

# Signs of the Times

AMERICA'S PROPHEPIC WEEKLY

VOLUME 47

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA, MARCH 16, 1920

NUMBER 11



*International*  
Malnutrition has resulted in thousands of Austrian children's contracting tuberculosis. Professor Clemons Pirquit, for many years connected with the Johns Hopkins Hospital of Baltimore, is now chief adviser to the Entente Food Commission in Vienna, and is here seen injecting some of his new serum in a tubercular patient. The terrible suffering brought upon innocent childhood through the great war is but one of the many crimes which must be met by its instigators in the final reckoning before a just and merciful God.

## THE BABELS OF PRIDE

By N. D. Anderson

THE selfish man delights to consider himself as a Jove, thundering anathemas at his fellow men from a self-built Olympia. He revels in self-exaltation, in deifying his little talents. He whirls himself into dizziness in dervish dances of human ecstasy. Therefore he too often idolizes the faulty work of the painter, the sculptor, and the poet, for in them is somewhat of his egotistic self.

Much of our civilization is a mere shell. Learning it is, without religion, culture without God. It was so in the beginning; it has been so through the intervening ages; it is so now—Christianity without Christ.

In the beginning, God created heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and pronounced them very good. He did not create a bit of protoplasm only, and tell it to multiply upward and replenish the earth with successively higher orders of life. That which was in the beginning was perfect; but sin entered, light began to be swallowed up in darkness, degeneration set in. In two ways,

this process affected the human family. One way was the way of Cain, swift, with no saving grace. The other way, almost as swift, was the way of the sons of God, who married the daughters of men (Genesis 6:2), and relied on their own wisdom and prowess. God thus destroyed that first civilization; and its fossils, pressed between the stone leaves of geological strata by the weight of the waters that stood fifteen cubits above the top of the tallest mountain, and its bones, heaped together by the twisting terrors of the loosed waters of heaven, or animals held intact as they lived, by tides that froze about them, bear witness not of prehistoric ages of sediment piling up little by little, but of the truth of God's Word, which states that in six days He made heaven and earth, and that later the waters of a flood covered the face of the earth.

The seed of conceit, however, persisted; and a few hundred years after the Deluge, we find mankind saying, "Go to, let us build us a city and a tower." Genesis 11:4. Then God came down to see what the sons of men were doing, for He had not been invited to participate in this second evolving of civilization; and He found their hearts hardening, as had the hearts of their antediluvian forefathers. Instead of destroying them, however, He but scattered them abroad over the face of the earth. And again there were two classes, the one plunging directly into the jungles of darkness, there to be found, ages afterward, pushed out to the brink of the world, as cave dwellers, pygmies, eaters of human flesh, but a trifle removed from the animal kingdom in brutishness and bestiality. Even the beasts of the wild among which they took up their abode, became, from their contact, more and more ferocious and untamable; for such is the spirit of the adversary. The other class saw again "the daughters of men

that they were fair," and reared from a fitful union their third civilization.

Thus we come down to the time when the scepter was about to pass from Judah, and Shiloh to come, habited in man's garb of sin-filled flesh. (Genesis 49: 10.)

It was the Augustan era of the world, the Golden Age. Rome had thriftily thrown a network of roads over the face of the earth, and her legions made safe for her civilization the most distant corners of her universal empire. Yet there was no light in her. This stupendous, man-built thing was tottering even then. Founded on the shifting sands of the human heart, that heart so desperately wicked, this seemingly invincible aggregation of iron will and adamant purpose had begun, even at that time, to tremble throughout its strong towers, and shake in the blasts beginning to blow from the wildernesses of barbarism. But Rome's most unrelenting enemy, unseen and subtle, was within, not without.

#### A HOUSE OF CARDS

And now a merciful and loving God—oh, who can fathom such love!—instead of obliterating this third civilization, serenely riding on the crest of apparent world powerfulness, steeped in vileness and sin, gave to destruction His 'only-begotten Son to save it—yes, save it, and the Cimmerian world beyond it. But for the light from that wooden cross on Calvary, darkness of midnight and oblivion must have swallowed up mankind, civilization and heathenism, culture and barbarity.

Thus the third civilization fell. Rotteness had entered, and Christianity came too late to purge it. Having served God's purpose in spreading the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, Rome gave birth, in a short while thereafter, to monsters, devils devouring their own children—Nero, Caligula, Commodus, Diocletian, to be followed by that most terrible monster of all, ecclesiastical persecution, insatiable Moloch, whose victims mounted into the tens of thousands.

Day dawns for the fourth civilization. The world is coming on; in the words of its admirers, it is growing continually better. Did it not begin with a one-celled thing, an infinitely less thing even than a tadpole? Now look at it! But will this fourth civilization that arises take heed of the fate of those others? Will it learn from those gone before? Learn meekness and common sense, I mean, not pride and strife. It seems so at first.

Dungeons are opened, shackles struck off, light carried to those of the other order sitting in darkness out there on the

rim of the world. There is an outburst of science and learning, discovery, invention, there is a running to and fro; there is a vast increase, sudden and swift, of knowledge. The heart of man again becomes overcharged with the cares of this life, with surfeiting and drunkenness. He forgets God. He forgets, this builder of the mighty civilization of modern times, the arm that lends him strength and power to do these things.

Overnight his carefully reared house of cards comes toppling down about his ears. He had arranged, in his own puny scheming, so that there could be no more

---

Surely the future looks black enough; yet it holds a hope, a single hope. One, and one power only, can arrest the descent and save us. That is the Christian religion. Democracy is but a side issue. The paramount issue, underlying the issue of democracy, is the religion of Christ and Him crucified; the bed rock of civilization; the source and resource of all that is worth having in the world that is, that gives promise in the world to come.—*Colonel Watterson.*

---

war; yet, lo, in a few hours, months, the nations are at one another's throat. In a moment of time, as it were, he sees his entire boasted civilization wiped away, as one wipes away marks on a slate, and in its stead is ushered in the fulfillment of the sure prophecies of God's Word—of Moses, of Isaiah, of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, of David, of Daniel and Joel, of Jesus, of Paul and Peter and James, of John the revelator.

#### A BETTER CIVILIZATION

Now there is soon to be another civilization set up, a civilization based on the love of God, culture with Christ Jesus, the Rock cut from the mountain without hands, that is to fill the whole earth; a civilization having an everlasting foundation.

Its gates, still open to the meek, the repentant, the thirsty, the hungry, will one day swing shut. When they close, there will no longer be mercy for sinful man. Not that mercy will be dead; no,

for mercy will continue to reign. It will be mercy that orders the door closed—that love may never again be endangered by hate, lured away of sin, or be tempted to look back, as did Lot's wife, upon the burning cities of the plain. On which side of the door, when its latch clicks, when its key turns in the lock, shall we be?

#### Every Individual to Be Reached

THROUGH its delegates recently assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the Inter-Church World Movement of North America has launched a campaign to raise \$500,000,000 with which to evangelize the world. A mighty campaign is outlined, and it is the plan that every soul shall be reached.

Many will connect with these strong, swinging missionary movements merely because it is becoming popular to do so, or else because some pressure is brought to bear upon them. Such persons will be mere nominal professors of religion, without knowing the power of the life of Jesus Christ in the soul.

But others in all the various churches will recognize that God is calling His true children to a mighty work for Him. They will recognize that He is indeed calling men to-day to evangelize the world. They will see more and more clearly that this great evangelizing movement, which is to touch every kindred and tribe and tongue and people on the face of the earth, is finally to terminate in the second coming of Christ.

Those who learn to know the Christ and His salvation power will naturally flow together into one powerful movement that will fulfill God's prophecy that just before the coming of His Son, He will lighten the earth with His glory; while on the other hand, a great mass of professors, without knowing the power of God, will unite in an unprecedented religious combine of oppression and tyranny, and fulfill another one of God's prophecies. It remains for each individual to decide which camp he will be in at that near-by day when the supreme crisis is reached.

IT IS the privilege of every one to be happy. God, who gives us all things, gives us happiness. Only in Him can real, permanent happiness be found. Happiness comes from having a clear conscience and a pure trust in the Almighty. Then it behooves us to make all things right with God and with our fellow men. Faith, or trust, is free to every one. We have only to exercise it. With these two principles kept constantly in mind, and acted out, one cannot but be happy. W. E. BELLEAU.





## IS CHANCE OUR CREATOR?

*"He that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His."*  
*Hebrews 4:10*

By Lucas Albert Reed

THE statement of this scripture is not only the fundamental fact of religion, but also the fundamental fact of science. The principle announced in this text demands a whole book for its explanation and elucidation, and perhaps sometime that book will be written. For the present, the subject must be covered in a much more limited manner. To begin with, I will seek to make the words of the text perfectly clear by the addition of a few explanatory words.

"He [the man] that is entered into His [God's] rest, he [the man] also hath ceased from his [the man's] own works, as God did from His [God's]."

Here we have the statement that God's rest was a cessation from His works. His works we naturally suppose to be His creative works; but we do not need to leave this to conjecture, for we read in a near-by scripture: "The works [of God] were finished from the foundation of the world. . . . And God did rest . . . from all His works." Hebrews 4:3, 4.

God's rest is His cessation from creation in this world. No matter what men of worldly learning may say to the contrary, God finished His creative work when once He had *rested* from *all* His works. In other words, God's work of creation, or, more strictly, of creating, is a finished task. And, obviously, anything that is finished does not need to be continued indefinitely.

### THE MASTER ARTIST

George Inness has been regarded by competent critics as probably the greatest landscape painter of America. Yet he had one serious besetment that kept him from producing many pictures that otherwise would now be hanging in prominent galleries and counted as noble masterpieces. His own son, the most sympathetic of his judges, has told us that often Inness did not know when a beautiful picture was really finished. He did not know when to let his pictures alone. He would often add too much, and, seeing that something was wrong, would then add still more to make it right. In the end, he would paint the whole thing out and start something else on the same canvas.

But God knew when His creation was perfect and complete. He knew when it was finished. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished." Genesis 2:1. "And God saw everything that He had

made, and, behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31. Such were the characteristics of the creative work, and likewise of all that He does.

All that He does is permanent. It is never futile. It is never done in vain. "Whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever." Ecclesiastes 3:14; Isaiah 45:18. It is perfect as it comes from His master hand. It needs no addition to render it complete. It is not overloaded, and hence needs no subtractions. "Nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it." Ecclesiastes 3:14.

Such masterpieces cannot come from the hand of any finite being. We see in this perfection the very finger-marks of Deity. The hand of God is there exposed. "God doeth it, that men should fear before Him." Ecclesiastes 3:14.

But there is a certain teaching known as evolution which denies this cardinal



Evolution cannot account for creation. It cannot explain creation. It cannot truthfully deny the fact that the work of originating, or creating, is done once for all.

principle regarding creation. This so-called science declares that creation is a continuous process. It avers that creation is still unfinished, ever moving onward toward the goal. Like the theory of limits in mathematics, it is forever ap-

proaching, yet never reaching, the line of perfection.

They teach these unscriptural theories because they think they have in the philosophy of evolution evidence that the creative work is still going on, and will go on for untold ages to come, even as through endless ages past.

### AS MANY SUPERDEGENERATES AS SUPERMAN

Yet, in all the so-called factors of evolution, we do not find a single thing warranting the assertion that creation or creating still continues.

One of the most prominent hypotheses of evolution is that of "natural selection." This is declared to be illustrated by the methods of breeders and nurserymen, who make intelligent selection of the animals or plants they employ as agencies of propagation. Evolutionists say that nature is doing this same selecting, and doing it blindly, without any intelligent directing power—doing it fortuitously, thus eliminating every suggestion of a Creator. The great guide of the universe is, according to them, chance or accident. He is a biased man surely who can accept such a proposition. He discards a God of intelligence, wisdom, judgment, goodness, and power, and vests all in mere "matter and motion," unthinking, unchoosing material, and imagines that in some sort of blind treadmill of activity only, all the great, good, minute balancings, and tender, delicate adjustments, with their special coördinations, take place.

If we grant this preposterous thing, with all its atheism and affront to our judgment and intelligence, we can find nowhere, in past, present, or future, any suggestion of such a thing as ever taking place.

A scientist who was himself an evolutionist, has done more than any one else, perhaps, to show the utter impossibility of natural selection. Marshaling and reiterating the obvious considerations which prove that the development of animal forms must necessarily depend on a vast number of adjustments and coördinations in various organs to conform with the functional actions in which they must all partake, he then reduces to a numerical computation the practical impossibility that such changes should occur as the result of accident. He af-

firms that the chances of any adequate readjustments fortuitously arising "must be infinity to one." (Herbert Spencer, in *Nineteenth Century Review*, quoted by the Duke of Argyll in "Organic Evolution Cross-Examined," page 16.)

#### A GREAT GULF FIXED

After thus showing how impossible are the factors of natural selection to produce adventitiously the "immense number and variety of adjusted changes in many different organs," the writer just quoted declares that natural selection must be eliminated altogether, and expresses the opinion that it can have neither part nor lot in the matter.

We accept his judgment of this spurious factor of evolution. We believe that it must be eliminated wholly. We are willing to grant that it has neither part nor lot in the matter. Nature demands an adequate explanation; and that explanation is, an Originator, a Creator.

Any one who attempts to show how the world began, must show how the gulf has been bridged between the inorganic, or non-living, and the organic, or living. The evolutionist tries to do this, mind you, by an attempt to reduce all the phenomena of life to the terms of mechanical force. He tries to account for life by an examination of light, heat, chemical affinity, and the like. He has picked out for himself a tremendous task.

And Spencer tells us that in this work of attempting to bridge the gulf, natural selection stands in the way. We grant it. He tells us that "the words 'natural selection' do not express a cause in the physical sense." It is a mere "convenient figure of speech."

If nature always did make the wisest selections, this would merely mean that a certain type would be kept at its best. It would not mean the addition of any new elements not contained in the sum of the species already. But the strong are often attracted to the weak. Like does not always select the like.

"'Like takes to like' is a proverb  
That's nothing more than trash,  
And many a time I've seen it  
All pulverized to smash;  
For follies in no way similar,  
I've noticed again and again,  
Will often take to each other,  
And stick together like sin."

There is nothing in the claims of "natural selection" that can in any sense oppose the declaration of the Word, that the works of the Creator were finished from the foundation of the world.

Everything in geology, anthropology, or the other sciences, if rightly interpreted, harmonizes with the plain statements of the Bible concerning the origin of matter and the creation of man, and with other important pronouncements of inspiration which pagan philosophy and worldly wisdom have led so many to question. Their conclusions, if in disagreement with the inspired narrative, in every case on careful investigation will be found to be based on the slenderest hypotheses, which must be discarded from time to time and others substituted in order to agree with later discoveries.

Evolution cannot account for creation. It cannot explain creation. It cannot truthfully deny the fact that the work of originating, or creating, is done once for all. That work was "finished from the foundation of the world."

# AN INFIDEL'S PROPHECY AND GOD'S FULFILLMENT

By HENRY S. PRENIER

VOLTAIRE, the famous French infidel, who died in 1778, predicted that within one hundred years, the Bible would be an unknown book. Let us see how close he came to truth.

The number of Bibles or portions now coming from the presses of the three greatest Bible societies, the British and Foreign, the American, and the National Bible Society of Scotland, every twelve months, is probably a thousandfold more than the total number that saw the light of day during the first eighteen and a half centuries after Christ.

In Voltaire's day, the Bible existed in only thirty-eight tongues; but it is now read, in whole or in part, in 650 languages and dialects. Two hundred of these were for the first time reduced to

1919 amounted to 8,746,963 copies of Scriptures. Since its foundation, in 1804, this society has issued over 302,298,000 copies of the Scriptures. Of these, more than 98,189,000 have been in English.

The total number for the American Society was 6,040,707 for the year ending in 1919. During its 103 years of existence, 128,110,923 Bibles or portions have been distributed.

The romance of Bible circulation in all parts of the world for over a century is one of the most interesting stories ever written.

"China, which had to wait over eighteen centuries for her Bible, has a record . . . of which all Christendom may well be proud. In several great provinces, the New Testament has been adopted as a textbook for Chinese government schools. The whole country is accessible, and the circulation in 1918 was 1,034,309 volumes.

"Korea is studying, being changed by, and clamoring for, the Bible. In Japan, no previous year has shown so steady a demand for the Bible, or so striking an abundance of fruit from the efforts of the Bible societies. The Philippines report the printing of the Scriptures as progressing too slowly to meet the demand, although it employs the best power presses in the East."

Considering the magnitude of the results already obtained by the Bible societies, it is very evident that Voltaire's prediction is far from fulfillment.

Notwithstanding the great number of Bibles distributed all over the world, we read in the eighth chapter of Amos: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord, and shall not find it."

"This seems paradoxical," you say. "Will the millions of Bibles melt away overnight?"—No; the time will then have come when the last saving message has been given. The hearts of the people will fail them through dread of what is coming upon the world; and in their great distress, they will leave their false shepherds, false prophets,—those who had yielded point after point of Scripture truth in order to please their congregations,—and turn to find the truth as it is in the blessed Word of God. But alas, we are told that they "shall not find it." Probation will then be closed.

Let us appreciate, treasure, and follow, while we may, the holy Bible, which is a light to our feet.

THE future that God has revealed is the future I ought to know.

ERNEST LLOYD.

IF WE consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.

As Christ lived the law in humanity, so we may do if we will take hold of the Strong for strength. But we are not to place the responsibility of our duty upon others, and wait for them to tell us what to do. We cannot depend for counsel upon humanity. The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. *If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally.* Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, *will know*, after presenting their case before Him, *just what course to pursue.* And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised. Whatever was given to Christ,—the "all things" to supply the need of fallen man,—was given to Him as the head and representative of humanity. And "whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 668.

writing by Bible translators. The 1915 issue for the "big three" was actually 22,402,903.

To appreciate these facts, shall we look over some figures of the British and American Bible societies?

The total output of the British and Foreign Bible Society for the year 1918-



## SHUTTING HEAVEN'S DOOR

*Some day the last plea will be entered, the last appeal carried up, the final defense made by our Advocate, and heaven's court will cease forever its ministrations of mercy.*

*Has your case been entered?*

FROM the time when man fell from his Edenic purity, God's purpose has included the day when sin shall have run its course, and probation for sinners shall have come to an end. It is not possible that sin should always remain in some part of God's universe. When, in the Garden of Eden, the Father made the promise, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15), He designed that man should learn from this that some day the forces of evil would be defeated.

In the great scheme of redemption, Jesus came to our world to settle forever the question of the continuance of sin, "that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

Our salvation rests upon choice. Nothing is more clearly taught in the Bible than this. The invitation, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve," stands out in bold relief in the teaching of the Old and the New Testament.

It has been the privilege and the duty of every person since the world began, to choose God and eternal life. Eternal destruction awaits those who fail to make this choice. Paul clearly taught this when, contrasting the privileges and failures of ancient Israel with the possibilities and dangers confronting the Christian church, he said:

"We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him?" Hebrews 2:1-3.

### A PERSONAL INVITATION

When the first step toward the kingdom of God is taken by the individual, then God reaches out and strengthens the decision made. In the closing words of the

By ELMER L. CARDEY

Bible, the Holy Spirit breathes out the invitation: "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.

The opportunity thus afforded to man to settle his own destiny is the greatest of all our privileges. The short span of our individual lives is long enough for us to make this necessary decision; and no offer of grace that gives repentance beyond this life, is held forth in the Scriptures. On the contrary, the Bible teaches that preparation for eternal life must be made before death overtakes us. In speaking of the final resurrection, Christ thus pictures those who will be raised:



We have reason to believe that these plagues will be literal and terrible catastrophes which will sweep the world.

"The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29.

In this scripture, it may be seen that the two classes come forth from their graves with their destiny settled; and to this agree the words of the apostle Paul as he discoursed upon this subject:

"As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." 1 Corinthians 15:22, 23.

While all will come back to life, yet, as explained by Christ and restated by Paul, there will be two classes, the righteous and the wicked,—the righteous for eternal life, and the wicked to punishment and destruction.

### THE TRIAL CLOSED

Our individual probation therefore closes with the end of this earthly life. However, there is to be a time when the angel of mercy will fold his wings and depart from this world, nevermore to return; when the Saviour of mankind will step forth from the sanctuary, lay down the censer, take off the priestly robes, and take to Himself the kingly garments and the crown of victory, and will become King of kings, and Lord of lords. When that hour is reached on the great time-piece of heaven, the world's probation will have come to an end. Then no longer may the sinner find forgiveness of sins, and the fiat will go forth:

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:11, 12.

The question turns now upon the point, When will this hour be reached? The verse just quoted indicates that it will be at the coming of Jesus; but for more posi-

tive proof, turn to the teachings of Christ relative to His second advent. One truth which the Saviour continually tried to impress upon the disciples, and through them, to teach the world, was this: that His presence on earth the first time was to organize His mighty kingdom of grace, that it might prepare the way for His second coming, when He would establish His kingdom of glory, after destroying

sin. We should understand that He did not teach that this destruction would deal with ideas alone, but with the physical forces of evil, as seen in this positive statement of His:

"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 soweth them

is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire:

(Continued on page 14)

## THE PRAYERS OF JESUS

By WILLIAM P. PEARCE

**P**RAYER is getting in touch with God—an ascent of the mind, a communion of the heart, a spiritual approach—the sublimest reach of the soul. Cried David, "It is good for me to draw near to God." Psalm 73:28. Jesus drew near God in prayer. He could not endure separation. Communion with the Father was to His spiritual life what breathing was to His physical life. With the sweet singer of Israel, He could say, "In Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11. The life of Jesus was the life-prayer.

"Cold mountains and the midnight air  
Witnessed the fervor of His prayer;  
The deserts His temptations knew,  
His conflicts and His victories too."

Speaking of Channing, Dr. Hillis said, "He was of piety all compact." That could be better said of Jesus. His piety and prayers have wielded such a tremendous influence upon mankind as to eclipse all others combined.

Twenty-six times the New Testament writers speak of prayer in connection with the brief ministry of Jesus. All His recorded prayers, with one exception, are so brief that when combined they number less than two hundred words. Four times, when Jesus prayed, God answered immediately. In all His prayers save one (Matthew 27:46), Jesus addresses God as "Father." The fatherhood and *fatherliness* of God are lovingly emphasized by Jesus.

To elaborate or elucidate the prayers of Jesus is impossible in so brief a space. The first recorded is the *model prayer*. (Luke 11:2-4.) Every sentence is a quotation from the Old Testament. It is wholly petitional. The first three sentences recognize God's greatness and authority: "Hallowed be Thy name;" "Thy kingdom come;" "Thy will be done." The remaining four deal with man's dependency: "Give us . . . our daily bread;" "Forgive us our sins;" "Lead us not into temptation;" "Deliver us from evil."

The *Lord's prayer* found in the seventeenth of John is composed of over six hundred words, or three times as many as all the

other recorded prayers of Jesus. It is an intercessory prayer. From the first to the fifth verse, Jesus prays for Himself; from the sixth to the nineteenth, for His disciples; from the twentieth to the close, for the unity, perfectness, and glorification of the church universal. For simplicity of language, loftiness of thought, and breadth of love, it is matchless.

Two of Christ's recorded prayers are *thanksgiving prayers*. The last one was at the grave of Lazarus (John 11:41, 42); the first, just after He had called His twelve disciples, and when John the Baptist was in prison (Matthew 11:25-27). Jesus had just finished a speech of denunciation against three cities to which had been afforded great opportunities. He rejoiced that God had chosen the fishermen of Galilee, as in later days He chose those of "the loom and anvil," to do the greatest part in His kingdom work. In Gethsemane, He prayed the deepest prayer of soul agony. (Luke 22:42.) Though it is

brief, how much enters into it! First, there was *mental* agony—the perspiration of His brow was blood-colored and fell in "great drops" on the ground. Second, there was *physical* agony. He became so weakened that an angel had to strengthen Him. (Luke 22:43.) Third, there was *soul* agony. He said He was "exceeding sorrowful unto death." Mark 14:34. Poor Jesus! Read Hebrews 5:7 to hear His cries, see His tears, and to behold His distressed condition.

The last prayers of Jesus were the three *Calvary* prayers, numbering twenty-seven words. The first is that of forgiveness of His enemies (Luke 23:34); the second is one of loneliness (Matthew 27:46); and the third is one of triumphant committal (Luke 23:46).

To get in touch with God, one needs to get in touch with the prayer life of Jesus—the simplicity, the earnestness, the wholeheartedness, and the delightfulness of it. Well might we request, as did the apostles, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1); for we need to learn the mysterious art, as Elizabeth Prentiss puts it, "by an apprenticeship at the throne of grace."

"Prayer is the Christian's vital  
breath,  
The Christian's native air."





The experiment has been made. Terrible were the scenes enacted in France when atheism became the controlling power. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which God has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruellest of tyrants. Above is the celebration of the enthroning of the goddess of reason.

## ROADS THAT LEAD BACKWARD

*While God remains God, His moral law will be binding upon all who would have any part in His life. God's moral law is eternal; it is an expression of His very being. As such it can no more be abrogated than can God Himself.—Editorial, "Sunday School Times," January 3, 1914.*

**I**N rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. In trampling upon the law of God, they deny the authority of the Lawgiver. It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone. By misrepresenting the attributes of God, Satan leads men to conceive of Him in a false character. With many, a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the living God, as He is revealed in His Word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature, while they deny the God of nature. Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world to-day as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists,—the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions,—is little better than Baal, the sun god of Phœnicia.

### THE MOST SUBTLE ERROR

No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the

modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God's law is no longer binding upon men. Every nation has its laws, which command respect and obedience; no government could exist without them; and can it be conceived that the Creator of the heavens and the earth has no law to govern the beings He has made? Suppose that prominent ministers were publicly to teach that the statutes which govern their land and protect the rights of its citizens were not obligatory,—that they restricted the liberties of the people, and therefore ought not to be obeyed; how long would such men be tolerated in the pulpit? But is it a graver offense to disregard the laws of states and nations than to trample upon those divine precepts which are the foundation of all government?

It would be far more consistent for nations to abolish their statutes, and permit the people to do as they please, than for the Ruler of the universe to annul His law, and leave the world without a standard to condemn the guilty or justify the obedient. Would we know the result of making void the law of God? The experiment has been tried. Terrible were the scenes enacted in France when atheism became the controlling power.

It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which God has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruellest of tyrants. When the standard of righteousness is set aside, the way is open for the prince of evil to establish his power in the earth.

### A HARVEST OF CRIME

Wherever the divine precepts are rejected, sin ceases to appear sinful, or righteousness desirable. Those who refuse to submit to the government of God are wholly unfitted to govern themselves. Through their pernicious teachings, the spirit of insubordination is implanted in the hearts of children and youth, who are naturally impatient of control; and a lawless, licentious state of society results. While scoffing at the credulity of those who obey the requirements of God, the multitudes eagerly accept the delusions of Satan. They give the rein to lust, and practice the sins which have called down judgments upon the heathen.

Those who teach the people to regard lightly the commandments of God, sow disobedience, to reap disobedience. Let the restraint imposed by the divine law be wholly cast aside, and human laws would soon be disregarded. Because God

forbids dishonest practices, coveting, lying, and defrauding, men are ready to trample upon His statutes as a hindrance to their worldly prosperity; but the results of banishing these precepts would be such as they do not anticipate. If the law were not binding, why should any fear to transgress? Property would no longer be safe. Men would obtain their neighbors' possessions by violence; and the strongest would become richest. Life itself would not be respected. The marriage vow would no longer stand as a sacred bulwark to protect the family. He who had the power, would, if he desired, take his neighbor's wife by violence. The fifth commandment would be set aside with the fourth. Children would not shrink from taking the life of their parents, if by so doing they could obtain the desire of their corrupt hearts. The civilized world would become a horde of robbers and assassins; and peace, rest, and happiness would be banished from the earth.

#### THE FLOODGATES OPEN

Already the doctrine that men are released from obedience to God's requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation, and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves, even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin. The vilest of criminals, when thrown into prison for their offenses, are often made the recipients of gifts and attentions, as if they had attained an enviable distinction. Great publicity is given to their character and crimes. The press publishes the revolting details of vice, thus initiating others into the practice of fraud, robbery, and murder; and Satan exults in the success of his hellish schemes. The infatuation of vice, the wanton taking of life, the terrible increase of intemperance and iniquity of every order and degree, should arouse all who fear God, to inquire what can be done to stay the tide of evil.

Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire for gain, and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many, so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. "Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter."

#### HAVE SOWN SEEDS OF SKEPTICISM

The iniquity and spiritual darkness that prevailed under the supremacy of Rome were the inevitable result of her suppression of the Scriptures; but where is to be found the cause of the widespread infidelity, the rejection of the law of God, and the consequent corruption, under the full blaze of gospel light in an age of religious freedom? Now that

Satan can no longer keep the world under his control by withholding the Scriptures, he resorts to other means to accomplish the same object. To destroy faith in the Bible serves his purpose as well as to destroy the Bible itself. By introducing the belief that God's law is not binding,



### "They Shall See His Face"

Revelation 22:4

"And they shall see His face." Oh, blessed face  
Of Him whom, though unseen, we love!

That face once marred—more so than any man's—

Yet calm, serene, and wondrous fair withal!

That face—so reads the promise—they shall see

Upon whose foreheads His fair name is traced.

And wouldst thou be among that throng so blest?

Then yield to Him thine all, that He On heart and brow in living characters His name may write in all its purity. For only those who are "like Him" shall see

And dwell with Him through all eternity.

"And they shall see His face"—their eyes behold

The King in all His beauty; and their heads

From His own hand the crown of life receive;

And from His lips those gracious words shall hear:

"Well done, thou faithful servant! Enter in,

And share with Me My joy forevermore."

BERTHA UNRUH.

he as effectually leads men to transgress as if they were wholly ignorant of its precepts. And now, as in former ages, he has worked through the church to further his designs. The religious organizations of the day have refused to listen to unpopular truths plainly brought to view in the Scriptures, and in combating them, they have adopted interpretations and taken positions which have sown broadcast the seeds of skepticism. Clinging to the papal error of natural immortality and man's consciousness in

death, they have rejected the only defense against the delusions of spiritualism. The doctrine of eternal torment has led many to disbelieve the Bible. And as the claims of the fourth commandment are urged upon the people, it is found that the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath is enjoined; and as the only way to free themselves from a duty which they are unwilling to perform, many popular teachers declare that the law of God is no longer binding. Thus they cast away the law and the Sabbath together. As the work of Sabbath reform extends, this rejection of the divine law to avoid the claims of the fourth commandment will become well-nigh universal. The teachings of religious leaders have opened the door to infidelity, to spiritualism, and to contempt for God's holy law; and upon these leaders rests a fearful responsibility for the iniquity that exists in the Christian world.

#### POISON IN DISGUISE

Yet this very class put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called "Christian sabbath," and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society. This claim is especially urged in America, where the doctrine of the true Sabbath has been most widely preached. Here the temperance work, one of the most prominent and important of moral reforms, is often combined with the Sunday movement, and the advocates of the latter represent themselves as laboring to promote the highest interest of society; and those who refuse to unite with them are denounced as the enemies of temperance and reform. But the fact that a movement to establish error is connected with a work which is in itself good, is not an argument in favor of the error. We may disguise poison by mingling it with wholesome food, but we do not change its nature. On the contrary, it is rendered more dangerous, as it is more likely to be taken unawares. It is one of Satan's devices to combine with falsehood just enough truth to give it plausibility. The leaders of the Sunday movement may advocate reforms which the people need, principles which are in harmony with the Bible; yet while there is with these a requirement which is contrary to God's law, His servants cannot unite with them. Nothing can justify them in setting aside the commandments of God for the precepts of men.

Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience. . . . The miracle-working power manifested through spiritualism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men.—From "The Great Controversy," by Mrs. E. G. White.





# EDITORIAL

EDITORS

A. O. TAIT  
A. L. BAKER

## What Is Heaven?

THE historicity of Christ is admitted by the world in the same manner as the existence of Mohammed, Gautama, and Confucius. Christianity is impossible to explain save by the inspired narrative of the Gospels. Not an authority of consequence may be quoted against the reality of the life and death of our Saviour.

Unalterably joined to the Christian faith is the teaching of its Founder concerning the resurrection and the life beyond the tomb. Without the hope of that existence in a sphere freed from terrestrial annoyances, frailties, pains, and fears, it is quite safe to conjecture that Christianity would have perished with the death of the apostles. But the promise is as substantial as Gibraltar: "Because I live, ye shall live also."

That promise to believers, of a material, conscious existence beyond death's barriers, with a full use of all the mental and most of the physical faculties enjoyed in this life, with none of their disadvantages or weaknesses, is in striking relief beside the vague, shadowy, ethereal beliefs of spirit life, or the stern, foreboding nihilism of early Greek philosophy.

Christianity as codified in the New and Old Testaments of the Holy Word still stands alone, of all the religions of mankind, in that it furnishes the dynamic force, the faith, the convictions, for attaining daily holy living and its consequent literal reward.

It was that conscious strength through a risen Saviour and His promises which enabled virile youth, with all before it of temporal life, to face the lions, the stake, or the sword, in the Roman Colosseum. It was that faith which gave power to feeble age to bear the horrors of pagan tortures; and steeled the nerves of young maidens and matrons against horrors which may not even be mentioned; and brought even to innocent childhood the bravery of mature years. "Be thou faithful unto death," was the message whispered in their ears as martyrdom drew near, "and I will give thee a crown of life."

"Fear not; I am the first and the last, and the Living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of hades." Revelation 1: 17, 18.

"This is the will of My Father, that every one that beholdeth the Son, and believeth on Him, should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6: 40.

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14: 2, 3.

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth are passed away; and the sea is no more. . . . And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His peoples, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God: and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more: the first things are passed away." Revelation 21: 1, 3, 4.

"And there shall in no wise enter into it anything unclean, or he that maketh an abomination and a lie: but only they that are written in the Lamb's book of life. . . . And there shall be night no more; and they need no light of lamp, neither light of sun; for the Lord God shall give them light: and they shall reign forever and ever. And he said unto me, These words are faithful and true." Revelation 21: 27; 22: 5, 6.

These were the conceptions of heaven given to the early Christians, and they ring true and strong down through nearly two thousand years of error and persecution, even to the present, when men are turning back to the degrading systems of heathen mysteries and pagan isms.

Read these and other precious promises, friends, and settle in your heart whether the heaven of any religion, though declared by an angel, if not in accord with the Holy Word, is equal to the beauty, the grandeur, the glory and comfort, of that home described in these words, which have been the hope of millions in the past who believed "on Him."

A resurrection of the body precludes any spiritual rapture preceding it. The glorified Lord, type of His people's new

life, said of Himself, "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye behold Me having." Luke 24: 39.

His disciples "gave Him a piece of a broiled fish. And He took it, and ate before them." Verses 42, 43.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary met Him the morning of the resurrection; "and they came and took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him." Matthew 28: 9.

Over five hundred disciples saw with their own eyes, on one of those beautiful hills of Galilee, the glorified body of their Lord; to them He gave unmistakable proofs of His resurrection; the doubting Thomases had sensory evidence of the wounds in His hands and His side. Practically the whole Jewish nation, and men from every country of the then known world, *knew* beyond a doubt that Jesus, the King of the Jews,



© Western Newspaper Union

William J. Beach, of Australia, is demonstrating in America his model combined helicopter and airplane, which is able to rise vertically, or progress horizontally as an ordinary plane. The model works by compressed air fed to the three propellers by the tube shown attached to the base of the model. Mr. Beach is confident of winning the several substantial prizes offered for the first practical machine of such a type.

had been crucified; they knew that His side had been pierced, and all the circumstances connected with the trial and death; and now He stood before His followers in an immortal body, which they could see, touch, and which functioned much the same as their own. No wonder Christianity went forth with an irresistible power; no wonder it took hold of the minds of men who had been wandering in tradition, idolatry, and spiritualism.

In what way this heavenly body may become invisible to mortals is not revealed; but we do know of a surety, from the infallible Word, that heaven will be a place where, when we shall see no more through a glass darkly, we shall know as we are known; where a real, material New Jerusalem will be awaiting the overcomer; where a renovated earth, clothed with grass and trees and flowers, the same as we see here, save with no imperfections or blight, will be an endless delight to them who have not had the privilege of their beauty here, and also to them who have ever reveled in nature and her loveliness. There will be a real river of life, in whose crystal depths will lurk no treacherous eddies or quicksands. There will be fruits, nuts, and grains in the most profuse varieties and the greatest perfection.

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. . . . There shall be heard . . . no more the voice of weeping and the voice of crying. . . . And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree shall be the days of My people, and My chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for calamity; for they are the seed of the blessed of Jehovah, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass that, before they call, I will answer, (Continued on page 15)

# THE ADVENT IN MINIATURE

## A Pledge of His Coming

By JOHN L. SHULER

THE transfiguration of Christ upon the mount stands as a sure pledge of His second coming. Peter bears an explicit testimony on this point in these words: "We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount." 2 Peter 1:16-18.

In these verses, Peter asserts that the coming of the Lord Jesus is no cunningly devised fable, because he was an eyewitness of the kingly glory that was bestowed upon Christ when they were "with Him in the holy mount." The transfiguration of Christ was a miniature representation of His second coming. When we closely examine that glorious scene on the mountain, we see in it a complete picture of His second advent to the earth.

### THE RESURRECTION MATERIALIZED

There are five points of similarity between these two events.

1. On the mountain, Christ was glorified, and those chosen three "saw His glory." (Luke 9:32.) When Christ comes the second time, He will appear in all His glory. (Matthew 25:31.)

2. On the mount of transfiguration, a bright cloud of divine glory appeared. (2 Peter 1:17.) When He returns to the earth, He will be surrounded by bright clouds of glory. (Revelation 14:14.)

3. As the Father's voice was heard on the mount (Matthew 17:5), so in connection with Christ's second advent, the Father's voice will shake heaven and earth (Revelation 16:17; Hebrews 12:26; Joel 3:16).

4. There were two glorified men with Christ in the transfiguration scene. (Matthew 17:3.) Likewise there will be two classes of His people with Him at His coming. Elijah, who was taken to heaven without tasting death (2 Kings 2:11), was there to represent those who will be translated from among the living when Christ comes. Moses, who was resurrected and taken to heaven (Romans 5:14; Jude 9), stood there as the representative of that mighty company from all the past ages, who will come out of their graves when the Lord descends from heaven.

5. As Moses and Elijah stood there with glorified, immortal bodies (Luke 9:31), so when the Saviour comes again, He will make our vile bodies like His own glorious body, and we shall appear with Him in glory. (Philippians 3:20, 21; Colossians 3:4.)

Thus the transfiguration was a representation of His second coming. As that transfiguration was the most glorious



scene in the earthly life of our Lord, so His second coming will be the most glorious event in the history of the universe. (Luke 9:26.)

Peter was sure that the coming of Christ was no fable, because he actually saw a picture of that scene on the mount. Just as surely as the transfiguration occurred, just so surely will His second coming take place in due time. Just as surely as the chosen three—Peter, James, and John—saw Him transfigured, just so surely, in due time, the people of earth will see Him come again. The transfiguration stands out as a sure pledge of His reappearance.

### SOLID FACTS FOR FOUNDATION

But there is stronger evidence for His coming than the fact of the transfiguration. The apostle Peter, after stating that the coming of the Lord was certain in view of the transfiguration, says that prophecy furnishes surer evidence than his actual view of the transfiguration. "We have also a *more sure* word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19.

Every great line of prophecy in the Bible finds its glorious consummation in

the return of our Lord. These prophecies cannot fail. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35. Not one word of Bible prophecy has ever failed. "The Scripture cannot be broken." John 10:35.

When we carefully compare the events of history, from the time of ancient Babylon to the present day, we find that the Bible prophecies have been fulfilled to the very letter. The record answers to all the requirements of the divine predictions. The conditions which were to mark the last days are being fully met in our time. Who, then, can doubt that the last act in the prophetic drama—the coming of the King in all His glory—will be fulfilled?

Peter says, "We have also a *more sure* word of prophecy"—"more sure" even than human eyesight and hearing. In human affairs, the sifted testimony of an eyewitness is deemed the best possible proof we can have for any event. But the coming of the Lord, resting as it does on divine prophecy, is thus made surer than if we had actually been back there on the mountain, and had seen with our own eyes that glorious picture of His coming.

### RELIABLE EVIDENCE

During all those centuries which elapsed from the fall of man to the actual appearing of the Redeemer among men, His first coming was merely a matter of the Father's promise and the prediction of the holy prophets. "To Him give all the prophets witness." Acts 10:43. A good biography of the Messiah, from the time of His birth till His ascension to the Father's right hand to be our great High Priest, can be found in Old Testament prophecy, all written down hundreds of years before the Saviour appeared.

Every one of these predictions was literally fulfilled in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. No other person ever lived, or ever can live, to whom these prophecies could apply. None other could play the rôle of God's Messiah. Thus the prophecies give us positive and unmistakable evidence of His first coming.

Now as the Old Testament gave a full outline of His first coming centuries beforehand, so the Bible prophecies give us a complete explanation of His second advent. These prophecies concerning His return are just as sure to be "fulfilled in their season" (Luke 1:20), as those Old Testament prophecies were to be fulfilled in His first advent. (Luke 24:27, 44.) As the Father sent His Son to the earth the first time, just so surely He will send Him back the second time. (Acts 3:21.)

When Christ was here on the earth nineteen hundred years ago, the most important knowledge then for the people of earth, was to understand correctly the prophecies of His first coming. To-day, when He is about to come to the earth again, the most important thing for us to know is the teaching of the prophecies in reference to His second coming.

On account of their failure to understand the prophecies pertaining to the

first advent, the Jews did not recognize in Jesus of Nazareth the long-looked-for Messiah. "They that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew Him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning Him." Acts 13:27. If they had understood these predictions, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (1 Corinthians 2:7, 8.) They knew not the time of their visitation, because they did not understand the prophecies pertaining to their time. The result was, their holy city was destroyed, and they were cut off as a nation. (Luke 19:41-44.) A knowledge of prophecy would have given them an understanding of their time, "to know what Israel ought to do."

We have come down to a new "fullness of time," when Christ is about to return to the world. Our safety now depends on a knowledge of those very prophecies which point out His second advent. If we neglect to study those predictions, that day will come upon us unawares, and we shall be unprepared for His second coming, as the Jews were for His first. The example of their sad failure on this very point, and the terrible fate they suffered as a consequence, ought to be a strong warning (1 Corinthians 10:11) to us to-day, impressing our minds with the importance of seeking an understanding of the prophecies of His second coming. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19.

"Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper." 2 Chronicles 20:20.

### Crippled Efficiency

EMPLOYERS are wondering why there is not as much efficiency among women clerks and stenographers as there was ten or fifteen years ago. Some have been trying to find out the cause. Many have laid the blame to dancing. One employer of women lately said: "I have seen the spread of the jazz craze in the faces of my staff during the past few months. My typists arrive at the office very late, and complain that the train service broke down; but I can see, by their white, tired faces and languid air, that they have had only a brief night's sleep, and were probably dancing until the early hours of the morning. A girl who has been jazzing until four o'clock in the morning is in such a state she can hardly recognize the keys of the typewriter later on in the day."

This is only one of the many forms of amusement that are sapping the vitality of the youth of to-day. Not only by religious leaders is it being discouraged and condemned, but by the world. Steps were taken, not long ago, in the city of Stockton, California, to close up the public dance halls, in order to save the young people from the crime that has resulted from the operation of such places in times past. The apostle Paul saw this condition when he said, "This know also, that in the last days . . . men shall be . . . lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

HOWARD K. HALLADAY.



There was the appearance of midnight at noontide.

## AFTER MANY DAYS

### PART TEN "Even at the Door"

By ARTHUR S. MAXWELL

"YOU are raising my hopes," said Mrs. Lawrence. "When I came here this evening, I was feeling utterly dejected over having to leave my dear little home; but somehow it doesn't seem to matter so much now, if Jesus is really coming back so soon."

"You are right," agreed Mrs. Brooks. "When Jesus comes back, He will give you and all of us a far more beautiful home than ever we could make for ourselves on earth. You will remember His comforting promise in John 14: 'In My Father's house are many mansions. . . . I go to prepare a place for you. And . . . I will come again, and receive you unto Myself.' How wonderful will be the home that the Master Builder, the Master Carpenter, will prepare for us! One day, perhaps, we will study more of what the Bible has to say about those homes; but I want to go back now to Matthew 24, and finish the Lord's answer to your question."

"Yes, please do."

"I will read now from verse 29. It says: 'Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.'

"You notice that Jesus here gives other signs which will tell people when His coming is near at hand. There will be signs in sun, moon, and stars, He says. Now, Mrs. Lawrence, you may be surprised to hear it, but these signs have already been given."

"You don't say so!" exclaimed Mrs. Lawrence.

"It is quite true."

"But when? I never heard about them."

"THAT is strange," said Mrs. Brooks, "for these things were 'not done in a corner.' I must tell you more about them. Notice first that the sun was to be darkened immediately after a certain tribulation, referred to earlier in the

chapter. This tribulation was the period of one thousand two hundred and sixty prophetic 'days,' or literal years, of papal persecution of true Christians, spoken of by Daniel. (Daniel 7:25.) But this period was to be shortened. Notice Matthew 24:22. And it is a historical fact that the main persecution did not continue till 1798, the end of the period, but ceased about the middle of the eighteenth century. The order of the Jesuits, responsible for so much persecution, was suppressed in 1773."

"Dear, oh dear!" exclaimed Mrs. Lawrence. "How do you know all this?"

"Just by a little daily study," smiled Mrs. Brooks; "and you will soon know many of these things if you stay with me, I hope. But now I want you to read Mark 13:24. This verse says, 'In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened.' When, then, should we naturally expect this miracle to happen?—Somewhere between the middle and the close of the eighteenth century."

"And did it happen then?"

"It did, on the nineteenth of May, 1780."

"But how do you know?"

"Oh, it is recorded in history. Webster wrote about it in one edition of his famous dictionary, and Whittier composed a poem on the phenomenon."

"What really happened?" asked Mrs. Lawrence, very interested.

"Well, perhaps I had better read you the stories of eyewitnesses. I have collected a few of these, and I will get them if you will excuse me a moment."

Mrs. Brooks was only away a few moments, and returned with a large notebook in her hand.

"This is where I keep all the evidence proving that Jesus is soon coming," she said, smiling, "and it is a very precious book to me. Here is, first, what Webster says in his 'Unabridged Dictionary' (edition of 1833). Under 'Noted Names,' he gives the following:

"The Dark Day, May 19, 1780—so called on account of a remarkable darkness on that day, extending over all New England. . . . The obscuration began about ten o'clock in the morning and continued till the middle of the next night,

but with difference of degree and duration in different places. . . . The true cause of this remarkable phenomenon is not known.

"You notice he says that the cause of the phenomenon is not known. Some would credit it to an eclipse, but that is not true. I have a quotation on that point. Dr. Samuel Stearns, writing to the *Independent Chronicle* of June 22, 1780, said: 'The moon was more than 150 degrees from the sun all that day.'"

"But haven't you something saying what really happened on that day?" asked Mrs. Lawrence.

"Yes; I have something here that will interest you. A correspondent of the *Boston Gazette and Country Journal* for May 29, 1780, reported the observations of 'several men of liberal education' at the house of the Rev. Mr. Cutler, and he said:

"**A**BOUT eleven o'clock the darkness was such as to demand our attention and put us upon making observations. At half past eleven, in a room with three windows, twenty-four panes each, all open towards the southeast and south, large print could not be read by persons with good eyes. About twelve o'clock, the windows being still open, a candle cast a shadow so well defined on the wall as that profiles were taken with as much ease as they could have been at night. About one o'clock a glint of light which had continued to this time in the east shut in, and the darkness was greater than it had been for any time before. . . . We dined about two, the windows all open, and two candles burning on the table.' 'In the time of greatest darkness some of the fowls went to their roosts. Cocks crowed in answer to one another as they only do in the night. Woodcocks, which are night birds, whistled as they do only in the dark. Frogs peeped. In short there was the appearance of midnight at noonday.'

"Now here is another picture of what happened on that day, and this shows that people alive at the time were convinced that this strange darkness was a sign from God of the near approach of the end.

"'Hosts of people,' says W. R. Cochrane, in his 'History of the Town of Antrim, New Hampshire,' 'believed that the end of the world had begun to come. Men dropped to their knees to pray in the fields; many ran to their neighbors to confess wrongs and ask for forgiveness; multitudes rushed into the meetinghouses in towns where they had such, where aged and pious ministers, pleading repentance, interceded with God on their behalf; and everywhere, throughout this day of wonder and alarm, the once careless thought of their sins and their Maker.'

"I think it is wonderful!" exclaimed Mrs. Lawrence.

"It is indeed. But notice that there was to be a sign in the moon as well. In Matthew 24: 29, Jesus says it was to be darkened; but in Revelation 6: 12, He shows John that the darkening meant that it was to take on the appearance of blood."

"Has that happened, too?"

"Yes. The very night following the darkening of the sun, the moon became blood-red in color. I will read you

what some people who saw the sight said about it. Here I have the words of a writer in the *Massachusetts Spy*. He said:

"'Nor was the darkness of the night less uncommon and terrifying than that of the day; notwithstanding that there was a full moon no object was discernible, but by the help of some artificial light, which when seen from the neighboring houses and other places at a distance, appeared through a kind of Egyptian darkness, which seemed almost impervious to the rays.'

"Another witness writes: 'The nineteenth of May, 1780, I well remember. I was then in my sixteenth year. My father and mother, who were pious,



People who saw it, say that it was a superb and magnificent sight.

thought the Day of Judgment was near. They sat up that night, during the latter part of which they said the darkness disappeared, and then the sky seemed as usual, but the moon, which was at its full, had the appearance of blood. The alarm that it caused and the frequent talk about it impressed it deep on my mind.'

"A Mr. Tenny, of Exeter, New England, said in regard to the night of May 19, 1780: 'The darkness was probably as gross as has ever been observed since the Almighty first gave birth to light. I could not help feeling at the time that if every luminous body in the universe had been struck out of existence the darkness could not have been more complete. A sheet of white paper held within a few inches of the eye was equally invisible with the blackest velvet, and whenever, on this memorable night, the moon did appear, it had the appearance of blood.'

"But now we come to the most wonderful part of all this prophecy," continued Mrs. Brooks. "I mean that relating to the falling of the stars from heaven. This has been most remarkably fulfilled."

"But how could the stars fall down?" asked Mrs. Lawrence, a little puzzled.

"Oh, of course Jesus didn't mean the 'fixed' stars that we see in the sky every night. If one of these should fall to the earth, we should all be consumed in a moment. We may reasonably believe that Jesus meant just what any one means by the falling of stars; that is, meteors shooting through the sky.

"**T**HIS prediction has been very amply fulfilled. In November, 1799, a striking shower was seen over a large part of South America. In 1833, there was a second shower, seen over a much greater portion of the earth; and in 1866, there was a third. By far the greatest of the three was the one that appeared in the year 1833. People who saw it, say that it was a superb and magnificent sight. I will read you what some of these have written about it. Here is a quotation from Burritt's 'Geography of the Heavens,' published in 1853. It says: 'The most sublime phenomenon of shooting stars of which the world has furnished any record, was witnessed throughout the United States on the morning of November 13, 1833. The entire extent of this astonishing exhibition has not been precisely ascertained; but it covered no inconsiderable portion of the earth's surface.'

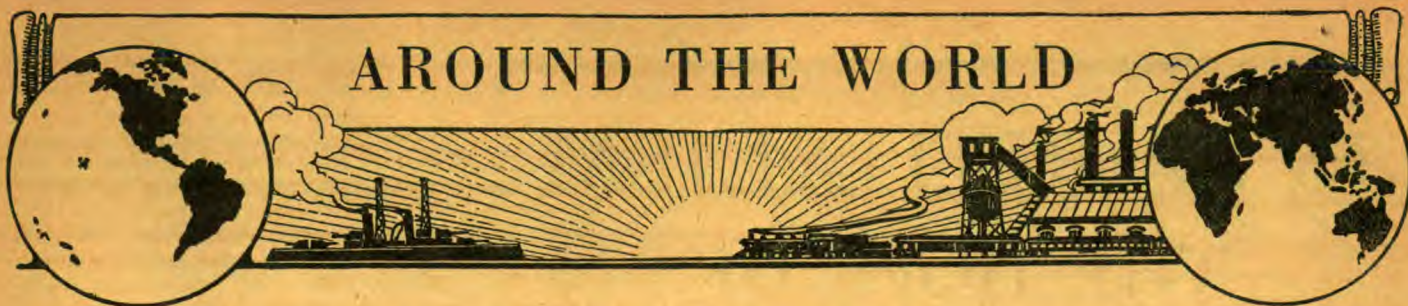
"Here is another description of the event: 'On the night of November 12-13, 1833, a tempest of falling stars broke over the earth. North America bore the brunt of its pelting. From the Gulf of Mexico to Halifax, until daylight with some difficulty put an end to the display, the sky was scored in every direction with shining tracks and illuminated with majestic fireballs. At Boston the frequency of meteors was estimated to be about half that of the flakes of snow in an average snowstorm. Their numbers, while the first fury of their coming lasted, were quite beyond counting, but as it waned a record was attempted, from which it was computed, on the basis of that much diminished rate, that two hundred and forty thousand must have been visible during the nine hours they continued to fall.'—Clerke, 'Astronomy During the Nineteenth Century,' page 328.

"Now just one more. This is a report of a planter of South Carolina, published in Chambers's 'Handbook of Astronomy,' pages 117, 118. The man says:

"'I was suddenly awakened by the most distressing cries that ever fell on my ears. Shrieks of horror and cries for mercy I could hear from most of the Negroes of the three plantations, amounting in all to about six hundred or eight hundred. While earnestly listening for the cause I heard a faint voice near the door calling my name. I arose, took my sword, and stood at the door. At the same moment I heard the same voice still beseeching me to rise, and saying, 'O my God, the world is on fire.' I then opened the door, and it is difficult to say which excited me most—the awfulness of the scene or the distressed cries of the Negroes. Upwards of one hundred lay

(Continued on page 14)

# AROUND THE WORLD



¶ It is reported that the bones of Fernando Cortez, Spanish conqueror of Mexico, have been located in the Temple of Jesus, one of the Catholic churches of Mexico City.

¶ London's underground railways transport four million passengers daily, and the vehicles controlled by the system make a total journey, every day, equal to twenty circuits of the earth. The gross revenue each month is one million pounds sterling.

¶ Petroleum production in the United States during 1919 was 366,255,611 barrels, an increase of 24,000,000 barrels over the previous year.

¶ Another side light on prohibition comes from the Chicago hospitals. The *Literary Digest* tells us that because of fewer alcoholic cases, there is less trouble with labor in the hospitals, and "a more self-respecting atmosphere." In the Cook County Hospital, one of the largest general hospitals in the world, with a capacity of 2,700 beds, and a previous daily average of 1,850 patients, "there has been a marked decrease in our hospital population. We are running about five hundred less than usual, our average at present being around 1,300. We are getting very few accident cases, the former record of twenty-five to fifty on Saturday nights having been reduced to one or two. Alcoholics have been almost eliminated, and accidents due to this condition, as well as medical cases growing out of exposure, having been practically nil."

¶ According to the latest figures, the eighteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States affected 236 distilleries, 1,092 breweries, and 177,790 saloons and other places selling intoxicants.

¶ If the twenty-two billion dollars that the war cost the United States were counted in silver dollars, it would take a man counting seventy-two a minute, working eight hours a day, 1,744 years to count them. If in dollars and laid side by side, this enormous sum would stretch 520,833 miles; or loaded in box cars of forty tons capacity each, they would make a train of 17,187 cars, 130 miles in length.

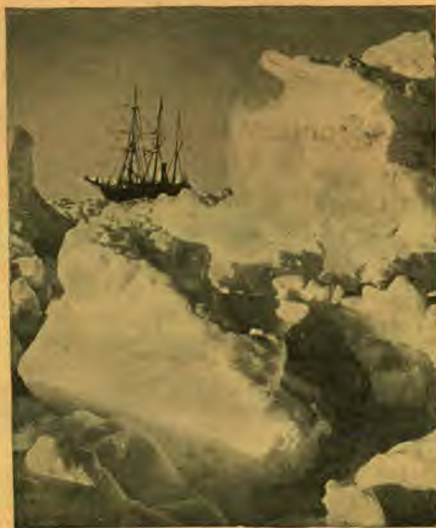
¶ A census shows that 12,908 women are employed by the railroads of the United States.

¶ Dr. Nevius, missionary to China, once said: "I want no great preachers in my field. That is not the sort of missionaries who are needed in China. If I can find a man who can talk familiarly face to face with another man, wherever he meets him, I have missionary work for that kind of man in China."—*The King's Business*.

¶ The Home Missions Council held its annual meeting in New York City, January 13-15. Its aim is to make America Christian; and to this end, active missionary work is carried on along interdenominational lines for Negroes, Red Indians, Esquimaux, large industrial centers, lumber camps, etc.

¶ Sir Donald MacLean is reported to have said in the House of Commons, "The fact that America has gone dry is an economic fact of the gravest importance to Great Britain." He declared that the British expenditure for drink absolutely staggered him. England spent more than \$840,000,000 for drink in 1914, and this increased to \$1,300,000,000 in 1918; and the estimated expenditure for the year ending March 31, 1920, would amount to nearly two billion dollars. The revenue of 1918 was \$242,500,000; but Sir Donald said that this form of income was one that all chancellors of the exchequer would be pleased to dispense with.

¶ The Federal Council of Churches reports that notwithstanding disturbed social conditions due to reconstruction, the various religious bodies of the country report a total growth in membership of 2,861,182 over the census of 1916. There is also an increase of 3,519 ministers and of 6,347 church organizations.



*A British imperial Antarctic expedition is being fitted out to attempt reaching the south pole by airplane. Dr. John L. Cope, surgeon and biologist in the Ross Sea party of the Shackleton expedition, will command this expedition. The objects will be to ascertain the mineral deposits and economic values of antarctic lands; to ascertain the location and migrations of whales; to investigate the meteorological and magnetic conditions in certain areas; to circumvent the antarctic continent; and to obtain any other scientific data that may be of value. The cost is estimated at £150,000.*

The total number of churches now stands at 233,834. There are 195,315 ministers, priests, and rabbis, with 44,788,036 members of these various organizations. The total Roman Catholic baptized membership is reported at 17,549,324, but this total includes children as well as adults, whereas Protestant communicants are limited mostly to adults. The number of Jews who hold membership is only 260,000, in spite of the large population of persons of Jewish ancestry. This is accounted for by the fact that membership in Jewish congregations is, in most cases, restricted to heads of families, and these only are reported in the table. The two Mormon bodies report a membership of 494,388. The Greek Orthodox Church reports 119,871, while the Russian Orthodox Church has a membership of 99,681. Another Oriental body, the Syrian Orthodox Church, has 50,000 members in this country. The total Protestant church membership reported is 25,980,456. The Sunday schools of the country show a loss of 596,863 pupils.

¶ It is estimated that three million motor cars will be manufactured during 1920; and manufacturers say that even at that rate of production, it will require some time to approach anywhere near the saturation point.

¶ A report of the Police Department of New York City shows that according to the analysis of 10,500 automobile accidents in the streets of the metropolis, 700 were due to the reckless driving of the operator, 850 resulted from the defects of the automobile, and the remaining 9,000 instances were chargeable to the carelessness of the pedestrian. *One third of these 9,000 persons injured were trying to cross the streets at other than the regular crossings.*—*Collier's*.

¶ The United States Census Bureau for 1917 gave a total of 61,452 deaths from cancer, as compared with 112,821 from pneumonia, 110,285 from tuberculosis, 115,337 from heart disease, and 80,912 from kidney diseases. The recorded death rate shows about two and a half per cent more cases every year. It has risen from 62.9 deaths for 100,000 of population in 1900 to 81.6 in 1917.

¶ A man named Miner, in one of the northern states, has provided near his home a large pond, which is visited each year by thousands of ducks on their annual migrations. He has caught many of these and tagged them, in order to follow their wanderings; and being a man of simple faith, he has written striking texts from the Bible on the tags. The *Dearborn Independent* tells us that an American private was converted, before going to the great war, by a text he found on one of the birds he killed; and two Indians in northern Saskatchewan had a similar experience.

# IS SPIRITUALISM THE HOPE OF THE AGE



**M**ANY people think so. Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and many others—scientists, authors, ministers, doctors—are teaching it. YOU want to know the TRUTH about this matter, and you can be certain that it is BIBLE TRUTH.

The next number of this journal will be entirely devoted to this great subject of spiritism.

## NOTE THE CONTENTS:

- The Origin and History of Modern Spiritism.
- The Conflict of Spiritism with the Bible.
- The Results and Effects of Spiritism on Individuals.
- Was Samuel at Saul's Séance?
- Who Is the Raymond That Communicates with Sir Oliver Lodge?
- Who Are the Spirits of Spiritism?
- Spiritism in Bible Prophecy.

Not only will these articles prove from the Scriptures the source and origin of spiritism, but from the words of its foremost adherents will its fruit be known.

## COLORED COVER DESIGN AND INTERIOR

Single Copy, Five Cents

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Prices in quantities: { 100 to 1,000 copies, \$.02 a copy  
5,000 to 10,000 copies, \$15.00 a thousand

## After Many Days

(Continued from page 12)

prostrate on the ground—some speechless, and some with the bitterest cries, but with their hands raised, imploring God to save the world and them. The scene was truly awful; for never did rain fall much thicker than the meteors fell toward the earth. East, west, north, and south it was the same."

"What a wonderful sight it must have been!" exclaimed Mrs. Lawrence. "How I should like to have seen it!"

"Yes, indeed; I wish I could have been there at the time. But now, Mrs. Lawrence, we come to one of the most solemn—but for us, most happy—considerations in connection with the sign in the stars.

"The last shower, as I told you, occurred in 1866. Now many people said that the meteors were simply going through the heavens in a circle, which took thirty-three years to complete, and that they would fall again in 1899. Perhaps you remember going out to look for them. I well remember the night. What did we see?—Nothing. Thousands were disappointed, and the scientists had to find some way of explaining the unforeseen hitch in their prophecies. They 'discovered' that the meteors had been attracted by a larger planet and had left the earth, never to return. That was their explanation. I can see another. The meteors had done their work. The sign had been given to this generation. There was no need for God to send them again.

"Think what that means! We are living between the falling of the stars and the day when the powers of heaven shall be shaken and Jesus shall come. How near, then, must be His return!"

(To be continued)

## Shutting Heaven's Door

(Continued from page 6)

there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Matthew 13: 37-43.

Again He said to the disciples, in speaking of His coming: "Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 24: 30, 31.

The meaning of these statements is beyond question. Christ certainly taught that His second advent will mean the consummation of human affairs and the establishment of His own kingdom. Who can read the parable of the ten virgins, as recorded in Matthew 25, and not come to the conclusion that when "the door is shut," there is no longer repentance and forgiveness of sins? The five wise virgins represent those who in this life make their decision for God. The foolish represent those who put off the day of salvation, waiting for a more convenient time. While they are thus waiting in an undecided state, probation's hour passes, and

the Lord comes. "And they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." The fate of those who failed to make this preparation is given as a lesson to us that no repentance will be found after the door is closed. The Master continued:

#### LEFT OUT IN THE DARKNESS

"Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Matthew 25: 11-13.

Thus the Lord Jesus fixes in connection with His second coming the time when probation for the entire world shall close.

Another line of prophecy makes this even more evident. It is that which deals with the seven last plagues, as outlined in the sixteenth chapter of Revelation. These seven plagues are the unmingled wrath of God, sent upon a guilty and unrepentant world.

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God." Revelation 15: 1.

They will be unmixed with mercy, because the door of mercy will have been closed when they begin.

"And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth forever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from His power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled." Revelation 15: 6-8.

We have every reason to believe that

these plagues will be literal and terrible catastrophes that will sweep over the world. Furthermore, it is evident that Jesus does not appear in His second coming until the seventh plague is afflicting the world; for we read:

"The seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found." Revelation 16: 17-20.

#### WHEN THE LAST PRAYER ASCENDS

This language is in accord with the description given elsewhere of His second coming. See Revelation 6: 12-17; Matthew 24: 27-31. Probation, then, will have closed some time before the actual appearance of Jesus. The last sermon that leads to repentance will have been preached, the last prayer offered for sinners. Then will be fulfilled that prophecy of Amos:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord, and shall not find it." Amos 8: 11, 12.

Now is the day of salvation. Now is the time to make sure work of eternal life. How gladly would Satan have men believe that the opportunity for salvation is extended beyond this life, or that through some migratorial or evolution-

## Signs of the Times

Published weekly by the Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California, a Corporation of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

Entered as second-class matter September 15, 1904, at the Mountain View, California, post office, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in section 1102, Act of October 3, 1917, and authorized September 18, 1918.

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Three months .....                 | \$ .50 |
| Six months .....                   | .90    |
| One year (50 numbers) .....        | 1.50   |
| With "Questions and Answers" ..... | 2.15   |

#### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

*Expiration:* The wrapper bears date of last issue due on your subscription. Unless renewed in advance, the paper stops with expiration date.

*Change of address:* Kindly give both old and new address.

We send no papers from this office to individuals, without pay in advance. When any one receives copies without ordering them, they are sent by other parties, and we can give no information in regard to them. Persons thus receiving copies of the SIGNS are not indebted to the office, and will not be called upon to pay for them. Please read the papers you may receive, and hand them to your friends to read.

JAMES COCHRAN, *Circulation Manager.*

ary process, every one will ultimately reach a state of eternal bliss and happiness! For those who thus believe will be led to put off the day of preparation until "a more convenient season." Let us not build on such a false hope, but make Christ our own personal Saviour to-day.

### Seven Beautiful Songs

FOR church and home, with music for the piano: "The Mountain Flower," "The Wonderful River," "The Christian Banner," "His Loving Voice," "The Fading Flower," "The Rosebud You Gave Me," and "The Flower Queen." Standard sheet music size, ordinary voice. All seven for \$1.00, postpaid. Order from Otto Lundell, 728 Unity Building, Chicago, Illinois.

### What Is Heaven?

(Continued from page 9)

and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith Jehovah." Isaiah 65: 17, 19, 21-25.

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. . . . And the ransomed of Jehovah shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isaiah 35: 5, 6, 10.

Not only will every pure, legitimate physical faculty be enabled and gratified, but we believe that the Word of God teaches, as in the parable of the talents, that every mental gift acquired by the Christian in this life, and consistent with the new life, will not only be preserved for the next existence, but will be improved to an unlimited degree, from inexhaustible sources of research.

The astronomer, the mathematician, the chemist, the botanist, the anatomist, the zoölogist, and the musician will be able to carry out to the fullest extent their desires of advancement in science and art, probably not in the same lines as here, but on a higher and more satisfying, untrammelled scale, as heaven is higher than earth. As another has said:

"There, immortal minds will contemplate with never failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. . . . Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the

mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.

"All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar,—worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe, and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God's handiwork. With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation,—suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity. . . . And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase."

This is the corporal, physical, tangible heaven that apostolic Christianity holds out to every one who shall "confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised Him from the dead." Romans 10: 9.

This is the heaven that it is yours and mine to enjoy, if we shall prove ourselves worthy, in this day of our probation, to be among its sinless inhabitants.

"As it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2: 9.

R. D. B.

## A Special on Spiritualism

OUR next number will be entirely devoted to spiritualism, a subject of the greatest import and consequence, now before the whole world. We recommend a serious and thoughtful perusal of its contents. This special issue in a splendid two-color cover will replace the usual articles, which will be resumed in number 13 following. Additional copies of number 12 on spiritualism may be obtained from the publishers at the following prices: 100 to 1,000 copies, \$.02 a copy. 5,000 to 10,000 copies, \$15.00 a thousand. Single copies, \$.05 each.

### "Wickedness Incarnate"

A CERTAIN "lawless one" is to work with mighty power just before the second coming of Christ; for we read:

"Then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of His mouth, and bring to naught by the manifestation of His coming; even he, whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."  
2 Thessalonians 2: 8-10.

The text shows that Satan himself is the instigator of this great lawlessness that is to meet its destruction in the second coming of Christ. The Twentieth Century New Testament version of these verses presents the same thought in slightly different language, and is worthy of quotation and study:

"Then will 'wickedness incarnate' appear, but the Lord Jesus will destroy him with the breath of His lips, and annihilate him by the splendor of His coming. For at the coming of the Lord there will be great activity on the part of Satan, in the form of all kinds of deceptive miracles, signs, and marvels, as well as of wicked attempts to delude—to the ruin of those who are on the path to destruction, because they have never received and loved the truth to their own salvation."

"Wickedness incarnate" is to appear. Wickedness incarnate, ultimately in the form of Satan himself, is what this world is very rapidly preparing itself for. Note particularly that "at the coming of the Lord there will be great activity on the part of Satan." This activity will be in the form of all kinds of "deceptive miracles, signs, and marvels," in his "wicked attempts to delude."

This scripture is one of God's warnings against the masterly workings of Satan. If we will but follow God's Word closely, if we will but heed its instruction, if we will but listen to the voice of God's Spirit speaking to us through that Word, we shall recognize and avoid these delusions. We shall not be entrapped by any of Satan's incarnate wickedness. The feverish unrest of the times is very rapidly throwing the world into the place where it will be ready to plunge headlong into all kinds of excesses and delusions; but our nerves need to be made steady through a constant confidence in God's Word and through a careful study of it.

Each individual is destined to fall under these delusions of Satan or else to

avoid them through standing with God in the light of His Word. God has exposed the delusions. He makes their meaning and their significance very clear in His sacred Book. God has also provided shelter and protection for each one. What we will do is a matter of individual choice. What will be our lot throughout eternity is resting upon the decisions of these fleeting hours.

### How Old Are You?

PHYSICIANS tell us a man is as old as his arteries. This may be true in one sense; but the attitude of the mind many times determines the age and efficiency of the man, physically as well as mentally and spiritually.

The body begins to age when deterioration of tissue is not balanced by the constructive agencies of nature. In other words, we reach the time when we gradually become unable to pay the principal,



© Wide World

With the lira at its nadir of value in the international market, Italy's financial situation is very critical. Rome is placarded with posters, even on arches and monuments, appealing to the people to subscribe to government loans.

and then the interest, on the mortgage held by Death, and he finally forecloses.

A person's mind begins to age when it reaches the saturation point and no new ideas are absorbed. Except in the case of certain diseases of the mind or body, this saturation point may be fixed by the individual. Because of ignorance, sloth, or discouragement, some climb but part way up the mountain of success, and fail to look upward to the future and its greater heights of achievement. They begin to take satisfaction only in something on the trail behind them. Such an attitude of the mind invariably reflects itself on every other activity of the body. We generally associate the aged with stories of the past and what they *did*; and on the other hand, youth is synonymous, in our minds, with plans and aspirations for the future and what is *yet to be done*.

Some persons never grow old. Through temperate living and the right use of

their talents, their minds retain the vivacity, perception, and resourcefulness of youth. Not long ago the newspapers displayed the photograph of a woman past the half century mark, who had recently taken her fourth university degree. She credited her success and youthful appearance to a resolution made many years before, that she would devote at least fifteen minutes each day to learning something new. Dr. Crane tells, in the February *American Magazine*, of his taking up a new profession at forty-eight.

The late Dr. James M. Buckley, for many years editor of the *Christian Advocate*, is another example. One of his biographers states: "He excelled as pastor, preacher, lecturer, editor, churchman, and humanitarian. But he achieved distinction in many neighboring fields. He was sufficiently versed in the law to enable him to discuss principles, statutes, and cases with jurists; he knew more of the art of healing than some physicians, and was an honorary member of medical societies; he had studied all memory systems and made incomparable use of the best of them; he was an authority on epilepsy and insanity; faith healing, Eddyism, and spiritualism had in him a keen analyst and most discerning critic; his acquaintance with the literature of tuberculosis, indigestion, alienism, and other pathologic fields was only less than professional. He was no smatterer. For years it was his custom to read fifty pages daily from well selected books. He attended lecture courses in law and medicine. He sought the company and conversation of men who could give him ideas and facts. Whether genius is to be defined as 'infinite capacity for taking pains,' or whether it is only 'the faculty of lighting one's own fire,' he had it; for he was as adventurous as an Edison in breaking into untrodden paths, and was himself a wizard in his pursuit and capture of the ultimate facts."

The lamented exponent of strenuous life, Theodore Roosevelt, Edison, Burbank, John Burroughs, and many others, have manifested by their lives and activities the youth, the joy, the health in daily progress.

The world is overburdened with self-satisfied people, people who will not put forth the effort necessary to advancement. We bury our talents in a napkin rather than put them to use.

Every genuine Christian should be a vigorous demonstration of advancement in every manner of which he is capable. He will not become paralyzed in his soul or have locomotor ataxia of the mind. His experience will be a continual growth, everlasting youth. True religion, with its accompanying belief in a heavenly Father and a divine Saviour, will not only bring peace and trust, but it will spur on with unselfish ambition to the loftiest mountain peaks of endeavor. If the motto of the energetic apostle Paul is ours, there will be no danger of our becoming senile or "growing old."

"One thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded." Philippians 3: 13-15.