

The Bible and **OUR TIMES**



WILL GOD STEP IN?

By E. W. H. Vick

★ IN recent weeks we have been startled by sensational new developments in the destructive power of the hydrogen bomb. The statements made concerning this terrible weapon naturally raise the important question, How far can man go in his search for greater and ever greater power for destruction? Will God soon step across the threshold of history and proclaim, "It is the end"?

Will God intervene? This is a question which might call forth a variety of answers from different people. What does the Bible say?

It tells us that God is a transcendent God, who by His power upholds millions of worlds and universes. It tells us also that God is a personal God who is interested in you. The prophet Isaiah sets these two contrasting facts together: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit." Isa. 57:15.

Now, if God could create a world, He can readily do in that world what He wishes. The real question is therefore: Is there sufficient reason for Him to do so? Is there a present need so strong that if God does not step in to save man, he will himself destroy the earth and himself? When sober scientists tell us that they are frightened at the power that they have themselves released, and statesmen frantically search for some means of control for that power, does not the present situation suggest that there is such a reason and purpose?

When God called the world into existence, He



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The billowing cloud of the H-bomb explosion at Eniwetok Atoll.

set a boundary to the power of the natural elements saying, "Hitherto shalt thou come and no farther: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed." Job 38:11. These limits that God set on His creation are still there. Let us never forget that.

The atom bomb and the hydrogen bomb are the climax to years of brilliant and diligent scientific research. They were produced by an adherence to, and an application of, the laws of nature. But is their use to be regulated by laws in the moral realm? This is the question that multitudes are now asking. If not, there can only be chaos.

Human Folly Must Be Checked

If free-will misapplied therefore can produce chaos, it becomes necessary to have a check placed on the power of man. If there is to be plan and purpose in the universe, there must be the possibility that God would have to prevent lawlessness by an act of intervention. That is why Jesus must come again. We have come very near the end as far as man is concerned. With the tremendous potentialities for destruction in his hand, man is like a boy playing at the controls of some great power house not knowing how to use those controls nor how much power is behind them.

But God will not let man so annihilate himself. He is on the throne of the universe. "Above the distractions of the earth, He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from

His great and calm eternity, He orders that which His providence sees best." Jesus prophesied about present conditions in these words:

"Upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:25-28.

Behind the seeming chaos of the world, God is working His purpose out, and soon His kingdom will come.

The words of Alfred Norris express the sovereignty of the divine purpose:

*"You see a world that wildly whirls,
Through coiling clouds and battle smoke
And drenched with blood the children's curls.
And women's hearts by thousands broke:
I see a host above it all
Where angels wield their conquering sword,
And thrones may rise and thrones may fall,
But comes the kingdom of the Lord."*

God Intervened in the Incarnation

God is working His purpose out. Certain strange things happened in this world once before as that purpose began to take shape. There was an incarnation, a resurrection, an ascension. The God of heaven was intervening. Who is to say that to complete His purpose for the world, He will not again intervene?

If you and I could take ourselves away from our twentieth-century fears, back past the squabbles

and upheavals of the nineteen centuries in between and stand with John before the cross, what emotion would surge in our hearts, what voices would ring in our ears!

The King of the universe hangs upon the cruel cross; those hands, so often stretched out in blessing, are willingly stretched out in pain; that heart, so full of affection for the poor of earth, is pouring out its fullness for a lost world.

He Will Intervene Again

We shall never see with our eyes the terror of that scene, but we shall witness the splendour of another even more vivid scene, when the same things that happened then, will happen again, with one great difference. The rocks will be broken up, there will be a great earthquake, the graves will be opened: but the world will not be veiled in darkness as the divine Sacrifice gives out His life-blood for men. The world will be bathed in glorious light such as it has never before seen as the divine Saviour comes as King of kings and Lord of lords.

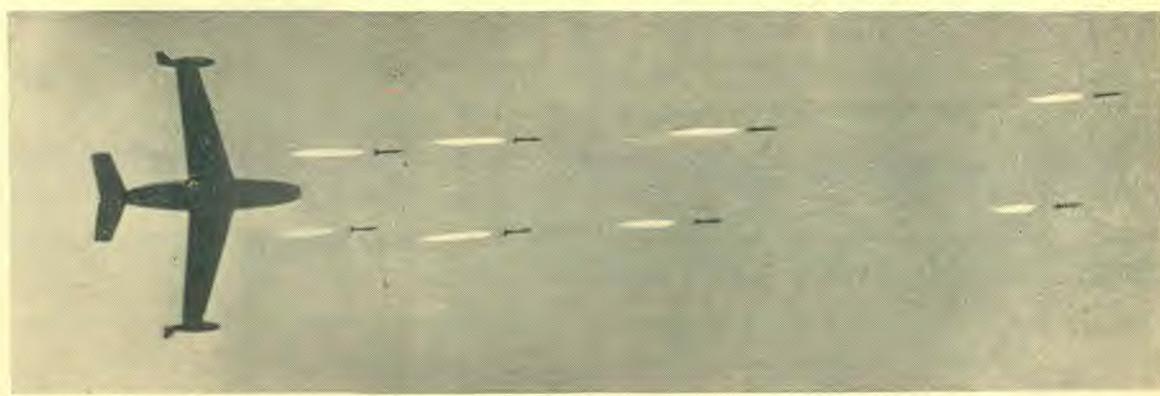
Before we are involved in this great event, will you not make the sentiment of these beautiful verses your very own, for when Jesus comes again as King, He will come for us, if now we have made Him the Lord of our lives.

*"King of my life, I crown Thee now
Thine shall the glory be,
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,
Lead me to Calvary.*

*"May I be willing Lord to bear
Daily, my cross for Thee;
Even Thy cup of grief to share,
Thou hast borne all for me."*

A demonstration of the fire power of a rocket firing jet fighter.

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Return to **ENDOR**

By J. R. Lewis

not wisdom, might be gained by seeking to contact the spirit world.

The latest move in the pursuit of information about the hereafter, is an announcement that the Church of England and the Nonconformists have organized the Churches' Fellowship for Psychical Study. It is reported of the Fellowship, which is backed by the Dean of St. Paul's and Dr. Leslie Weatherhead, that, "in this modern age, it has become imperative to bring to the people some demonstrable evidence of personal survival." Clergy and ministers throughout the country are being circularized and encouraged to promote in the churches the study of psychic science.

How is the Fellowship to conduct its work? The answer is: "We are trying to compile a list of Christian 'sensitives' [that is mediums], and through them, we hope to make contact with the spirits."

Contrary to Scriptural Counsel

Is it not a sad reflection upon good Christian folk when they commence an investigation in direct—though apparently they do not realize it—opposition to the orders of their Master? For on all matters concerning the after-life, the most authoritative guide is the Bible, yet in this instance, as in many others it is rejected for other far less reliable help.

Now in the Scriptures we find specific mention is made of mediums, where they are termed, "familiar spirits," a particularly apt description for those who claim to be on such intimate terms with this or that spirit guide in the unseen world of shadows. Stern and strong have been the denunciations of the holy prophets against these "sensitives." (Lev. 19:31; Deut. 18:9-12.) Notice particularly, the warning note of Isaiah: "When they tell you to consult mediums and ghosts that cheep and gibber in low murmurs, ask them if a nation should not rather consult its God. Say, Why

By Wm. Hole

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Saul visits the witch of Endor.

★ EVEN the dead may not rest in peace!

To satisfy his insatiable appetite for knowledge, man has probed the innermost starry depths, dissected under the microscope almost every living creature in the seven continents, ransacked the elements of nature in his study of nuclear-physics, and in the spiritual realm, he has sought to tear down even the last barrier hiding the dead from the living.

It can be understood, indeed, that the deep love between husband and wife provides the very strongest of motives for seeking to keep alive the fellowship of a lifetime, even though death may have dissolved the physical partnership. And it is felt by some also that much useful knowledge, if

consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult the message and counsel of God!" Isa. 8:19 (Moffatt).

How then, can God permit and bless the consultation of mediums today, when He so strongly discountenanced doing so before?

The Case of King Saul

The claim has been made that the Scriptures record more than one séance being held. The claim is true. Outstanding is the account of King Saul treading the crazy road to En-dor one dark night in order to consult a medium about his prospects in battle the following day. (1 Sam. 28.) But the whole story is a sorry one, and reveals to the full the abject and utter folly of a man taking such a course. It is not considered likely that a holy God would speak to a king through a medium He had already condemned, especially when God had refused to communicate with the king through other recognized channels. In fact, we are counselled to note that "Saul died for his transgression, . . . for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit." 1 Chron. 10:13.

It was the late Dr. Bullinger, who made clear in his writings that Christians should be well aware that any spirits drawn to a séance were evil, malevolent, and soul-destroying.

More recently, the late Professor Joad, who was a member of the University of London Council for Psychical Research, wrote: "Baskets fly through the air, curtains belly into the room, tables jump, musical instruments play . . . and therefore? And therefore, the human soul is immortal and survives bodily death? Obviously not. It simply doesn't follow."

To the bereaved we can say: There is great comfort in the sure knowledge that our Lord has promised them a reunion one day with all in Christ whom they have loved. That reunion will not be in a cold, dark room where gramophone records

are played, but in the brilliance and glory of our Paradise Home.

Your BIBLE QUESTIONS Answered

Can you give me a prophecy of the Bible that can be absolutely proved to have been fulfilled so that I can use it to convince a sceptical friend?

THERE are literally hundreds of such prophecies. But here is an interesting one. The city of Tyre was built with massive walls on the shore of the Mediterranean. It was known for its riches as a result of its great trade with other nations. It envied the exalted position of Jerusalem and when the city fell to the king of Babylon, Tyre rejoiced over the ruin the invader had wrought.

A doom sentence of a most positive and singular character was therefore pronounced upon the city by Ezekiel the prophet. (Read his twenty-sixth chapter.) Under inspiration Ezekiel made two outstanding pronouncements. He prophesied that

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Photo by W. L. E. © S. P. Ltd.
A fisherman spreading his
nets upon the ruins of old
Tyre.

Beyond the SUNSET

By Mrs. M. E. Brookes

"I AM afraid the walk has been too much for you," said the sailor.

"No, my son, I have been filled with joy that just once more before I am laid to rest I have had the pleasure of standing by your father's grave to watch the sunset."

The waves rippled and danced in the rays of the setting sun. Down behind the distant hills of the little Cornish fishing village it sank. Walking slowly up one of the steep paths was an aged lady, leaning on the arm of her stalwart sailor son. It was a hard walk for the mother, and every now and then they stopped for a short rest.

They finished the slow journey homeward, and the mother went to rest. When morning dawned, she was found sleeping her last sleep, on her face a look of almost youthful wonder, as though she had seen some bright vision ere she closed her eyes in sleep.

But the sunset of life comes not only to the aged. Many are the young and strong who are called to rest from their labours. Happy is the life which is always ready for the call.

Jasper and Enid were very happily married. They lived in a pretty villa, with red and white roses growing around the porch. They had four lovely children. One morning, while going to his work as usual, a sudden impulse came to Jasper. Returning to his house, he clasped his wife's hands, and looking earnestly into her eyes said, "Goodbye, Enid." Neither of them knew that it was to be their last goodbye. A motor accident—and before that day's sunset, Jasper was lying in his last sleep.

Two young men were cutting down a tree in a wood. The Spirit of God had been striving with one of them for many weeks. He had said many times, I will surrender my life, but not today. Suddenly at one stroke of the axe the tree fell on the opposite man, who was killed on the spot.



© J. Sheerboom
Church Steps in old Minehead, Somerset.

Might that not have been I, said the other man?
And he gratefully gave his heart to the Lord.

A Little Child Shall Lead Them

At a big city evangelistic meeting a woman came night after night. Fastening her eyes on the preacher she seemed to drink in every word. When a lady visitor called on her she said, "I am the only member of a large family who has ever enquired into spiritual things."

The visitor asked her who had led her to seek spiritual things, and she told of the loss of a little girl, only four years old. "Little Rosie," she said, "had gone off so proudly to a children's service with a new umbrella I had bought her. She came home that afternoon all flushed and feverish. I put her to bed, and in two days the little life had sped."

The broken-hearted mother had put the little umbrella in a travelling case and gone to stay with a sister who had a little girl the same age as Rosie. One day, when it was raining, Rosie's mother brought the umbrella to give to her niece. When

she opened it, a text card that had been given to the child fluttered to her feet. Picking it up, the mother read the words, "I will go before you." These words set that mother searching with all her heart to find out if she would really meet her little girl again.

What a wonderful balm for all bereaved to know the Bible certainties of a home beyond the sunset.

The Dream Home

During the blitz in London, I met a woman evacuee in a train. She soon got into conversation, for her heart seemed to be bursting with grief. "We have lost our all," she said. "We had only just finished fixing up the home we had dreamed of for years. Then one night while in the shelter, we heard the fatal blow fall on our house, and everything was gone." Then she added, "It was only the Anderson shelter that saved our lives."

"No, my friend," I said, "it was not the shelter that saved your lives; it was the mercy of God. Someone was praying for your safety."

"Yes," she said, "you are right. We prayed as we had never prayed before for our lives to be spared, and they were."

Should we not learn from the thousands of homes that were blitzed during that war, how transitory are our earthly possessions? Is it worth while to put our every interest into homes that may disappear in a moment of time? Every mind that loves beauty has an ideal of a perfect home; but how few ever realize that perfection here. What a comfort there is in the words of Jeremiah 29:11. "I know the plans that I am planning for you saith the Lord, to give you an afterward and the thing that you long for."

In A Moment of Time

(Continued from page 11.)

stone tiers, where now grass grows in the crevices and small green lizards are the only occupants. Stairways built on the outside lead to the different sets of tiers. The first tiers were for senators, and under these a vault-like corridor encircled the arena. It required no effort of imagination to visualize dead and wounded gladiators and wild beasts being carried out from the contests into this dark passage. It was a cruel sport belonging to a barbarous age, but even criminals were allowed something with which to defend themselves. The

martyrs faced a death in which there was no element of mercy. They were brought up from the subterranean passages, and left unarmed, a prey to the wild beasts.

When Nero instigated the first general persecution of the Christian church, he visited Pozzuoli to preside at the amphitheatre when Januarius, one of the first martyrs, was thrown to the lions.

In his epistle to the Hebrews, Paul refers to the afflictions endured by a great company, "of whom the world was not worthy." Heb. 12:38. They were faithful unto death, and will receive a crown of life, together with the multitude from all the nations of the earth which come out of great tribulation.

The Lesson of Pompeii's End

The end of highly civilized but heathen Pompeii came unexpectedly, in a moment when the inhabitants were engaged in all the multitudinous interests and pleasures that filled their minds at the time, as shown by the numerous skeletons found of youths in the gymnasium, people of all ages on the streets, in shops, temples, taverns, houses, and cellars. Casts have been taken of some by pouring liquid clay into the cavities originally made by their bodies lying in the ash, giving an extraordinary portrayal of their tragic end.

It is a solemn thought that just as Pompeii came to a sudden end so will modern civilization. Writing by inspiration to the Thessalonians, Paul said: "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them." 1 Thess. 5:2, 3. To Timothy he wrote a prophetic revelation of the characteristics of the people living in the last days, upon whom this destruction would come: "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents . . . lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; . . . And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:3.

In that day there will be only two classes of people. The ones that will be delivered are those who have chosen to give their hearts' allegiance to God, to follow humbly and sincerely the simple teaching of Jesus, who is the one and only Mediator between God and themselves. He will save them and cover them with His righteousness. May we be ready against that day.



By Sir J. Poynton

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Faithful to death.

★ As Paul neared the end of his hazardous voyage across the Mediterranean Sea to appear before Cæsar at Rome, the ship harboured on the west side of Naples, in the gulf of Pozzuoli, ancient Latin name Puteoli. Seven days were passed in this volcanic area where today gases still rise and drift toward the massive, purple cone of

Vesuvius, dominating the eastern side of the bay. Although extinct for fifty years this volcano has erupted many times, and in A.D. 79 overwhelmed Pompeii and Herculaneum. As a result of the remarkable archaeological excavation commenced in the eighteenth century, Pompeii has had its twenty-foot covering of volcanic ash almost entirely removed and today we have exposed for us an almost perfect portrayal of a city, which Paul knew and in which he may even have preached. Certainly it is typical of many of the ancient heathen cities where he bore witness for His Lord.

All the many cities entered by this great missionary pioneer were then under the iron sway of the Romans, whose skill was shown, apart from war

IN A MOMENT

Reflections During a Visit

and government, in the wonderful roads which proved such a help in the spread of Christianity. The road to Pompeii is typical of many which Paul traversed. It is constructed from blocks of local stone. On either side are raised foot-walks with stepping stones here and there to enable pedestrians to cross without wetting their feet in the waste water running along the road, and so placed that chariot wheels could pass unhindered.

Paul usually travelled to his destination on foot, cloaked, and staff in hand. Often joining in the stream of early morning traffic leading to one of the city gates he would reach hearts with the Gospel message as he engaged in conversation among the noisy, colourful throng of people. There he would meet slaves and freed men of many nationalities, fishermen, merchants, and countrymen bringing produce from the fields, olive groves, and vineyards.

Paul the City Dweller

Entering through the Roman arched gateway Paul would seek lodging and often employment for the period of his stay. Writing of this he said: "These hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me . . . and so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and

to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:34, 35. In every phase of life Paul was careful to live as an example of the long-suffering of Jesus to those who should after believe on Him to everlasting life.

In seeking a tent-maker he would scan with interest the painted pictured signs of the craftsmen, and workers busy in the front of the small shops. Jesus employed many word pictures of everyday scenes to convey truth in a simple way to the minds of His hearers. Chiefly they were descriptive of toil in the fields and countryside, having a peaceful setting, but Paul lived most of his life in the cities, and his illustrations were drawn from

ENT OF TIME

to Ancient Pompeii

the active town life surrounding him. The potter fashioning the terra-cotta vases for use as wine and oil containers, could have occasioned his words, "Hath not the potter power over the clay? of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour and another unto dishonour?" Rom. 9:21.

Paul knew how God in the days of Moses gave Bezaleel and Aholiab the skill both to work in gold, silver, and all metals, to cut and set precious stones, the art of carving wood, of weaving and embroidering, and every beautiful work. Originally that knowledge was used to make and adorn God's dwelling with man, the tabernacle, the ark of testimony and the mercy-seat. But in Paul's day metal workers used their talent to make images for the heathen shrines. Idols were decked with jewels. Men wore sparkling rings and buckles, and often gold chains and studded girdles, and the women bedecked themselves to an even greater extent. Those who were not wealthy, wore glass-paste stones as they do today, for their adornment. In his epistle to Timothy there is the exhortation to Christian women to "adorn themselves

By Charlotte Hastings

in modest apparel . . . not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array. But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." 1 Tim. 2:9, 10. Peter expressed the same thought in his epistles, adding that the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit is in the sight of God of greater price.

Where Paul Lived and Taught

When Paul was waiting for his trial at Rome he was allowed to rent a house. "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.

Basically the houses in Pompeii show the same general design as those found all over Italy at that time. From a plain exterior the street door led by a narrow passage to the central courtyard, the atrium. In the middle of this was a sunken tank to catch rainwater falling through a square opening cut in the sloping roof. Along the side walls were small, dark bedrooms with space to take little more than the narrow couch beds. Larger living reception rooms were toward the back, also domestic rooms, a small kitchen, and a walled

Photo: C. H.

In the Temple of Apollo, Pompeii.



garden surrounded by a colonnade. Staircases led to one or two floors above, built only over part of the house, these rooms being for the slaves and dependents.

Whether modest or wealthy the interiors of these homes were beautifully decorated. Mural paintings chiefly depicted scenes of Greek mythology, mosaic pavements varied from simple terracotta to rare marbles with inlaid motifs, sculptured figures, all revealing the inherent artistry of the race that held sway before the Romans over the then-known world.

The walled garden was laid out in perspective. Vines, brilliant flowers, mosaic and sculptured fountains added to the colourful scheme. In such a peaceful environment, protected from mob violence by the Roman soldiers appointed to guard him, Paul taught the Gospel to all who visited him. His was a nature that had ever sought new fields of action in the Christian warfare, but this later ministry accomplished much in consolidating the infant church and its influence reaches down the ages to our day in his powerful epistles to the Philippians, the Colossians, and the Ephesians.

In winter a room was shut off by curtains or

sliding doors very like those we have today. Lamps were lit and a moveable brazier fire provided heat. One thing would find no place in Paul's house, namely the Lare or household god, supposedly responsible for the safety of goods and chattels, and before which in all heathen homes an offering of food was constantly placed.

Pompeii was typical of a city wholly given to idolatry, such as so many times stirred the spirit of Paul in his earlier travels. Pagan worship, vice, and the pursuit of pleasure are evident by the ruins with their inscriptions painted or deeply scratched with a stylus or sharp instrument on the stucco walls. Its gaming rooms, taverns, and public houses of ill repute reveal a city sunk low in moral depravity.

To the spacious and luxurious Roman baths, an especially favourite meeting place, had been added all kinds of entertainment. Citizens of all classes conversed and idled away many hours each day as they moved progressively through rooms heated to different temperatures by hot-air flues beneath the hollow paved floors. With some the habit grew to such an extent that they returned home only in the evening to eat and sleep.

Paul talked daily with those that met with him in the market places, schools, synagogues, and wherever people congregated. And of his preaching of the Gospel he said: "I am determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." 1 Cor. 2:2.

What Christianity Had to Meet

It is the temples, however, that reveal, to the greatest extent, what Christianity had to contend with in those days. In Pompeii, as elsewhere, for the most part they surrounded the forum, the centre of the civil life of the city. When walking to the orator's rostrum Paul would pass into an imposing square with triumphal arches, statues, and colonnades. On one side, in front of storehouses for cloth and agricultural produce, a busy market progressed, while nearby would be the Court house and underground strongrooms containing the city's treasury.

All cities had a patron god or goddess. In this case it was Venus Pompeiana with an altar for bloodless sacrifices. Similar offerings were placed on shrines to the twelve divinities of Olympus at many cross roads, whose care of them was in this way solicited.

The chief object of worship for the Romans was Jupiter, identified with Zeus, the father of



Photo A. S. M.

A Street in Pompeii.

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the gods and of the human race. Among his many polygamous children were Athena and Apollo, god of love, who also became one of the greater deities with supposed power to foretell the future. Utterances, noted for their ambiguity, came through a priest or priestess at many oracular shrines. Every cult had its oracle and many lesser deities.

Deeply rooted in the minds of the people and enjoying a great vogue of popularity in the time of Paul were two ancient eastern cults, Mithraism, the worship of the Persian sun-god, and that of Isis, the Egyptian goddess. The former was suppressed in the fourth century after Christ, and the latter continued until the sixth, but to the end they were strong and bitter rivals of Christianity. On one of the altars to Isis at Pompeii were found the ashes and remains of a sacrifice. Associated with these heathen rituals were tonsured priests, vestments, processions, oracles, divination, mysteries practised by the initiated, and astrology. And Satan sought to undermine the faith he was unsuccessful in stamping out by bringing back image worship and other practices in a new guise into

the early Christian church. Unfortunately many were not truly converted, and had not studied the Scriptures for themselves as did the Bereans. (Acts 17:11.) In accepting the new belief they were falsely guided by those who had compromised with paganism.

There were, however, those who saw through the craftiness of the heathen priests and searched for something better than the myths they foisted on them. These gladly received the truth of the Gospel. Such an one was Dionysius, the Areopagite, converted by Paul at Athens. After his conversion to Christianity he became Bishop of Athens, fulfilling this office with utmost diligence until his death by martyrdom.

It was in the great amphitheatres of the Roman cities that many early Christians witnessed for their faith and met a martyr's death. The construction of the one at Pompeii is the same as those found all over the Roman Empire. It is in almost perfect condition although the oldest Roman amphitheatre known. Over 12,000 spectators could be accommodated on the thirty-five

(Turn back to page 7.)

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

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Know Your Bible

PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST

What unique position does Jesus hold?

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." 1 Tim. 2:5.

What qualifications are required for priestly mediation?

"For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way." Heb. 5:1, 2.

Who ordained Jesus as High Priest?

"So also Christ glorified not Himself to be made an high priest; but He that said unto Him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten Thee. As He saith in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. . . . Called of God an high priest." Heb. 5:5, 6, 10.

What sacrifice did Jesus have to offer?

"Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself." Heb. 7:27.

"As in the typical service the high priest laid aside his pontifical robes, and officiated in the white linen dress of an ordinary priest; so Christ laid aside His robes, and garbed Himself with humanity, and offered sacrifice, Himself the priest, Himself the victim."—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 33.

What basic requirements did Jesus thus fulfil?

"And if any soul of the people of the land [margin] sin . . . against any of the commandments of the Lord, . . . then he shall



By Mente
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bring his offering . . . and the priest shall make an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him." Lev. 4:27-31.

"Christ was the foundation and life of the temple. Its services were typical of the sacrifice of the Son of God. The priesthood was established to represent the mediatorial character and work of Christ. The entire plan of sacrificial worship was a foreshadowing of the Saviour's death to redeem the world. . . . Since the whole ritual economy was symbolical of Christ, it had no value apart from Him."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 165.

How does Paul link these basic services?

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Heb. 9:24.

What is He doing for us before God?

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Rom. 8:34.

Note here also the two great truths on which our salvation rests—Christ's atoning death and His priestly mediation.

What dual office does Jesus hold?

"Even He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a priest upon His throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." Zech. 6:13.

Our Lord is a King-priest. As a priest, He intercedes and mediates mercy. As a King He dispenses grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

What order of priesthood does this follow?

"Jesus made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." Heb. 6:20. "For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most High God." Heb. 7:1.

What did He represent?

"First being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, king of peace." Heb. 7:2.

What else was especially remarkable about Melchisedec?

"Without . . . pedigree [margin], having neither beginning of days nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually." Heb. 7:3.

Melchisedec appears suddenly in the divine Record, has a brief encounter with Abraham, and just as suddenly vanishes. He therefore became a symbol of a spiritual and abiding priesthood, and typified Christ.

Does this apply to our ascended Lord? Psa. 110:4

"And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. For He testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." Heb. 7:15-17.

Does our high priest have a sanctuary in which to officiate?

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." Heb. 8:1, 2.

"Here is revealed the sanctuary of the new covenant. The sanctuary of the first covenant was pitched by man, built by Moses; this is pitched by the Lord, not by man. In that sanctuary the earthly priests performed their service; in this, Christ, our great High Priest, ministers at God's right hand. One sanctuary was on earth, the other is in heaven." —*The Great Controversy*, page 413.

With the assurance of such a high priest, what may we do?

"And having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts

sprinkled from an evil conscience." Heb. 10:21, 22.

What confidence may we have in our High Priest?

"He is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24.

What does this call forth from us?

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph. 3:20, 21.

J. A. McMILLAN.

Your Bible Questions Answered

(Continued from page 5.)

the city would become a place for the spreading of nets and that its stones, timber, and dust would be "laid in the midst of the sea." In 585 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar commenced a thirteen-year siege. When entrance to the city was gained it was found that the inhabitants had fled to Carthage.

After a time the people returned and built their city on an island about half a mile from the shore for fear of further onslaught. In 332 B.C. Alexander the Great went to punish the city for helping the Persians. Having no fleet he built a causeway from the shore to the island city and for this purpose he used the stones, timber, and dust of the old city. Thus the old city of Tyre was laid in the midst of the sea and this place is now used by the fishermen for the spreading of their nets, as the photograph on page 5 taken by the editor on his journey some years ago clearly shows.

Prophecy is the hallmark of divinity. It never fails.

Why was not John the Baptist baptized by Jesus?

You will have noticed that there is no account of anyone being baptized by Jesus Himself. No doubt the reason for this was that some could not claim a better baptism than the others who were not baptized by Him. In first Corinthians chapter three we are told of a trouble which arose in that church because of some saying, "I am of Paul," while others boasted, "I am of Apollos." The efficacy of baptism does not depend upon the one who baptizes but rather on the consecration of the one baptized.

THE CHILDREN'S Pages



The Prescription Washington Left

By Clara B. Blare

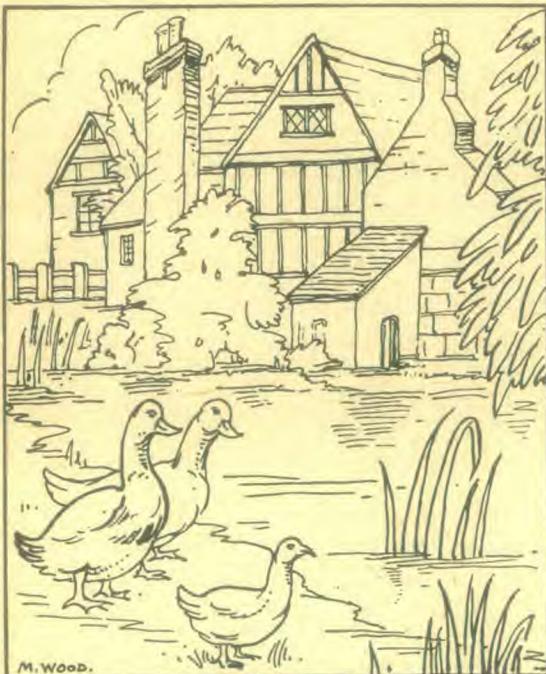
"I AM sorry, my child, but there is no other way. I am too sick to work, and you can't see me and your little brother starve."

Henry, a noble-looking little fellow about ten years old, stepped up to the bed where his sick mother lay, threw his arms about her neck, and left the house without a word.

It was well enough for him

that he did not hear his mother's groans as he closed the door behind him, for his little heart was ready to burst without that.

And what was this hard thing that Henry had to do? It was to beg. That was a thing he had never done before, and how could he do it now? But do it he must; Mother and little brother must have something to eat.



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 June 24th. In case OUR TIMES arrives late, still send your entry. All attempts will be considered.

It was a side street in Philadelphia, and as the little fellow walked back and forth he looked first at one person and then at another. But no-one seemed to look kindly at him, and the longer he waited the more he was afraid to ask anyone for help. The tears were running down his cheeks, but no-one seemed to care. Although he was clean he looked poor and miserable, and the children who are poor and miserable are apt to cry.

Then, too, everyone seemed to be in a hurry, till at last he saw a man who seemed to be out just for a pleasant morning walk. He was dressed in black, and wore a three-cornered hat.

As soon as Henry saw him he felt that he would not be afraid to ask him for help. So he stepped up to the gentleman and asked for a little money. He had been crying so long that his eyes were red and swollen. He had had nothing to eat for so long that he was weak, and his voice trembled.

The man's kind heart melted as he looked at the poor boy and his blush of shame as he asked for help. He laid a hand on the boy's shoulder and said: "You do not look like a boy who is in the habit of begging. What has driven you to this?"

"Indeed," said Henry, the tears beginning to roll down his cheeks again, "I was not born this poor. The misfortunes of my father and the sickness of my mother have driven me to ask for help."

"And who is your father?" the man asked.

"He was a rich merchant in this city," the boy replied, "But he lost all he had. He soon died of grief, and my mother and my little brother and I became poorer and poorer."

"My mother has, till now, been able to care for herself and my little brother by her work, and I have shovelled snow and

done everything I could find to do. But the night before last she was taken very sick. Now she is so much worse I am afraid she will die. I cannot think of any way to help her; I have had no work for several weeks. I could not go to our old friends and beg. Oh, sir, do pity my poor mother!"

"Where does your mother live, my boy?" asked the stranger.

"In the last house on this street, sir," Henry replied, pointing to the building.

"Have you sent for a doctor?" the stranger asked.

"No, sir," the boy answered, "I had no money for medicine, even."

"Here are three dollars," said the man, handing him some money. "Take them, and run quickly for a physician."

Henry's eyes looked the thanks that his voice could scarcely speak, as he took the money and darted away.

The stranger went at once to the home of the sick woman. He found her on a little bed in the corner of a miserable room. She seemed very weak, and on the foot of her bed sat a little boy crying as if his heart would break.

The man stepped up to her bed and began so kindly asking her questions about her sickness that she thought he was a physician, and she poured out the whole story of her sickness and their poverty and suffering.

"Don't give up hope," said the man, kindly. "Just think about getting well and living for your children. Can I write a prescription here?"

The mother took a prayer book from the hands of the little boy who was sitting on the bed, and tore out a blank leaf, saying, "I have no other, but perhaps this will do."

The man took it and wrote something on it. Then he said "I think this prescription will

be a great help to you. If necessary I will write you another. I have great hope you will get well."

With that he laid the paper on the table, and was gone. He was scarcely out of sight when the older boy came in, and running up to the bed threw his arms around his mother's neck, and kissing her, said: "O mother, see what a kind stranger has done for us. It will make us rich for several days. Now we can have a doctor for you."

The mother looked at her boy with pride and love as she said: "God never forsakes the innocent and the good. Oh, may He watch over you in all your ways! A physician has just been here. He was a stranger, but he spoke so kindly to me that he was a great comfort. He left that prescription on the table. See if you can read it."

Henry glanced at the paper and started back with an exclamation of surprise. Then he took it up and read it again and again as another cry of surprise escaped him.

"What is it, my son?" cried the poor mother, trembling with fear of something, she knew not what.

"O mother! read! God has heard us," the boy answered.

She took the paper from his hand, and when she saw the name she cried, "It is Washington," and fell back fainting.

And sure enough, George Washington, America's famous president, was the kind man who had visited her. The prescription which he left was a statement by which she was to receive a hundred dollars from him, and as much more if she needed it.

Soon the real physician arrived, and brought the mother out of her fainting spell. The physician brought her a good nurse, and with such good care and good food, and the surprise and joy of it all, she was soon quite well again.

Washington visited them many times. He found friends for them who gave the mother all the work she could do. When the boys were old enough, good positions were found for them, and then they took care of their mother. And you may be sure they never forgot George Washington, who did so much for them.

Partial Results of Competition No. 5 and 6

Prize-winner.—Miriam Harris, 119 Fallowfield, Chesterton, Cambridge. Age 14.

Honourable Mention.—Paulette Cox (Langley); Colin Doggett (Norwich); Valerie Westwood (Garston); Gary Ashton (Watford); Carole Westwood (Garston); Siegfried Baron (Accrington); Leonard Blight (Andover); Heather Chapman (Lowestoft); Hazel Harris (Cambridge).

Those who tried hard.—Rosemary Dymond (Bodmin); Antony Peart (Cheltenham); C. Lauriston (Dublin); Margaret Peart (Cheltenham); Audrey Ralston (Stocksfield); Faye Chaplin (Strood); Maxwell Thompson (Bricket Wood); Stephen Spriggs (Kettering); Margaret Grainger (Smeathwick); Ruth Price (Wokingham); Marion Paget (Wokingham); Dawn Jones (Fleet); Roger Gossop (Liverpool); Gillian Holdaway (Garston).

Results of Competition No. 7

Prize-winners.—Phyllis Stevenson, 26 Galway Road, Arnold, Notts. Age 13; Janet M. Porter, "Sunnyside," 259 Queen Edith's Way, Cambridge. Age 8.

Honourable Mention.—Amy Randlesome (Suffolk); Marion Paget (Wokingham); Rita Redout (Southampton); Eleonora Baron (Accrington); Naomi Adcock (Norwich); John Kent (Hull); Michael Plank (Olton).

Those who tried hard.—Monica Bell (Darlington); Margaret Grainger (Smeathwick); Dorothy Sage (Colchester); Olive King (Chelmsford); Yvonne Weber (Lymington); Pamela Jones (Barnes); Margaret Peart (Cheltenham); Alan Bowns (Chalford); Ruth Methven (Salford); Christine Sheldrake (Westcliff); Caroline Scott (Maidenhead Court); Irene Walton (Liverpool); Jeanette Rayne (Coventry); Grace McCleghorn (Kent); Barbara Duncan (Birmingham).

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STRAWS IN THE WIND

The Ultimate Horror

■ In an article in the *New York Times*, Mr. Laurence points out that the hydrogen bomb is by no means the worst horror which science is capable of producing. In fact, the hydrogen bomb experiments make "certain" the production of "the most dreaded weapon of all—the cobalt bomb." When vaporized, according to Professor Einstein, such a bomb will produce "a deadly radio-active cloud, 320 times more powerful than radium," which will be able to "travel over distances of thousands of miles, destroying all life in its path."

Travel Hazards

■ In a Royal Society of Arts Lecture, Dr. W. H. Glanville stated that train travel presents the least hazard, and motor travel twice as much. Air travel is seven times as dangerous, cycling thirty times, and motor-cycling eighty times.

Church Federation in America

■ Dr. Roy G. Ross, secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States, describes the federation as the greatest instrument of church co-operation in the United States, the workings of which "have become far-reaching and almost staggering in scope and significance. It comprises thirty denominations with thirty-five million members."

Oldest Printed Book

■ The recent sale in New York of the Constance Missal, containing masses for important feasts, has raised again the question as to whether it was printed by Gutenberg before he undertook

Daily Surrender

O Saviour, come into this life
And make my heart Thy home;
Now fill me with Thy presence,
Lord.
Come, O my Saviour, come.

This temple is not worthy Thee,
Thy love surpasses thought;
How shall I serve Thee faithfully
Or follow as I ought?

Come, take my will, my love, my all—
They are but Thine alone—
In adoration deep I fall
Before Thy glorious throne.

Then raise me up, O Lord, I pray,
Hold Thou my trembling hand,
Grant me to know Thy peace to-day
And in Thy strength to stand.

Thus may I walk in Thine own strength
Upheld by Thy strong hand,
Till I by Thy good grace at length
Shall reach that better land.

—Edgar A. Warren.

the printing of the Gutenberg Bible, generally regarded as the oldest printed book in the world.

Lengthening Span of Life

■ "In 1900 the length of life which the average child at birth might expect, was forty-four years: today it is sixty-six," writes Geoffrey Lesson in the *Tablet*. "Today, the average man at sixty can expect to live another fifteen years, the average woman eighteen years."

Megaton Bombs Outdated

■ The term "megaton" was devised to describe an atomic bomb equivalent in explosive force to a thousand tons of T.N.T. The latest hydrogen bomb, however, has a destructive power equal to twelve to fourteen million tons of T.N.T.

Gambling Bill

■ The Churches Committee on Gambling estimates the total gambling bill in 1953 to be £602 millions, of which horse-racing took £400 millions, dog racing £125 millions, and football pools £70 millions.

Tongues of the World

■ While there are only thirteen "major" languages in the world with Chinese (450,000,000) first and English (250,000,000) second in the list, some 3,000 languages and dialects are spoken altogether.

