



The Bible and

OUR TIMES



© Hanfstaengl

The hand of Christ is stretched out to save all who seek His aid.

★ GOD has many children. He loves them all. He does not love all their ways, for some have shameful ways indeed, but there is not one to whom He does not say, either in pleasure or in pity: "Yea, I have loved [even] thee with an everlasting love." Jer. 31:3.

Every person born into this world is God's child by birth and by creation, but God has no good children until we allow Him to make us so, for we are all born bad through the inheritance of Adam.

How does God bring His children to goodness? In much the same way as a wise earthly parent does. If you will obey His words with joy and come quickly at His kind call, He deals only gently. If you rebel and disobey His Word, He

Give Me Thine Hand

By Muriel M. Howard

may use more drastic means. "For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee." Jer. 30:11.

Sometimes God has allowed nations which do not obey His commandments to afflict His children, hoping that in time of suffering they may listen to the voice they have not heeded in pleasant days. (Jer. 30:14; Job 36:8-13.) Yet God is never unreasoning or unreasonable in His dealings, nor silent as to His meaning. "Your sorrow is incurable for the multitude of your iniquity," He says. "Because your sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee." Jer. 30:15. It is only another way of saying, as He does so often in the Word, "Cease from man and look to Me." "I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds." "Only turn back to Me, then there is hope in thine end." Jer. 30:17; 31:17.

How wise are God's ways! How true His words! He has not, since our first father in his fall from paradise brought disaster upon our world, left one generation without warning and entreaty. We who in this last generation of a weary world (Matt. 24:34), are possessed of an open Word and to a degree enlightened hearts, we who have witnessed world strife and catastrophic disaster, we who have mourned death by fire and sword, by earthquake, flood, and germ, have no time to lose in heeding the words of our Father, "Set thine heart toward the highway!" "Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps!" Jer. 31:21.

Not God's Fault

God Himself has made many heaps in His endeavour to awake as many of His children as will hear and heed Him. He made a symmetrical heap of well-planned wood (using Noah's obedient and willing hands) to float a vile generation to safety. Only eight did float. But it was not

God's fault. With every provision made for rescue they slept and gorged and sinned themselves on to the flood heap of a once lovely world. They had chosen the low way. They landed on the rubbish heap, themselves a heap of ghastly warning to the few that remained.

Not very long after as God counts time, He made a heap of bricks. He made it by one stroke of His vast resources of destructive power. (Gen. 11:1-9.)

God does not release "His lightnings" needlessly, nor His earthquakes for naught. They are an evidence of His power, and of His long-suffering restraint toward those who have not obeyed His voice. (Job 37:2, 3.) They are an incentive to trust to those who know Him well. (Luke 21:28.)

God has made, and will make in the future, many another heap in His anger and His grief for man's sin. But just for now He says to you who have slipped however far or however slightly from "the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," Make thee high heaps—high heaps of altar stones set ready for the offering of your heart (as did Noah), high heaps of the blessings showered upon you from your youth up, high heaps of the promises of God and of the "sure mercies of David," high heaps of faith-removed mountains, high burial heaps of all past sins, then climb up onto them and "set thine heart toward the highway," the way of the open heart and the forsaken sin, the way of forgiveness and forgiving, which leads to Jesus who is Himself the Way and to that highest "heap" in all the world, the cursed yet blessed heap of earth called Calvary.

The Height of Calvary

You may question that anything but blessing could attach to so sacred a spot. It was blessed indeed by the sacrifice of love, yet cursed by the mockings of hate, blessed by the humility of a Saviour's divine silence, cursed by the arrogance of the Roman heel, blessed by the devotion of Christ's friends, cursed by the railing of His enemies, blessed by His thoughtful compassion for a fellow sufferer, cursed by the cruelty of the howling mob, blessed by the gift of His life, cursed by the inventions of death.

*O blessed spot of dying love and Light!
O ever reaching gleam through darkness gone!
O place of dread and hope, of peace and fear,
Where thunder met with earthquake to proclaim
A grim price paid, a world bought back for God!*

To those who reject its sacrifices even in these days, there is no blessing left. To those who planned, or gained by, or partook in any way in so cruel and applauded a murder, it called down the crashing curse of God. For those who around us refuse to believe in the simple efficacy and direct pardon of the death of Jesus there is no better fate reserved.

"Give Me Thine Hand"

How active is your belief? Has it turned you back to God? Has it taken sin out of your life? Has it made you willing to be "turned about" by the hand of God? Has it led you to the "quiet waters" of repentance and to the "easy yoke" of sins forgiven? To the "green pastures" of peace (Isa. 26:12, 11) and to the shoulder of Jesus?

WITH THEE

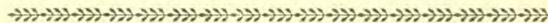
Can it be? the Lord of heaven
Has promised this to me,
That as with Moses then,
So now, I am with thee.

Yes, in our very homes He comes,
He knows us all so well,
That every name to Him is known,
And house in which we dwell.

Then tell Him all that doth oppress
These cares, these joys, yes too,
For in His love and tenderness,
He longs to bless just you.

From heaven's throne He bends so low
Our faintest prayer to hear,
For e'en our thoughts far off are known
So doubt not, then, nor fear.

Lily Winder-Gale.



There is no-one on earth too good to need God's mercy. From so secure a height you will have no difficulty in answering to any man, or to God Himself the question, "Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?" 1 Kings 10:15. He will wipe away the shame of remembrance when He says, "If it be, give Me thine hand."

There are comparatively few indeed who can shake hands with God. Can you?



By H. Orlik

Jesus is, for a world which has lost its bearings, "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." © Camera Clix

The Voice of Authority

By R. D. Vine

★ MORE than even before, the world today needs the voice of authority which will give guidance, correction, and hope. Material wealth and scientific advance has come to a world in spiritual decline and unhappy disillusionment. Technical knowledge, and all that that means in the nature of amenities and luxuries undreamed of a few decades ago, has rocketed forward; but man's moral power has declined. Minds are twisted and warped, souls are impoverished and deadened—conditions which are in no way helped by the material prosperity which most people enjoy.

"A New Dark Age"

No wonder Dorothy Thompson recently declared: "We are in a new Dark Age. We are in it up to our necks." The truth of this statement can be more fully appreciated in the light of the

Bible's comment that in our day "the doctrines of devils" would find ready acceptance—unsound systems of thought and philosophical formulæ seemingly plausible, but which are basically evil.

Storm tossed, anchorless, and rudderless are the majority in this tumultuous world. Atheism and materialism, whipped up by the errors of modern education, have engulfed so many, that it is estimated that seventy-five per cent of Europeans are now pagan, only eight per cent of Britons are identified with any Christian church, while fewer than five per cent in Britain go to church.

There is no recognized moral code, and there is startling ignorance by a great majority of what the Bible teaches about such fundamentals as our

The Needs of the Times.—I

conduct, our nature, our society, and Jesus Christ. Even in our own country, which seems relatively sane, stable, and good, there is a theological chaos which has almost degenerated into the death of hope.

Especially dismayed are those whose faith in man's evolutionary progress envisioned the steadily civilizing influence of enlightenment. The notion, so fondly held a few years ago, of the mechanical progress of man through scientific knowledge has given place to heart-break. It is realized that man's knowledge has made his destruction far more likely than the advent of utopian bliss. The fruits of scientific research have descended on a world whose moral power is negligible. The condition today is as dangerous as giving babies bottles of poison to play with, or quarrelsome little children loaded firearms.

The Greatest Modern Need

In short, world conditions are chaotic and explosive—a fact which none like to dwell upon. These conditions make more imperative than ever before an authoritative revelation of the reason for them, and the way out of them. Undoubtedly the greatest modern need is the voice of authority which will provide a correct diagnosis, and unmistakably declare: "This is the way, walk ye in it."

Now the Bible foresaw and described just such conditions as we see today. Twenty-seven centuries ago Isaiah asserted: "The darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people." Isa. 60:2. He further envisioned the complete failure of human wisdom, and the inadequacy of human understanding either to see the meaning of, or to dispel, the darkness. (Isa. 29:14.) Jesus Christ adds His testimony when telling of the signs which would mark the very last chapter of earth's history. "Upon the earth," He said, would be "distress of nations, with perplexity; . . . men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21:25, 26. Conditions today could not be more appropriately summed up. Darkness! Perplexity! Fear! Distress of nations!

The Bible abounds with prophetic details which spotlight our times with the most brilliant clarity. For our encouragement let us add part of Paul's testimony to our brief list. "In the last days," says Paul, "perilous times shall come. For men shall be . . . blasphemers, . . . unholy, . . . truce-breakers, false accusers, . . . fierce, . . . traitors, heady." 2 Tim. 3:1-4.

Realistic Bible View

The encouraging feature about this is that events have proved the Bible view of human trends to be perfectly right. Consistently, and against all the dogmatic contentions of the theorists of the past century, the Bible has testified that the general trend of man would be "worse and worse," not better and better. The Bible deals not so much with what man hopes will happen, but with actual facts. Events have turned out even as God's Word declared. Biblical Christianity therefore stands revealed as wholly down-to-earth, realistic, and aware of the facts. It has never had any use for rose-coloured spectacles. By means of the Bible, true Christianity pin-points present troubles, and is therefore not at all perturbed or shaken by conditions and prospects.

As Lord David Cecil has said: "The jargon of the philosophy of progress taught us to think that the savage and primitive state of man is behind us. . . . But barbarism is not behind us, it is beneath us." And he commends the biblical view of things, "not because it is the most cheering view of human existence, but because it is truest to the facts."

The Bible provides the authoritative message the world needs. Its claim to credence is manifold, yet most striking for those who are non-believers is its perfect prophetic picture of human history, progress, and destiny.

It is true that pseudo-authoritative voices there are, and have been, which seek to bring the needed guidance to mankind. The failure of many is now past history, and the failure of the remainder can be safely prophesied in view of the biblical declaration that "the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jer. 10:23. Ways of world salvation based merely on human planning are doomed, for they generally ignore the most vital factor—that of man's moral and spiritual deficiency. After all, a recipe may be perfect, but if the ingredients used are bad, the resulting cake will be a failure.

In a dark and chaotic world, a world convulsed with what some feel might well prove to be its death throes, the clear voice of God's unfailing Word alone can restore hope, and bring spiritual healing. Just as Jesus "taught . . . as one having authority, and not as the Scribes" (Matt. 7:29), so the Bible today, as ever, insists on the divine source of its entire revelation to man. Its voice is authoritative. A sincere consideration of the multiplied proofs it offers of its

(Continued on page 13.)

“Thy Will Be Done”

By E. W. H. Vick



© Religious News Service

These robed choristers make a striking picture as they stand in the form of a cross in the aisle of their church.

★ THERE are some areas of human experience in which we know for sure just what the will of God is. But there are also areas of experience in which we cannot be sure what God wants us to do until we have prayed and waited. It is with this area that this prayer, “Thy will be done,” has to do. We know that it is God’s desire that our sins be forgiven. There is no need for us to pray: “If that is Thy will,” it most certainly is. But at times we do not know whether God wants us to make a decision in a certain way when there are many ways in which we could make it. We do not know whether it is God’s will to heal us or to heal a loved one. Because of this we come to Him in prayer.

If we do so sincerely there will be deep submissiveness. Not knowing the way to take or the results of our prayer, we can only wait and see what God will reveal to us. Surely we cannot foist our will upon God, if we are not certain how He would have us act.

When we pray this prayer we may only honestly expect the Lord to answer it if, in seeking God’s will about something of which we are uncertain, we are doing God’s will in that about which we are certain. First, do God’s will in that which we are sure; then seek Him to reveal His will further.

God’s guidance is revealed progressively to us, just in the measure that we are prepared to receive it. God guides us as we do His will. If we refuse to be led by God in what we know of His will, then we close our lives to the blessing of further guidance. Sin in the heart blurs the clarity of God’s guidance. To be sensitive to the Lord’s leadings we must have a receptive heart.

How God Reveals His Will

God reveals Himself in different ways. If, after praying to God, we still do not know what to do, there may be two reasons for this. It may be that God is holding back the answer from us, or it may be that we have not pressed close enough into His presence. Those who present themselves to God, resolving to do nothing that would displease Him will know, after presenting themselves to Him, what course to take. There is a place where all human strivings are quieted and it is there that God breathes out His love to man.

Prayer is often a means that God uses to prepare us for a different answer from the one we expect. If we could realize this before we pray, these four words would take on a new meaning.

God guides through the Bible. It may be that the experience which we are going through finds its parallel in an experience in the Scriptures; if that is so we can apply it to ourselves. There may be a promise to cover our case; the condition in the promise may be the answer to our problem.

Sometimes experiences and circumstances so shape themselves that we can see God’s hand in

them, and so discern His will from the external affairs of life. But to be able to do this means a depth of contact with God that makes our discernment penetrating.

The difficulties which some sincere souls experience and express on the question of suffering are very easy to understand. If God is good, then surely it is not His will that my mother, or my son, suffer. I pray for Him to end the pain. Surely He will answer me? But supposing it is God's will to bring you into a deeper appreciation of His love, or to teach you patience, or to help you to render better service and by giving you a deeper experience with Him prepare you to save others, whom without that experience you could not touch. If your heart aches as a dear one is laid away, remember God is wanting you to do His will; He has a new work for you to do.

It may be also that when sickness comes, and suffering, that sins and omissions will be confessed. Surely a soul saved in heaven more than compensates for a fellowship temporarily lost on earth.

What Wilt Thou Have Me to Do?

This prayer is a pledge of co-operation. Let us emphasize that God's will is not something for us to receive only, but to do and to prove. Our prayer should be, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" According to Jesus the one who enters into heaven is "he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21. The best safeguard against error is to do God's will. "If any man will do His will he shall know of the doctrine." John 7:17. Paul speaks of the effort needed in doing God's will; we are to present ourselves to God, to shun the world, to be renewed in mind, to "prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Rom. 12:2.

Are "good," "acceptable," "perfect," fitting adjectives to use for God's will? If so then we can desire nothing better for ourselves than God's will. But how often we look on it as something hard and heavy. If we realize that there is nothing better for us than the will of God then we shall be happy and resolute when praying for it to be done.

Unless our will is one with God's, He cannot fully do His will in us. To blend our desires into His so much that when we obey and follow Him we are only doing what we want to should be a burden in our prayers. When the way is different from what we would choose, we can still come before Him and find the quietness that stills all human turbulence.

*My will is not my own,
Till Thou hast made it Thine:
If it would reach the monarch's throne
It must its crown resign.
It only stands unbent
Amid the clashing strife,
When, on Thy bosom it has leant
And found in Thee its life.*

Your BIBLE QUESTIONS Answered

Do you consider the whole Bible is written by inspiration?

WE have no reason to believe that any part of the Bible is more inspired than any other part. Concerning the Old Testament scriptures that were in existence in the days of Paul we read, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God"—literally, "God-breathed." In Acts 1:16, in referring to the Psalms, the apostle does not say that they were David's words, but, "The Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before." Peter tells us that "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21. The apostle Paul says of his own writings, "Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." 1 Cor. 2:13.

In many instances, inspiration records the words of others; and many times, the words of others recorded in Scripture are not inspiration. For instance, we read in Genesis three, that Satan said so and so. Satan's words were not inspired, but the record that tells us about them is.

It seems to me that we should regard the Word even as our Lord Jesus did. He quoted from Isaiah, Jeremiah, from the Psalms, from Moses, but always regarded it as the Word of God.

Which day should I observe, the Sabbath or the Lord's Day?

BOTH—for, as I understand it, they are identical. This is mentioned clearly in Mark 2:27 and

(Continued on page 13.)

International
News

All the experiments for the synthesizing of organic matter can only produce "dead" matter anyhow—never a "living" cell.



★ WHEN the materialistic scientists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries set out to banish God from His universe by arguing that matter was eternal and that all forms of matter from galaxies to atoms had arranged themselves by pure chance, they could not, of course, stop there. They had to go on to claim that life also just happened, that it was equally as much an accident as the various forms of inanimate matter.

So they set to work to concoct a plausible account of how life could have come into existence from the non-living and how the first primitive forms of life diversified into all the varieties of living creatures on the earth.

Life Only From Pre-existent Life

When the materialistic theory of the origin of life was first propounded it was thought that this would not present a serious problem because it was believed that low forms of life, like maggots for example, were frequently spontaneously generated in decaying matter. But Pasteur, crowning the work of earlier investigators, showed that when such matter was subjected to sterilization at a sufficiently high temperature, no life would be forthcoming. Thus he established the fact that life

as we know it can come only from pre-existent life, and dealt a crushing blow to the speculative idea of spontaneous generation.

So the speculators fell back on the idea that under some conditions of temperature, atmospheric conditions, etc., not now existent upon the earth, there came into being by pure chance on some "warm and gentle seashore" or "volcanic pool" a speck of living jelly. By some queer accident a number of inanimate atoms from water and the atmosphere luckily associated themselves together to produce protoplasm which is the basis of every living cell. "One day," says Hendrik Van Loon in his *Story of Mankind*, "the wonder happened. What had been dead gave birth to life. The first living cell floated upon the waters of the sea."

From this lucky beginning the living speck of protoplasm mysteriously began to feed or assimilate and to build up this food into new structures. As a result it grew in size and then, miracle of miracles, it began to reproduce from itself other specks of protoplasm which went on to do likewise, *ad infinitum*.

Now here we must pause in the fascinating recital to ask how scientific this alleged outline of the beginnings of life really is.

LIFE JUST HAPPEN?

By W. L. EMMERSON

By postulating the first living form as a minute organism consisting of "just one" cell of protoplasm, the speculative scientists presumably imagined that they would not need to tax their own or our imaginations too much. But when, with the aid of the microscope, the structure of "simple" cells began to be studied, it became evident that these "building bricks" of all living things are not just specks of protoplasmic jelly, but incredibly wonderful organisms in their own right. The "simple" cell turns out to be a most complicated assemblage of many kinds of bodies suspended in the cell plasma.

The most important of these bodies is the nucleus in which are still smaller bodies called nucleoli and a network of fine filaments which play an all-important part in the reproductive process. Specialized types of cells have still other bodies which cannot be enumerated here.

The biochemist and physiologist moreover discovered that there is not just one kind of protoplasm but an infinite variety of protoplasms, some of which are built round an iron molecule, like the hæmoglobin of the blood, others round a magnesium molecule like chlorophyll, the green substance of plants, and still others around a copper molecule, as in some arthropods and molluscs.

The process by which cells divide and multiply is a most complicated one in which the filaments of the nucleus resolve themselves into threads called chromosomes, which in turn split down the centre and recombine in two groups to form

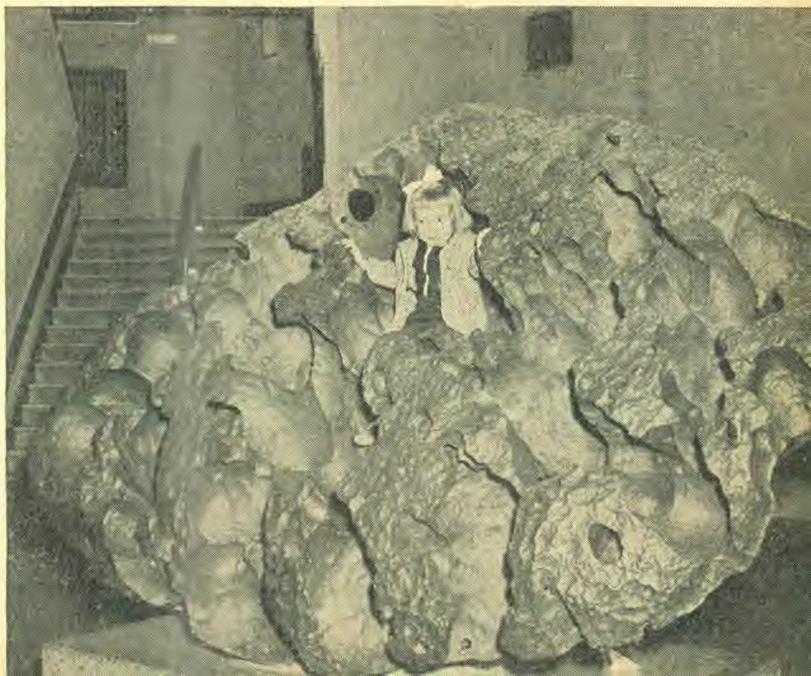
the nuclei of the two new cells when the parent cell divides. And all this takes place within the walls or membrane of a cell no more than a hundred and twenty-fifth of an inch in diameter.

So our "simple" cell, which is supposed to have come into existence by a comparatively small jump from the non-living is not simple but a tremendously "complex organism, a microcosm, a living system," as Wilson, one of the greatest authorities on the cell has declared. Though very minute, it is in fact a complete organism which, in the case of the single-celled organisms, can live an independent life of its own, feeding, moving, growing, and eventually reproducing itself.

There is nothing living which is simpler than such a cell and never has anyone ever seen a cell in process of formation except by division from a previously existing cell.

There is, therefore, absolutely no evidence anywhere of any merging of the non-living into the living. There is, in fact, a bigger gap between inanimate atoms and the tiniest living organism

© International News
Some speculative scientists suggest that "life" may have come on a meteorite from another world—not quite like this of course!



than there is between such a unicellular organism and man!

The Gulf Widens

No wonder E. B. Wilson, one of the great authorities on cell study, in his book *The Cell* has said:

"The study of the cell has on the whole seemed to widen rather than narrow the enormous gap that separates even the lowest forms of life from the inorganic world."

L. J. Henderson in *The Order of Nature* similarly has this to say:

"The advance of science has assuredly not made the origin of life easier to imagine or even think about."

"In all frankness," says Horatio Hackett Newman in *The Nature and Origin of the World and Man*, "it must be admitted that the problem of the origin of life has not been solved."

"The mechanistic speculations of the last century no longer afford any prospect of understanding life," asserts James S. Haldane.

The words of Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace in *The World of Life*, written many years ago, are still as true as ever:

"So marvellous and so varied are the phenomena presented by living things, so completely do their powers transcend those of all other forms of matter subjected to mechanical, physical, or chemical laws, that biologists have vainly endeavoured to find out what is at the bottom of their strange manifestations, and to give precise definitions, in terms of physical science, of what 'life' really is."—Page 3.

Science can find no adequate mechanical explanation of life and is compelled to admit in the words of H. F. Osborn, "The mode of origin of life is a matter of pure speculation."

So we come back to the recognition that just as the atoms of inanimate matter could not have arranged themselves into worlds and solar systems and galaxies, even less could some of these atoms have excelled themselves and produced even the smallest living organism.

A Final Wriggle!

Certain speculative scientists still try to wriggle out of their dilemma by suggesting that the first life on the earth must have come in the form of simple living spores from some other world

either on meteorites or through interstellar radiation like cosmic dust. But this still leaves unexplained how life arose on the other world before it started on its long journey.

As Schafer says in the Smithsonian Institute Report of 1912:

"The acceptance of such theories of the arrival of life on earth does not bring us any nearer to a conception of its actual mode of origin; on the contrary, it merely serves to banish the investigation of the question to some conveniently inaccessible corner of the universe and leaves us in the unsatisfactory condition of affirming not only that we have no knowledge as to the mode of origin of life . . . but that we never can acquire such knowledge. So," he concludes, "we are, I think . . . justified in regarding these cosmic theories as inherently improbable."—Page 503.

Only One Source of Life

The only conclusion, therefore, to which any unbiased mind can come is that living creatures were organized and vivified on this earth by a pre-existent living and intelligent Being outside of nature—the same living, transcendent Being, in fact, who earlier brought into existence and organized the inanimate world.

"It seems to me," says Dr. Macfie in his book *Science Returns to God*, "that in its investigations of life, science has achieved more than it has yet realized, for it has compelled all rational, logical minds to postulate a Creator."—Page 72.

And Von Reinke has also said:

"If we agree that living matter has at some time come from inorganic substances, then in my opinion the creation hypothesis is the only one which meets the necessities of logic or causality and therewith answers to the needs of a prudent seeker after nature."

The Divine Intention

This leads us on to the conclusion that if God, having brought the worlds into existence, brought into existence life on our world He must have had some purpose in so doing. That is precisely what the prophet Isaiah asserted when he said of God's creation of the world: "He formed it to be inhabited." Isa. 45:18. It is for us then to discover what that purpose was and still is.

(Next Time: "A Prepared World.")

Know Your Bible



© Newton
& Co. Ltd.

Angels — Good and Bad

What class of beings other than human is mentioned in the Bible?

"Bless the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word." Psalms 103:20.

Were these angels created before man?

"What is man, . . . Thou has made him a little lower than the angels." Psalms 8:4, 5.
"So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." Genesis 3:24.

From these texts it is clear that angels are an order of being distinct from man and created before man. They are a higher order of being altogether; "mighty in strength."

Are angels physical beings?

"And of the angels He saith, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire." Psalms 104:4; Hebrews 1:7.

What six orders or ranks of angels are mentioned?

"Cherubims," "Seraphims," "thrones," "principalities," "powers," "dominions." Ezekiel 10:1; Isaiah 6:2, 6; Colossians 1:16.

Who is named as the chief Archangel?

"Michael, the first [margin] of the princes." Daniel 10:13.
"Michael the archangel." Jude 9.

What other powerful personage has angelic followers?

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels." Revelation 12:7.

What other name is given to this "dragon"?

"Called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth

the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:9.

Does Jesus corroborate this statement?

"I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Luke 10:18. "The Devil and his angels." Matthew 25:41.

Two great spiritual hosts are arrayed against each other. The Bible reveals this conflict and seeks to enlist our sympathies and loyalties on the side of right.

How does Paul describe our spiritual foes?

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits [margin] in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12.

By J. A. McMillan

"Fling away ambition;

By that sin fell the angels; how can men then,
The image of their Maker, hope to win by 't."—
King Henry VIII, Act III, Scene 2.

In what way did Jesus describe evil coming into the world?

"So the servants of the householder came and said unto Him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this." Matthew 13:27, 28.

How did Jesus explain this parable?

"He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; the

field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; the enemy that sowed them is the devil." Matt. 13:37-39.

What other names are given to Satan's angels?

"Evil angels," Psa. 78:49; "devils," Mark 5:12; "unclean spirits," Mark 5:13; "lying spirits," 2 Chron. 18:22; "seducing spirits," 1 Tim. 4:1; "the spirits of devils." Rev. 16:14.

What methods do Satan and his angels employ?

They use "snares," 1 Tim. 3:7; "wiles," Eph. 6:11; "fiery darts," Eph. 6:16; and "buffetings," 2 Cor. 12:7.

Satan "is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness." 2 Cor. 11:14, 15. This is called "the deceivableness of unrighteousness" and "lying wonders." 2 Thess. 2:9, 10. Thus Satan "blinds the minds of them that believe not," and thus they are "taken alive by him at his will." 2 Tim. 2:26 (margin).

What warning does Scripture give concerning Satan?

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith." 1 Peter 5:8, 9.

What will be the doom of Satan and his angels?

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Jude 6. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. . . . And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. . . . This is the second death." Rev. 20:10, 14.

What was one of the purposes of Christ's advent?

"He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." Heb. 2:14.

What other purpose did Jesus have in mind?

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8. "And deliver them who

through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Heb. 2:15.

Who assists Jesus in this work of deliverance?

"Are they [the angels] not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Heb. 1:14.

Are there sufficient good angels to help each of us?

There is "an innumerable company of angels." Heb. 12:22.

Around the throne of God there are "thousand thousands" "and ten thousand times ten thousand." Dan. 7:10. Jesus could call for "more than twelve legions of angels." Matt. 26:53.

Are there guardian angels?

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven." Matt. 18:16. "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Psa. 34:7.

"Righteous Lot" was delivered from Sodom's destruction by an angel. (Gen. 19:15, 17.) Daniel was delivered from the lions by an angel. (Dan. 6:22.) Elisha was rescued from the hosts of Syria by angel bands. (2 Kings 6:17.) Peter was delivered from prison by an angel. (Acts 12:7.)

Will the angels of God assist in the resurrection?

"And He shall send His angels . . . and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matt. 24:31. "The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. . . . The Son of man shall send forth His angels . . . then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." Matt. 13:39, 41-43.

Are there recording angels?

"Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error." Eccles. 5:6

"Oh, the wonderful ledger the angels keep!
And the watchful eyelids that never sleep:
And the tireless penmen that watch and weep
Over the words they write.

How oft are the hearts of the angels pained,
And how oft are the pages soiled and stained,
How much is lost and how little gained,
In struggling for the right."

What gracious assurance may we accept?

"Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." John 1:51.

A PRAYER

"Everlasting Father, who hast ordained and constituted the services of angels and men in a wonderful manner: Grant that as Thy holy angels always do Thee service in heaven, so by Thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The Voice of Authority

(Continued from page 5.)

divine inspiration—the most impressive of which is its prophetic power—will arouse and establish a satisfying conviction that here indeed is the voice of authority that the world needs today.

Further articles will consider, among other things, the divine diagnosis of the world's troubles and the sure remedy which will lead men for ever from the joyless gloom of strife, to the noonday brightness of eternal peace.

(Next Time: "Light in the Darkness.")

Your Bible Questions Answered

(Continued from page 7.)

28 where Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: therefore the Son of man [that is Jesus Himself] is Lord also of the Sabbath." So if Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath that must be the Lord's day. It belongs to Him for He made it holy. You will also notice in Isaiah 58:13 the Lord calls the Sabbath "My holy day." From this it must be clear that the seventh-day Sabbath is the Lord's day.

What is the relation of law and grace?

THE Bible puts the matter clearly in these words: "For by grace are ye saved through faith . . . not of works." But law and grace are not antagonistic. Through grace a man is saved, but when he comes to the Saviour and finds salvation his character is changed. He does not go on living the old life of sin but brings his life into harmony with the law of God. He exemplifies the principles of love found in the ten commandments.



ARE YOU PERPLEXED

about world events and the future as planned by God?

Often you've wondered if there is anything sure . . . anything you can confidently look to for hope and courage.

THERE IS ONLY ONE COMPLETE ANSWER

to questions vital to each one of us such as ● Why does God permit sin and suffering? ● Will Christ come in our day? ● Is there life beyond the grave? ● Will there ever be lasting peace? etc., etc.

WHY GUESS — WHEN GOD'S WORD REVEALS THE TRUTH

Listen to our Programme—**Radio Luxembourg**

(one of 709 weekly world broadcasts)

Tuesday 4.15 p.m. (G.M.T.) 1,293 metres

Friday 11 p.m. 208 metres



THE BIBLE OPENED FOR YOU
with lessons designed for men
and women of every creed
ENTIRELY FREE!

POST THIS FORM TO-DAY

and receive our lessons on

Bible Prophecy

The Bible Will Become a New and Living Book

All sent to you FREE for the asking

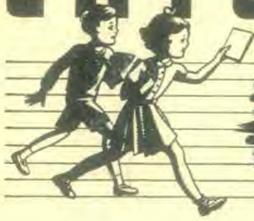
Name Mr. _____ Age if under 21 _____
Miss _____ (Please write clearly)

Address _____

O.T.

The Voice of Prophecy Bible School, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

THE CHILDREN'S Pages



The Prayer Meeting in the Well

By Ernani Smith

MR. AND MRS. JONES believed in giving their four growing, active boys lots of outdoor exercise. Realizing that their back garden was altogether too small to keep them busy, they had rented a farm.

It was springtime, so they immediately set to work under the direction of their father, that is, all but four-year-old Alvan.

Alvie just could not understand why he should not scatter the pea seeds instead of putting them in a nice straight row two inches apart. There were many things a tiny little man like that saw no reason for. For instance, why couldn't he go for a stroll all by himself all over those ten acres while Mother was busy with the housework? There were so many things that he felt he just must look into; and upon this hinges our story.

Not far from their farmhouse was Neighbour Burns' old well. Mother Jones had noticed it from her kitchen window. There was the windlass; and a bucket hung there. Evidently it had been left there when Mr. Burns watered his tomatoes during a dry spell in the summer.

On the morning of this never-to-be-forgotten day (at least not by the Jones family) Alvie had been told to stay near the house while he played with his little fox terrier. Some time had

passed as Mother went about her house-work.

While watering the ivy that grew in the little red pot hanging by the kitchen window, she happened to look out and noticed that the bucket above that old well was swinging back and forth as though someone had given it a hard push. It puzzled her, for she saw no-one about; neither was the wind blowing.

And then, like a flash, she thought of her little son. She received no answer when she called him as she ran around the house in an effort to get a glimpse of him. Then more quickly than I can tell it, Mother was down there by that old well. It looked perfectly black as she looked down into it, but the piti-

Little Things

Little hands can work for Jesus,
Little lips can sing His praise,
Little hearts can love and worship,
Little feet can walk His ways.

Take them then, O dear Lord
Jesus.

Now, while life is young and
free;

Take and use them for Thy glory,
Thine for ever they shall be.

Lilian G. Heard.

ful moans coming out of that pitch darkness almost made her blood chill.

Without thinking, she put her foot into that bucket to let herself down into the well; but, halfway down, the old rotten rope broke, and down she fell into about a foot of water. How fortunate that the well was only about ten feet deep and that only one foot of water stood in a puddle down in the centre of it!

Alvie lay huddled up against the damp, slimy side of that old hole; but, as far as his mother could see, he was not seriously hurt—only a few bumps and scratches. It was uncomfortably cold down there, and Mother was thinking very hard. Of course, Alvie was glad that he was not alone now; but he was anxious to get out too.

All at once he said: "Why don't you pray, Mamma, that Jesus will send someone to take us out of here?" Tears were in their eyes as they pleaded with the dear heavenly Father to send them help, and please to send it soon, for they were getting colder and colder in that dark, damp place.

Our heavenly Father has ways and means by which He answers the prayers of His children; so the young man who brought the groceries saw Tiny, the dog, running excitedly around the top of that well, barking for all he was worth. Stopping his car, he went over to investigate; and, to his surprise, he found Alvie and his mother in their pitiful plight. It did not take him long to get out his tow rope, fasten it to the windlass, and pull them out of that well.

That evening the Jones family had a praise service during the worship hour, for it was a real miracle that Mother and Alvie were safe and sound in their midst. No-one could ever persuade them that God does not hear prayer.

THE Sunbeams' CORNER



Your Letter

My dear Sunbeams,

GOOD-BYES are always hard to say, and I am sure that we all feel very sad that the time has come when we must say "Good-bye" to Auntie Margaret of whom we have grown so fond. However, although Auntie Margaret must leave the office because she is a very busy person (she has two boys and a little girl of her own to look after, you see), I know she will continue to take a great interest in our Corner.

Well, when Auntie Margaret asked me if I would adopt such a big family of nephews and nieces—and there are 5,098 Sunbeams now—can you guess how I felt? Just a wee bit afraid of you all! But Auntie Margaret assured me that you would be just as friendly to me as you have been to her,

and that you would write me lots of letters to prove it!

Already I seem to know many of you as for some time I have been helping Auntie Margaret in her work, and with the judging of competitions. And what a task it is to find the prize-winner, as you all colour the paintings so beautifully. Do remember to write your full name, address, and age on each attempt, won't you? A really beautiful painting came through the post a few days ago, and—what a shame!—there was only half a name and no address given.

So, boys and girls, I am looking forward to receiving lots of letters from you, telling me all about yourselves, and your pets, and hobbies. I know we are going to be the best of friends!

Yours affectionately,

AUNTIE PAM.

Results of Competition No. 25

Prize-winners.—Hilary Dawson, 11 Major Street, Todmorden, Lancs. Age 12; Diane Thomas, 13 Gwili Road, Hakin, Milford Haven, Pems. Age 10.

Honourable Mention.—Jennifer Gray (Enfield); Miriam Harris (Chesterton); Amy Randlesome (Stockton); Jilda Sleeman (Torquay); Michael Astill (Hucknall); Siegfried Baron (Accrington); Antony Peart (Gloucester); Ruth Campion (Torquay); Glenys Bruce (Hayes); Lydia Harris (Cambridge); Peart Rich (Cameford); Joan Leadley (Yorks); Rachel Hayward (Lymington); Rosemary Dymond (Bodmin); George McCann (Belfast); Marion Paget (Wokingham); Eleonora Baron (Accrington); Maxwell Davidson (Stonehaven); Doreen Pearce (Tottenham); Ann Chittenden (Hartley Witney).

Those who tried hard.—Veronica Hunt (Torquay); Olive Swift (Pennington); Michael Metcalfe (Colinswood); John Wilmot (Smethwick); Glenys Freeman (Killay); D. Wright (Wirral); Margaret Peart (Gloucester); John Blackmore (Acton); Jennifer Nickol (Inverurie); Lesley Hardy (Derby); Peter Trueman (Bishops Cleeve); Graham Hardy (Derby); Colin Bandercroft (Acton); Pamela Coles (Hayes); Myra Beattie (Belfast); Hazel Harris (Cambridge); Patricia Roberts (Mount); Peter Hayward (Pontypridd); Eileen Ford (Edinburgh); Kathleen Quaite (Bedford); Alison Hardy (Derby); Carol Rust (Maldon); John Kent (Hull); Susan Eve (Greenford); Margaret Peart (Cheltenham); Tommy Jervis (Liverpool); Roger Sleeman (Torquay); Dawn Jones (Fleet); Valerie East (Walthamstow); Ailsa Clark (Wigton); Elizabeth McCann (Co. Armagh); Irene Smith (Barrow-in-Furness).

Results of Competition No. 26

Prize-winners.—Sylvia Esson, 2 Avon Place, Dyce, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Age 15; Michael Parish, 104 Plumstead Road, Norwich, Norfolk. Age 9.

Honourable Mention.—Miriam Harris (Cambridge); Eleonora Baron (Accrington); Siegfried Baron (Accrington); Alwyn Hinds (Manchester); Trevor W. Goddard (Iver); Megan Phillips (Chelmsford); Brenda J. Tacon (Norwich); Valerie Dee (Manchester); D. Wright (Wirral); Gail Meadows (Chelmsford); Dawn Mountford (Stoke-on-Trent).

Those who tried hard.—Margaret Peart (Cheltenham); Marion Paget (Wokingham); Hazel Harris (Cambridge); Moyra Cooper (Aberdeen); Lydia Harris (Cambridge); Jean Budd (Bath); Antony Peart (Cheltenham); Mary Kettingham (Ruthin); Sheila Mountford (Stoke-on-Trent); Veronica Law (Greenock); Jennifer Nichol (Inverurie); Garth Anthony (Derby).

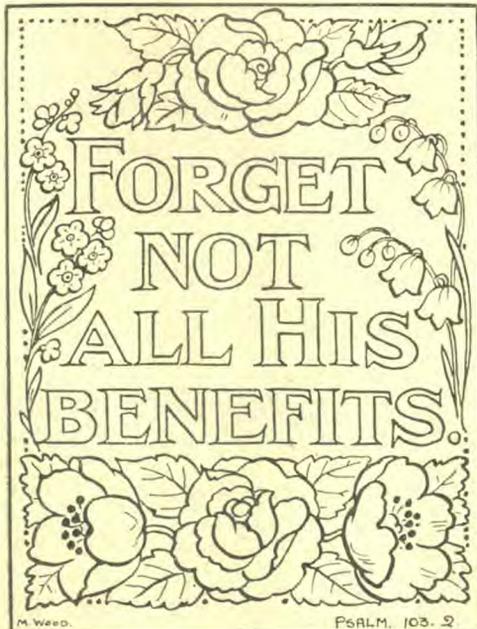
The Bible and OUR TIMES

(Formerly "Present Truth")

Vol. 70. No. 4. Price 3d.
Printed and published in Great Britain fortnightly on Thursday by

THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LTD.,
WATFORD, HERTS.

EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON
Twelve months 9/9 post free
Six months 5/- post free



TEXT-CARD TO COLOUR.

See how nicely you can paint this picture and send it with your name, age, and address to Auntie Pam, The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts., not later than March 4th. In case *Our Times* arrives late, still send your entry. All attempts will be considered.

STRAWS IN THE WIND



Man Must Decide

☒ "God, in His great wisdom, has made available to mankind the knowledge of atomic fission," asserted Admiral Radford in a Washington speech. "With this knowledge," he went on, "comes responsibility. Atomic power can be a force for great good. Man must make up his mind as to his own future."

Transatlantic Telephone

☒ During the next three years a 2,000 mile telephone cable will be laid at a cost of more than £11,000,000 between Scotland and Newfoundland. This will supplement the present radio-telephone service, ensuring not only continuous and undistorted communication but also complete secrecy.

World's Oil Output

☒ Last year saw a new peak of production in the "oil age." According to the Petroleum Information Bureau 675,000,000 metric tons were produced, 35,000,000 tons more than in 1952.

Air Traffic

☒ In 1903 the first powered flight by a heavier-than-air machine was achieved by the Wright brothers. In 1953, 50,000,000 passengers travelled 28,000,000,000 passenger miles on the world's air lines.

U.S. Keeps Pacific Islands

☒ For reasons of security the

United States has announced its intention of retaining control of the Ryukyu and Bonin Islands wrested from Japan in World War II "for the foreseeable future." "It would be an abdica-

W H E N

When the pearly gates unfold,
Wondrous things we shall behold:
We shall tread those streets of gold,
And nothing shall grow old.

When those gates are opened wide
And we at last are safe inside
Where no ill shall e'er betide,
We shall walk by Jesus' side.

Ere I pass those pearly gates
Where the attending angels wait;
On His word I'll meditate
Lest I should sadly be too late.

When the pearly gates unfold,
Christ, my Lord, I shall behold;
Safe within the heavenly fold,
Where we never shall grow old.

E. Pratt.

tion of responsibility to the common effort of the free nations, including Japan, for the United States to adopt any other course," said Mr. John Foster Dulles.

Space Travel

☒ In the *New York Herald*

Tribune supplement celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of powered flight, A. E. Talbert prophesies: "By the year 2003, space travel many hundreds of miles beyond the earth's atmosphere, and possibly as far as the moon, is being envisioned. Space stations revolving around the earth to provide a jump-off place for further exploration are believed to be on their way. So are 1,500-miles-an-hour transport planes having atomic power plants and the ability to reach any point on the globe non-stop."

Pope and United Europe

☒ The Pope threw his weight powerfully into the scale in favour of a United Europe in his New Year message to the world. After speaking of the "grey vision of a still unsettled Europe," he declared: "The present state of affairs will not improve unless all nations recognize the common spiritual and moral ends of humanity, unless they help each other to attain them, and, as a consequence, unless they mutually agree to oppose the cause of division reigning among them in the discrepancy of standards of living and productivity.

"This can and should be done in Europe by forming the continental union of its peoples, different indeed, but geographically and historically bound together." "The time," he added, "seems ripe for the idea to become a reality."

