cut a bad gash on the back of his hand on a rusty barbed wire fence. He had been digging rather deeply in the vicinity and had dug into a semi-soft grayish blue-green clay. Without thinking much about *why* he did it, he reached down, scooped up a handful of the soft clay and slapped it over the back of the hand to cover the cut. Then he proceeded with his day's work. The clay finally dried.

That evening on removing the now dried and hardened clay, he was surprised to discover that it had coagulated the blood, drawn the skin together from the wide gash, and virtually healed it over!

The farmer became curious. A member of his family was plagued with eczema. He experimented. This clay was placed over the portion of skin affected, and allowed to dry. There was noticeable improvement. A second and third application was applied. Soon the skin disease disappeared.

The farmer knew Sam Hopkins, and told him about it. Mr. Hopkins made a few experiments on cases of acne and eczema. Results were astonishing.

This clay contained a certain amount of fine sand and grit which proved somewhat harsh on women's skin. So he ex-

perimented with rubbing the clay through a very fine copper wire screen, removing most of the sand and grit.

Astonishing the Doctors

About this time he came to me with his discovery. He thought it contained great possibilities, but didn't know how to market it. He offered me a 50% partnership in whatever we might do with it. I was considerably intrigued. I took a sample to a well known doctor in Portland who specialized in skin diseases.

"It is certainly a coincidence," said the doctor, "that you came at this psychological time. I have a stubborn skin disease case which has persisted six months. I'm not making any headway with it. I couldn't tell my patient, but I don't mind admitting to you that I am desperate enough to *try* this clay. Under other circumstances I'd be very reluctant to experiment with anything new."

I returned a week later. The doctor was very excited.

"There's something very mysterious about that clay," he said. "Why! a few applications cured that skin disease completely!"

We had noticed that it was 50% heavier than water. A pound-size jar of this clay weighed 24 ounces. He felt it might contain radium, or other radioactive substance. He suggested I take it to another Portland physician, then president of the Oregon-Washington Medical Association, who specialized in cancer and radium treatment. He called this doctor on the telephone and set up the conference for me.

I found this physician maintained a large suite of offices, or treating rooms, like a private hospital, with eight registered nurses in constant attendance.

He made a number of experiments, and became quite excited. It cured acne, eczema, psoriasis. One day he contacted me, requesting a large supply of the clay. He had a patient almost completely covered and his whole body swollen with poison oak—the most severe case he had ever seen—and the patient was in critical condition. After the first application of the clay, the painful itching was greatly relieved, and after the second it was stopped. This patient was kept in his private hospital quarters, and

after several days the poison was completely gone!

This physician made a photographic test for radium—not a completely reliable or conclusive test, but he felt it would give some indication. The film, left overnight inside a metal case placed next to a jar of clay, had been exposed to light when developed. This indicated radium! But the doctor would not accept it as final, saying this was not a completely conclusive test.

Some four or five rooms down the hall his X-ray apparatus was located. He said it was barely possible that the film had been exposed by this machine, instead of by the clay. If this were true, I reasoned, then why were not all his X-ray films exposed by that apparatus, so he could never use any of them? But I was not a scientist. I discarded my reasoning as worthless.

Option on the Mine

This physician acquainted a friend of his, a leading corporation attorney, with the facts about this clay. This attorney had connections in the east with wealthy men and interests who had large sums to invest.

He advised us to tie up the clay mine at once on an option to buy.

"I'll tell you what I'll do," said the lawyer. "You men cannot afford to pay me the fee I would charge to handle this for you. But the doctor has told me enough to give me confidence in this thing. I'll make you this proposition: I'll handle the legal end of it, and give you whatever advice I can. I will do what I can to get it financed. You either have a million-dollar proposition or nothing. If it fails, you owe me nothing. If you succeed, I'll charge you a double fee, and in that event you'll be amply able to pay it."

We agreed.

He drew up an option contract, under which we were to be given *exclusive* right to all of the clay for one year, at a certain price per gallon. We were given one year to exercise the option and purchase the property. The purchase price was set at about three times the value of the property as a farm. The owner signed the option contract. We had one year to make our million dollars.

It was probably August or September, 1929, when we got the contract signed and were ready to start building our million dollar fortune out of the clay mine.

With the cooperation of this doctor, I immediately sought out the leading, most aggressive and best-informed beauty-shop operator in Portland. Many inquiries in the field led to one certain woman. Since this clay seemed to quickly rid women of acne, eczema, and other common skin diseases, we decided the biggest single market possibility was thru the beauty shops.

This woman made experiments. The results were the same. It cleared up splotched faces after a reasonable number of applications. But, she discovered, it had a drawing power too severe for many women. Applied as a face masque, or a "mud-pack," it seemed to hold the face in a stiff vise. Its drawing-power was exceedingly strong.

"For use as a mud-pack facial," this beauty-shop owner advised, "I recommend cutting down the severe drawing power by mixing a certain facial oil in it. And it must be perfumed."

"We'd better have the advice and cooperation of a top-flight chemist," I said. I went to the chief chemist of the largest wholesale drug house in Portland. He agreed to help. Between him, the beauty-shop expert, and the physician, we worked out a formula which the beautician pronounced perfect, the doctor and chemist pronounced safe and harmless, which had the most delightful fragrance, and which, after many tests, we found to have the same powers of eradicating embarrassing face blotches—except that it required perhaps one or two more treatments than before.

Selling Mud Packs

But, just as we were getting everything ready to approach one of the largest cosmetics concerns on a deal to sell them our formula and the raw supply of the clay—just as we were devising various *other* possible uses and markets—that fateful October 29th rolled around.

The stock market crashed. The nation was plunged into the worst economic depression of its history.

It became utterly impossible to finance

a new business, or to sell a new product to a cosmetics firm.

Once again, as if some unseen supernatural hand were taking every business opportunity away from me, another promising business of million-dollar possibilities was swept away by powers and forces beyond my control!

I began to call myself King Midas in reverse! Everything I touched turned—well, this time—to CLAY! It was certainly not a gold mine. It was only a clay mine, after all.

By this time I had no means of keeping my family alive, except to try to sell this clay. I had to explain to beauty-shop owners that they could not sell these facial masques as a means of healing, or curing a facial disease. They could be prosecuted for practicing medicine without a license if they did. But they could recommend these treatments to customers as the finest of all facials, and suggest that if, incidentally, they found that the acne disappeared, that would be very nice!

I also worked out a formula for poison oak. I called it P.O.P.—Poison Oak Paste. A certain amount of distribution for this was developed thru local Portland drug stores. All who bought it reported astonishing results.

The facial masque, or clay-pack, I named Marve. This I began to sell in "booth-size" pound jars to beauty shops. But each jar actually weighed 1½ pounds! Before long, many of the Portland shops were using it, and gradually resales increased.

I found a way to dilute the clay until it became a soupy liquid. All the sand and grit would sink to the bottom. Then I siphoned off the top. Straining it thru fine copper-wire screens did not remove all the fine grit. My new way left it soft and utterly smooth. Our kitchen on 75th Street became virtually a clay factory. After the siphoning process, I boiled the clay down to the consistency I wanted it. This boiling did no harm to its curative powers, and made it more sanitary.

"Here's Your Breakfast!"

Shortly after we moved into the house on 75th Street, a Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Beck moved into the corner house next door. Helen Beck was one of the most



Mrs. Armstrong's sister, Bertha Dillon, with little "Dickey," about October or November, 1929.

cheerful women we ever knew. She seemed full of sunshine and good cheer within and without. She was quite religiously inclined, even emotionally so. She learned and accepted quite a little Biblical truth thru us, but seemed unable to see quite *all* of the truth. Nevertheless she appeared to walk in all the truth she really grasped—and if I ministered to some extent to her in spiritual matters, she ministered to us in a material way.

She learned that we often did not have enough to eat. When we did get in a little money, we went to the markets and loaded up on beans and food that "went the farthest and cost the leastest."

But often when we were out of food, she would come to our back door with her cheery "Good morning, folks, here's your breakfast," carrying a tray full of steaming hot breakfast. Prior to the bust of 1920 it would have cut my pride unbearably to have received this kind of "charity" from a next-door neighbor. But hers was the kind of charity spoken of in I Corinthians 13, where it says that though you may speak with the tongues of angels, understand all knowledge, have all faith, "and have not charity," you are NOTHING!

Actually this cheerful "good morning" act of charity profited both ourselves and Helen Beck. It *is* more blessed to

give than to receive. She reaped that greater blessing. But I reaped the spiritual blessing of being humbled a little further—having to swallow more pride, and see the hand of God in it!

And so the year 1929 had come and gone. 1930 was to be another of the "lean years"—as indeed were several others to follow. We were at rock bottom financially. We had learned what it is to go hungry. But these were, nevertheless, years of spiritual growth.

These were the years in which Jesus Christ, the *living* Head of His Church, was instructing me in His Word, preparing me for His ministry, humbling me, rooting out the *self*-confidence, the cocky conceit, the vanity and egotism.

But He was replacing these *self*-trusting attributes with reliance and dependence on GOD. Instead of self-confidence, He was giving me painful but valuable lessons in FAITH. He was granting us a few miraculous answers to prayer. Some far more astonishing answers to prayer were to follow in the year 1930.

In the next installment you will read of the birth of our second son, Garner Ted, as a direct result of a miracle-answer to prayer, and the year ending with my first evangelistic campaign, along with other events I hope you will find interesting.

Jesus' Trial

(Continued from page 14)

tion, to prejudice others.

The high priest should have remained calm so that no mistake in judgment would be made.

In Jesus' trial none of these requirements were followed.

Let Wise's book, *Martyrdom of Jesus*, page 74, explain the law on this point: "If none of the judges defend the culprit, i.e., all pronounce him guilty, having no defender in the court, the verdict guilty, was *invalid* and the sentence of death could not be executed."

Yct Jesus was executed contrary to the law!

Now notice which members of the Sanhedrin were missing during the trial. Take the case of Joseph of Arimathea. After Jesus was crucified, we read from

Luke 23:50: "And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just"—the word "counsellor" is admitted by all hands to represent a member of the Sanhedrin. "*The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them*"—and neither had Nicodemus.

In Mark's account we learn that ALL those present condemned Jesus instantaneously and unanimously. But since the night meeting was illegal, Joseph of Arimathea was not present. The Jews wanted to make sure he could not defend Jesus.

Think of the utter lack of any fairness in this trial!

Tenth Reason

The sentence against Jesus was *pronounced in a place forbidden by law*. After the mob seized Christ, they led Him away, after having been at Annas', and brought Him into Caiaphas, the high priest's, house. The trial of Jesus wasn't held in court! Read Luke 22:54: "And they seized him, and led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house."

The court building wasn't legally to be opened until after sunrise.

According to Jewish law, "A sentence of death can be pronounced *only so long as the Sanhedrin holds its sessions in the appointed place*," says Maimonides, in his book, Section XIV.

The Talmud says: "After leaving the hall Gazith (the court) *no sentence of death can be passed upon anyone so ever*." (From Bab. Talmud, "Abodah Tarath" or "Of Idolatry," Ch. 1, fol. 8.)

A sentence of death may be passed only in a legal court, not in some private home, as the Jews were doing.

Eleventh Reason

Most Sanhedrin members themselves were *legally disqualified to try Jesus*.

According to Mendelsohn, *Hebrew Maxims and Rules*, page 182, "The robe of the unfairly elected judge is to be respected not more than the blanket of the ass."

Some of the judges were elected unfairly. We have the names from the Bible and from Josephus of most of the men who were on the Sanhedrin at the time of Christ. Such men as Caiaphas,

Eleazar, Jonathon, Theolphilus, Mathias, Ishmael, Simon, John, Alexander, Ananias and many others were, according to Josephus, recipients of bribes, appointed by members of the family who themselves had no right to sit on it, bought their offices, and were disrespected by their people. There were 12 ex-high priests living at this one time, all part of the Sanhedrin. The Bible expressly requires a man to be high priest *throughout his lifetime*, at the end of which another took his place. But the Jews permitted high priests to be voted into office year by year. The whole official arrangement—the whole choice of offices—was wrong.

But there was another reason which disqualified almost all Christ's judges. It is this: "Nor must there be on the judicial bench either a relation, or a particular friend, or an enemy of either the accused or the accuser," writes Mendelsohn, page 108.

Many of the judges were Jesus' enemies. They even paid bribe money to betray Him.

In Benny's work, *Criminal Code of the Jews*, page 37, this surprising statement is found: "Nor under any circumstances was a man known to be at *enmity with the accused person* permitted to occupy a position among his judges." Everybody knew that the Sadducees and Pharisees were at outs with Jesus. Yet they were permitted to try Him.

Twelfth Reason

The Jewish Court illegally switched the charges against Jesus from blasphemy to sedition and treason before Pilate. Observe how it was done!

The next step in Jesus' trial was to take Him to the legal court for a mock, private trial at sunrise.

"And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council"—now that they *had already condemned Him of blasphemy*, they are going to take Him to court for a mock trial!—"saying, Art thou the Christ? tell us."

Notice that they are repeating the same questions over again.

"And he [Jesus] said unto them, If
(Please continue on page 31)

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER ELEVEN

JOSEPH BECOMES RULER OF EGYPT

AT THE time Joseph was in prison in Egypt there was a plot to poison Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. As a result, two high-ranking men of the king's court were put in prison. One was the chief butler, who had charge of the royal vineyards, the wine cellars and the serving of wines. The other was the chief baker, or chef. He had charge of preparing and serving all the food for the king's royal table.

There was no proof that either one of these men was guilty of having some part in trying to poison the king, and so for the time they were given good treatment. Potiphar himself, who probably by that time began to think that Joseph wasn't guilty, came to Joseph and told him to look after the two new prisoners. (Gen. 40:4.)

After they had been in prison for some time, and Joseph had become well-acquainted with them, he one morning noticed that both appeared worried. When Joseph asked them why they were troubled, they told him of disturbing dreams that had come to them the night before.

"Tell me your dreams," said Joseph. "Perhaps there is a meaning to them that God wants known to you." (Gen. 40:5.)

"I dreamed of a vine with three branches that blossomed and gave forth ripe grapes," the butler told Joseph. "I pressed the juice from the grapes into a cup, and gave the cup to the king."

This strange dream would have been difficult for Joseph to understand through his own thinking. But he had asked God for wisdom, and God helped him to understand what the dream meant.

"Your dream shows that within three days you will be taken from prison and

will be given back your office as head butler to the king," Joseph said. (Verse 12.)

When the chief baker heard this happy meaning to the butler's dream, he was anxious to tell Joseph his dream, hoping that it would also have a happy meaning.

"I dreamed," the baker told Joseph, "that I was carrying three baskets of food to Pharaoh on my head. Hungry birds swarmed down and snatched up all the food from the baskets."

When Joseph realized the awful meaning of this dream, he didn't want to tell the chief baker about it, but he knew he would have to speak out what God had given him the wisdom to know.

"I don't like to tell you this," he said to the chief baker, "but within three days Pharaoh will hang you, and birds will pick the flesh from your bones." (Verse 19.)

Probably the two men didn't completely believe what Joseph had told them. But three days later was Pharaoh's birthday. It was a day of feasting and great celebration, and on which certain prisoners from the king's jail were brought forth and pardoned.

On that day the chief butler was brought up from the dungeon, given a pardon and restored to his former office—just as Joseph said would happen.

On that same day the chief baker was brought up from his cell and publicly hanged out where the vultures came to eat his flesh—just as Joseph said would happen.

When Joseph told Pharaoh's chief butler what would happen, he asked the butler to remember him when the butler was again in Pharaoh's court.

"If you get the chance, please tell your king that I am an innocent Hebrew prisoner who has been held here unfairly for a long time," said Joseph. "Perhaps he will free me." (Verse 14.)

But the chief butler forgot all about speaking to the king for Joseph. (Verse 23.)

Joseph Leaves Prison

Two more years passed, and one night Pharaoh dreamed two dreams which troubled him. He believed they held some meaning he should know, and therefore sent for men who were supposed to have magic powers to understand strange signs and unusual dreams and visions. Pharaoh told his dreams to these men, but none was able to give any meanings of them.

It happened that the chief butler was serving the king when this took place. Suddenly he remembered Joseph. He realized that he would find great favor with the king if he could direct one to Pharaoh who could show the meanings of the dreams. He told Pharaoh about Joseph, and how he had been able to give the true meanings of the dreams of the chief butler and the chief baker. (Gen. 41:9-13.)

Very shortly guards came to Joseph and told him to prepare to meet Pharaoh.

This was the chance for which Joseph had prayed so long! He was escorted up out of the dungeon and to a place where he could shave and dress in better clothes to meet the ruler of Egypt. Thus prepared, he was taken before the throne. (Verse 14.)

"I have dreamed disturbing dreams," said Pharaoh to Joseph. "I want to know their meanings. I have been told that you have the power to interpret dreams."

"I don't have that power," Joseph answered. "But God does, and He will give you an answer through me."

Pharaoh probably wondered at that remark. However, the king was anxious to try any method of getting what he wanted.

"I dreamed that I stood by the Nile river and saw seven fine, fat cows come up out of the water," said Pharaoh to Joseph. "As these cows fed upon the heavy grass at the edge of the stream, seven thin cows came up from the river and ate up the seven fat cows. But even so, the thin cows were just as thin as they had been before eating.

"I dreamed again, and saw seven plump heads of grain growing out of one stalk. Seven thin heads of grain, looking as though they had been withered by a hot east wind, came out of the stalk and ate up the seven plump heads of grain."

"I have told these things to other men who claim to be wise in such matters," Pharaoh added, "but none has any answer. Now what do you say?"

"I have an answer," Joseph replied. Both dreams have the same meaning, the reason being that God wanted to make doubly sure that His warning would be heeded. The seven fat cows and the seven plump heads of grain mean that the next seven years will bring very good flocks and crops to Egypt. There will be far more food than people can eat. The thin cows and the withered heads of grain mean that right after the seven good years there will come seven years of famine. Your herds will die because there will be so little grow out of the ground. It will be such a miserable time that people will even fail to remember the seven good years."

Pharaoh and those around him stared in stunned silence at the young foreigner who had come up from the prison dungeons to tell what would happen to their nation in the next fourteen years. There was something about his earnest manner that caused them to believe him, though they didn't want to believe what he had said about a famine.

"If what you have told me is true," Pharaoh finally said, "then perhaps you have the wisdom to know what my country should do when the famine comes."

"You should choose a wise and capable man to take charge of matters during the seven years of plenty," Joseph replied. "That man should carry out a gigantic plan to store up a large part of the crops while they are good. Then, when the seven lean years arrive, there will be enough food for all." (Gen. 41:33-36.)

After this Pharaoh and his officers and advisors gathered to talk over what Joseph had said.

"I believe this young Hebrew is being guided by God," Pharaoh said. "If what he says is true, it would be foolish not to act by his suggestions."

There was a chorus of voices agreeing with the king, not only because he was the king, but because all those who had heard Joseph looked upon him with awe and with a certain respect.

"If I should choose a man to take care of matters having to do with a coming famine, what better man is there than this Joseph?" Pharaoh asked.

Joseph Appointed Ruler

Again there was a chorus of agreeing voices. But even if Pharaoh's advisors hadn't agreed, Pharaoh probably would have decided that Joseph was the person he wanted. The Egyptian king on the throne at this time was wiser than some who ruled before him and after him. Like a good king should, he wanted to do what was best for his land and his people.

When next Joseph was brought before Pharaoh, he received a great surprise for a person who had spent so much time in the king's dungeon.

"From now on," said Pharaoh to Joseph, "because your God has given you so much wisdom, you will be the ruler over my house and over all Egypt. Though I will be over you, your word will be law in all my realm." (Gen. 41:39-41.)

That was how God answered the prayers of Joseph, one who was living by His laws. Not only was Joseph released from prison, but he was made second in rank to the powerful Pharaoh of Egypt. He was given a ring for stamping important government papers, a gold neck chain to show his very high position, expensive clothes and a costly carriage that was second only to Pharaoh's. Besides, he was given beautifully furnished rooms to live in and servants to take care of all his needs.

From the time Joseph was sold as a slave at the age of seventeen, he had come up in thirteen years, now at the age of thirty, to be the real ruler of Egypt—the most powerful nation on earth at that time!

To further show his royal esteem for Joseph, Pharaoh arranged for him to meet Asenath, the daughter of a high official of Egypt. Joseph quickly grew fond of Asenath, and they were married. (Genesis 41:45.)

For a long time after that, Joseph traveled around Egypt. Everywhere he went, he saw wonderful crops and fat herds. It was clear that God was carrying out His promise to bless the nation with the best that could come out of the ground.

Most of Egypt was usually dry, sandy desert. Without water from the Nile river,

that land would never have amounted to very much. But during those seven years of plenty, there was much more rain than usual, so that areas far from the Nile gave most unusual crops.



Under Joseph's direction, the Egyptians dug giant ditches to convey water to arid regions.

Joseph Orders Granaries Built

After finding out where the best places for grain storage should be, Joseph gave orders for many granaries to be built in various regions of the nation. Later, he started a system by which a fifth of the crops was gathered to store in the granaries. So much grain was stored up in the seven years that all record was lost of just how much was taken in. (Verse 48.)

Meanwhile, Joseph became the father of two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. His life was now so full that he almost forgot the years he had spent in Pharaoh's dungeon. (Verse 50.)

Seven good years passed. The next year there was a gradual change in the weather. Showers came further and further apart. Streams became smaller. Hot east winds from the desert blew in more often, and with each one the green fields turned a little bit more to yellow. Within a few months it was plain that crops were going to fail.

Joseph's prophecy was being proved. The time of famine had arrived!

Before long there were reports that in some regions of the nation the people no

longer had grain for their flocks or for bread. Then Joseph sent out orders to begin to open up the store houses.

As demands from the people for grain grew greater, it was plain that if the big crops hadn't been stored, probably many tens of thousands of Egyptians would have starved even in the first year or two of the famine period. (Verse 54.)

The famine wasn't only in Egypt. It was everywhere, and so it wasn't long before other peoples and nations were begging Egypt to sell them some of the stored grain. Joseph gave orders to sell to all who were in great need. (Verses 55-57.)

Jacob Sends His Sons to Egypt for Food

Back in Canaan, Joseph's father, Jacob, was one of many thousands worried by the lack of rain. There was little or no grass for the flocks. Continued dry weather would mean the animals would die. There would then be neither grain nor meat to eat.

Jacob had heard reports that the Egyptians had grain to sell. Therefore he sent ten of his sons to Egypt to buy grain. He kept Benjamin, his youngest son, with him. He remembered all too well how he had lost young Joseph by sending him on a trip. (Gen. 42:1-4.)

Taking camels and donkeys to bring back the loads they hoped to buy, the ten sons journeyed down into Egypt to find that they should bring their request for grain to the governor, who was next in power to Pharaoh. In due time they were brought before the governor. Not having any idea that he was the brother they had sold for a slave many years before, they bowed low to him.

Joseph knew them as soon as they came before him, however. When they bowed down before him, he remembered the dream he had dreamed as a lad—that his brothers were bowing down to him. At last that prophetic dream had come true. (Verse 6.)

Joseph wanted to welcome them and tell them who he was. But instead, he decided to be harsh to them for their own good!

"Where are you from and why are you here?" he asked sternly.

"We have come from the land of Canaan to buy food," they replied.

"Don't ask me to believe that!" Joseph said, frowning. "I think you are spies. Probably you secretly think that Egypt is weak because of the famine, and you have come to see if your armies can crush us!"

"Oh, but we are not spies, sir!" they quickly replied in worried tones, as though they expected royal guards to seize them. "We are all the sons of one man who needs food. In fact, our father had twelve sons. The youngest is with him now. The other is dead." (Verses 9-13.)

Joseph wanted to ask about his own young brother whom he hadn't heard about for so long, but he had to remain stern.

"I still think you are spies," he said. "It might be wise to keep nine of you in prison and send one of you to bring back this young brother you claim you have. That might convince me you aren't spies!"

The ten brothers stood helplessly before Joseph while he continued frowning at them.

"On second thought," said Joseph, "I believe it would be better to send you all to prison to give you a chance to think matters over and decide to tell the truth."

"But we are telling the truth!" they called to Joseph as guards roughly led them away to a dungeon. (Verse 17.)



Joseph's ten brothers were filled with fear when they were told that they would be jailed.

Three Days Later

Three days later Joseph had his brothers brought before him again. "Do you still say you are not spies?" he asked.

"We are not spies," they chorused. "We have come only for grain."

"You will get your grain," Joseph surprised them by saying.

The brothers looked at each other in relief. It looked as though this governor had decided to believe them.

"However," Joseph added sternly, "one of you will stay here in prison until this young brother you speak of is brought to me!"

The brothers' faces fell when they heard this. Each feared he would be the one to be jailed.

"This trouble has come upon us because of that terrible thing we did to our poor brother Joseph," they murmured fearfully among themselves.

"I told you then it was a terrible thing to treat him the way you did," Reuben spoke up. "Now we may pay for it."

All the talk between Joseph, who spoke in the Egyptian language and his brothers, who spoke only in Hebrew, had been through an interpreter—one who spoke both languages. (Verse 23.) But Joseph still remembered his native tongue, and when he heard his brothers talking excitedly among themselves, he understood every word. He felt so sorry for his brothers, even though they had been wicked, that he turned his head from them and wept.

But Joseph knew he would have to act harshly.

"The soldiers will now take one of you to prison," he told them.

Joseph looked slowly over the tense faces before him. Finally his eyes settled on Simeon, the one who had suggested killing him when he, Joseph, was only seventeen years old. "Take that man to the dungeon!" Joseph snapped, pointing to Simeon.

Egyptian soldiers seized Simeon, bound him with chains, and dragged him away, leaving the other nine brothers very worried. It was plainer and plainer to them that God was having a direct hand in their affairs.

"Leave now," Joseph told them. "You will be told where to pick up your grain and how much to pay."

The Brothers Hurriedly Leave Egypt

Later, the brothers bought the grain, loaded it on their animals, and gladly left the place. At nightfall, they stopped at a lonely spot where their animals could be fed and sheltered for the night. When the animals became hungry one of the brothers opened his sack to feed the animals. First thing he saw in the sack was a bag of coins—the exact amount he had paid for the grain he was carrying!

"It's the money I paid for my part of the grain!" he exclaimed to his surprised brothers.

"This is not good," one of them said. "It could be a plot to arrest you for not paying for the grain."

"They could arrest all of us if they could prove that one of us is a thief," said another. "I can't help feeling that God is beginning to deal harshly with us because of the wrong things we have done especially for what we did to Joseph!" (Verses 25-28.)

The rest of the trip was not a happy one, because with each step the brothers feared that Egyptian soldiers would appear on the horizon behind them. But they returned to their father safely.

Jacob was happy to receive the grain. But he was most unhappy to learn, when his sons told him what had happened, that Simeon was being held prisoner and that the Governor of Egypt demanded to see Benjamin.



When the brother looked in his travel sack, he found a bag of coins—the exact amount he had paid for his grain!

(To be continued in next issue)

Jesus' Trial

(Continued from page 22)

I tell you, ye will not believe: and if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God."

They had to make this trial look legal. So they all said, "Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am. And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth. And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate" (Luke 22:66-71 and 23:1).

This meeting probably didn't last any more than two minutes! Now their trial, which was illegally conducted in the private home of Caiaphas, was now outwardly legalized. But instead of taking Jesus out to be stoned for blasphemy, they switched the charges after the Court was dismissed! They took Him to Pilate, and here is what we read in John 18:28: "Then led they Jesus

from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover." The Jews were eating the Passover on an improper day, one day late as they still do today.

"Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law" (John 18:31). Pilate was difficult to convince. He didn't want to be bothered at this hour in the morning. But the Jews replied: "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." Why wasn't it lawful? Let Luke give the surprising answer:

"And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow *perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King*" (Luke 23:2).

Notice that the Jews did not charge

Jesus with blasphemy. Had they done so, Pilate would have told the Jews not to bother him, but to execute Christ according to their own law by stoning. The Jewish leaders were afraid of their own people! So they trumped up *other and new charges against Jesus before Pilate.*

Pilate now had reason to be surprised. The only cases for which the Jews could not try a man involved sedition or treason. "Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?"

Jesus said, "Did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew?" He didn't like the Jews, did he? "Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants [the disciples], fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence"—not of this time, not of this world order.

"Pilate therefore said unto him, Art

thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?" (John 18:33-38.) Jesus didn't even answer that.

Pilate Finds Jesus Innocent

"And when he had said this, he [Pilate] went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, *I find in him no fault at all.*"

When Pilate heard that Jesus was from Galilee, he told the Jews to take Him to Herod (Luke 23:6-7). "And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time" for the Passover. After an interview with Jesus, Herod sent Him back to Pilate. To frighten the Roman governor, the Jews stirred up the mob outside.

Pilate began to see there was trouble brewing. He had a mob on his hands.

This was trial by mob rule!

So Pilate took Jesus, terribly scourged Him, let the soldiers plait on Him a crown of thorns and array Him in purple.

Pilate brought Jesus out again and shouted to the mob: "Behold, I bring him forth to you, that you may know that I find no fault in him."

"When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate said unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him."

The Jews answered and said, "We have a law, and by the law he ought to die"—and now for the first time they reveal to Pilate why they condemned Him—"because he made himself the Son of God" (John 19:7). They were getting very angry!

Pilate became frightened. He didn't want to have anything happen for which he would be held responsible by the Roman gods! Upon this, Pilate definitely sought to release him (John 19:12), for there were no witnesses whatever in this trial before Pilate. The Jews had commenced accusing Jesus without proof, without witnesses, without testimony.

Then the ignorant mob cried out:

"If you release this man, you're not Caesar's friend." They were threatening Pilate with loss of his office.

Matthew 27:24 picks the story up: "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and *washed his hands* before the multitude, saying, *I am innocent of the blood of this just person: SEE YE TO IT.*"

The ignorant mob of Jews responded: "*His blood be on us, and on our children.*" What they were really saying is, "We accept wholly, fully, the responsibility for His execution, only *you* execute Him. We don't want to stone Him; we want *you* to execute Him."

Then Pilate "scourged Jesus, [and] delivered him to be crucified." The purpose of scourging was to prepare a criminal for death.

But notice—Pilate did not even give a formal decision against Jesus Christ. He just turned Him over to the soldiers to do what the Jewish mob wanted.

Jesus Deliberately Crucified Though Found Innocent

That is where the trial of Jesus abruptly broke off. No justice here! An innocent man condemned by mob violence! The dastardly act of crucifixion followed. Yet some would still *falsely* claim, in the face of all this evidence, that Jesus' trial was legal, and His crucifixion justified!

Most of us have never really examined the trial of Jesus before. Just look at this trial. What a mockery of justice it was! Can you imagine what it would be like if *you* had been on trial, to be spitefully treated as these thrill-seeking soldiers treated Jesus? What consideration, what fairness would have been given you?

All this suffering Jesus endured to pay the penalty of sin *for you!* Yet not you *only*, but to pay the penalty of the sins of the WHOLE WORLD. It is time you personally were *made to look* at the last hours of Jesus in mortal flesh to see what a miscarriage of justice led up to the crucifixion—what a mockery was made of trial; and to understand the 12 reasons why the conviction of Jesus was an *utter fraud*—all voluntarily endured by Christ to pay the penalty of *your* sin *in your stead!*

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