

# Signs of the Times

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A general view of the athletic stadium at Antwerp, Belgium, on the opening day of the Olympic games, in which the United States athletes easily gained first place.

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**I**T IS but another chapter in the book of fate which records the ceaseless and menacing struggle between the classes. Another strike, another clash between capital and labor, Denver unprepared, and the toll of human life and stained honor is the result. It is becoming the "ordinary" in modern American history for a city to be placed under martial law, to guard its very existence. And the experience in Denver is but added evidence of the alarming fact that the spirit of lawlessness is undermining the fundamentals upon which American freedom is built. It is time for sane men and women to face the facts as they are. It is time to cease our blind optimism and recognize the measure of things.

The Word of God gives a forceful prophecy of world conditions in the last days. That vivid word picture has reached its fulfillment at the present time. To-day the world not only reads the prediction, but also witnesses its fulfillment in grim reality. "Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days," says the apostle James. In the United States to-day, "two per cent of the people of our country hold sixty per cent of its wealth, while the sixty-five per cent of the people, who are poor, own only five per cent of the wealth." Hundreds, during the last five years, have taken their seat of dishonor among the millionaire class. Then, as if a mockery to social justice, it is estimated "that four million persons are dependent upon public relief in the United States, that another four million are destitute, and that ten million have an income insufficient to maintain them in a state of physical efficiency for their work."

Oliver Cromwell, with characteristic sagacity, said, "If there is anything that makes many poor and makes a few rich, that suits not a commonwealth." The mushroom crop of war and "after the war" millionaires, bred on shameless profiteering, has produced the inevitable—increased hatred among the masses for the capitalistic class. And it must be admitted that the great majority of the class known as the "masses" are at heart but little different from the capitalistic class. Hatred

## Where LAWLESSNESS AND VIOLENCE Will End

By VARNER J. JOHNS

and selfishness are still the ruling passion in the breast of Labor as well as Capital, poor as well as rich. The profiteering germ has lodged in many a heart, eager for riches at any price, but unable to gain the coveted prize. Extreme bitterness rankles in the breast of Labor as he watches, with coveting eyes, the revelry of Capital in extreme luxury.

This bitterness of heart is growing so intense that it looks as though the rich would soon "weep and howl" for their miseries that are coming upon them. The final clash is not far in the future. The mob scenes in our American cities are but the outbursts that indicate the smoldering volcano underneath. They are but a part of the "perilous times" foretold as characteristic

of the last days of this earth's history in its sin-cursed condition. When the volcano bursts in all its fury, the world will be a vast Russian maelstrom, where chaos, the bitter fruit of lawlessness, degrades civilization to the scrap heap.

The world of to-day is the legatee of a sixty-century régime of the power of sin. The harvest of rebellion is being reaped. The bald truth is that sin has so poisoned the hearts of men, that the world has about reached the bed rock of wickedness.

The Son of God, in foretelling last-day conditions, makes a striking parallelism: "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot . . . even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Among the many sins of Sodom was the sin of lawlessness. A mob scene is vividly portrayed in the record of Genesis 19, which shows Sodom a hotbed of iniquity. "As it was . . . so shall it be," says the inspired Word; and as a picture of the mob scenes in Boston, Omaha, Denver—everywhere—flashes across our minds, we exclaim: "The parallel is here. The prediction is fulfilled. It can be no worse."

Sordid selfishness, inordinate vanity, snarling hatred, decadent morality, incessant distrust and rivalry, hypocrisy in religion—these and other modern sins have corroded our civilization, filling the future with the darkness of uncertainty. Those who foolishly predicted a millennium on this earth are

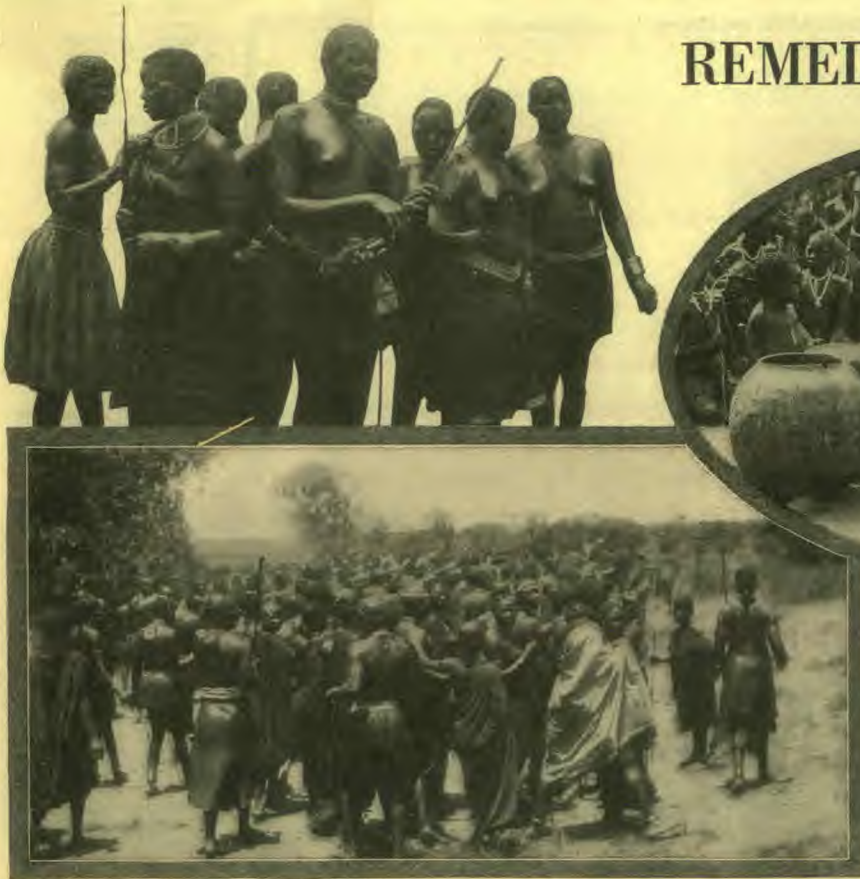


living in a world of illusion. There can be no cessation of strife while sin remains to curse and blight the world. Sin must be removed. But it never can be removed by means of civic reform or religious federation, or any effort that man can put forth of himself. There is but one hope for the world.

The second coming of Jesus is the world's one star of hope. The Biblical signs of the nearness of that coming are being fulfilled before our eyes. The world has stained its garments in the slough of sin. The blot must be removed. As Jesus comes in majestic power, sin and those who have reveled in sin will

be destroyed "with the brightness of His coming." The "balance of power" will then be transferred to the righteous, who then will reign eternally with Christ in that great kingdom of righteousness. Amid all the hatred, the confusion, the violence, God urges His people to "be patient . . . unto the coming of the Lord."

## THE REMEDY FOR STIMULANTS



*The One Thing That Satisfies Our  
Cravings*

By DANIEL H. KRESS, M. D.

In Africa, home-brewed beer is placed in a large basin, and as many as can get their heads in at one time drink from it. The scene depicted is a wedding party.

PURE air, food, drink, and exercise are considered as the four great essentials of life. Nothing additional, aside from clothing and shelter, it is supposed, is actually needed. Yet it is notorious that from the earliest ages, and among all peoples, the custom has prevailed of using many substances for no other purpose than to give unnatural acceleration or stimulation.

In the East Indies, there has been used from time immemorial an extract of hemp, which is infinitely more pernicious than any other stimulant or exhilarant known, with possibly the exception of cocaine or heroin. The betel is universally used in Ceylon. The women are more inveterate chewers than the men. The habit is a most repulsive one. The use of tobacco is found among all peoples, from the most savage to the most highly civilized. We will not mention the numerous other drug addictions prevalent among mankind.

### THE UNIVERSAL LONGING

There is a longing in human nature which demands something in addition to the essentials of health named—something that is not necessary for health or life. When the evils of one habit are experienced, nations in self-defense decree that it must cease, as was the case in China with opium. Not uncommonly one

bad habit is given up only to yield to another. So long as human nature remains what it is, this will be the program. Charles Lamb, at a time when public sentiment stood arrayed against the smoking of tobacco, said, "I design to give up smoking, but I have not yet fixed upon the equivalent vice."

Usually men resort to the use of the narcotic or stimulant against which there exists the least prejudice. Alcohol has been in general use in nearly all lands for many years. To take wine and beer has been the social custom for ages. Now that the evils from the use of alcohol have become apparent, and public prejudice has been aroused against it, and the law demands that its use as a beverage shall cease, those who are deprived of it naturally resort to something else, often equally or more injurious. Is this an evidence of degeneracy? Dr. A. A. Brill recently said before the New York Academy of Medicine: "Persons who drink to excess are abnormal or defective. If they cannot express their deficiencies in alcohol, they do it in some form more injurious to themselves."

### INCREASE OF DRUG ADDICTS

According to Dr. Copeland, New York City's health commissioner, drug victims have increased rapidly since the enforcement of prohibition, fully 100,000 persons

in New York City alone being addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs. He says:

"In December of last year, thirty-three drug stores in this city sold 2,600 ounces of narcotic drugs. A grain of morphine divided into four portions will make a good dose for a day.

"Now if these thirty-three drug stores sold 2,600 ounces, you can figure out the extent of the habit when it can be announced as a fact that there are 2,600 drug stores in this city.

"One of the thirty-three stores sold 585 ounces. The sale of one certain drug in this city during January amounted to more than the quantity sold during the whole of the previous year, and the sale in February exceeded that of January.

"For six months, I have been preaching against the spread of the drug habit, and I am regarded as a fanatic on the subject. Now the federal authorities are taking a hand in the matter, and raids are being made on conscienceless doctors who have sold the drugs, so that at the present time we have 2,000 addicts on our hands being treated at our clinic.

"In this country last year there was consumed 475,000 pounds of opium, ten times as much as in any other country. Statistics prepared by the government Health Department show that there are

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# WHAT WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS?

By W. H. BRANSON

**B**LOTTING out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross." Colossians 2: 14.

There was a law which expired at the cross. Many, without serious thought, have taken for granted that this was the law of Ten Commandments, which was given on Sinai. But that is a serious error. While a law was nailed to the cross, it was not the Ten Commandments. Instead, it was the ceremonial law given by Moses to the Jewish nation, and which was entirely separate and distinct from the law which was written on the tables of stone.

There are therefore two distinct codes of law brought to view in the Bible. One is the moral law, more commonly known as the Ten Commandment law; and the other is the ceremonial law, sometimes designated in the Scriptures as "the law of Moses." We have already shown, in previous articles, that the moral law is eternal, and that it will continue forever. It could not, therefore, have been "blotted out" or "nailed to the cross." But the ceremonial law was different. It was only a temporary arrangement, made to serve till Christ should come; and with that event it automatically came to an end.

## DISTINCTION IN LAWS

That we may better understand the difference between these two laws, we should notice some of the points of distinction. One law, the moral law, was written by the Lord Himself. "He gave unto Moses, when He had made an end of communing with him upon Mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God." Exodus 31: 18. "And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables." Exodus 32: 16.

The other, the ceremonial law, was written by Moses through inspiration. "Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests." Deuteronomy 31: 9. "And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying, Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee." Deuteronomy 31: 24-26.

Further distinguishing between these two laws, the record declares: "The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; He shined forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of His saints: from His right hand went a fiery law for them. . . . Moses commanded us a law, even the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob." Deuteronomy 33: 2, 4.

And again: "Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them." 2 Kings 21: 8.

These verses clearly show that God recognized a distinction between the law which He had commanded them and the law which Moses commanded them, and this distinction is faithfully kept up throughout the Bible.

We notice further that the law of God was written on tables of stone. (Exodus 31: 18.) The ceremonial law, or law of Moses, was written in a book. (Deuteronomy 31: 24.)

The former was kept by the children of Israel in the ark that was in the most holy place of the sanctuary. There was nothing in the ark but the tables containing this law. (Exodus 25: 16; 1 Kings 8: 9.) The latter, the law of Moses, was kept "in the side"—just outside—of the ark. (Deuteronomy 31: 26.)

The law of God contained only the Ten Commandments. (Deuteronomy 10: 4.) When these were written, "He added no more." Deuteronomy 5: 22. The ceremonial law "stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances." Hebrews 9: 10. It consisted in instruction given to the Israelites concerning the intricate and varied forms of ceremonial service, such as the offering of special sacrifices for special occasions; how to prepare the sacrifices; who should minister in the sanctuary; when the priest should wash his clothes; etc. "This is the law of the burnt offering, of the meat offering, and of the sin offering, and of the trespass offering, and of the consecrations, and of the sacrifice of the peace offerings." Leviticus 7: 37.

The law of God, the moral law, deals only with moral obligations; the law of Moses is wholly ceremonial. The former is perfect. (Psalm 19: 7.) The latter was only "a shadow of good things to come." The sacrifices pointed forward to the death of Christ, and could not "make the comers thereunto perfect." Hebrews 10: 1.

The law of God is holy, just, good, righteous, and true. (Psalm 119: 142, 151, 172; Romans 7: 12.) The ceremonial law was not good. (Ezekiel 20: 25.)

The former is a law of liberty. (James 2: 10-12.) The latter is a yoke of bondage.

The former is eternal, and stands "fast forever and ever." Psalm 111: 7, 8. The latter was only temporary, "imposed on them until the time of reformation." Hebrews 9: 10.

## A LIMITED LAW

Thus it is seen that the ceremonial law was limited to the Mosaic dispensation. It governed the Levitical priesthood only. Its offerings typified the offering of the Son of God on the cross for guilty man—"the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Being a shadow, it could not reach beyond its substance. Therefore it must of necessity end at the cross. "The priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." Hebrews 7: 12. This verse, of course, refers to the law which governed the priesthood, the ceremonial law. When Christ came, He became "a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec."



Hebrews 7: 21. The Aaronic priesthood was brought to an end. After Christ had expired upon the cross, and had shed His own blood to atone for man's transgressions, the blood of bulls and goats was no longer a necessity. It had no further meaning. The type had met its antitype; the shadow had reached its substance; and therefore the law which had regulated these sacrifices came to an end by virtue of its limitations.

Christ "abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances." Ephesians 2: 15. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us," He "took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross." Colossians 2: 14.

But the fact that the ceremonial law, the law of Moses, was temporary, and ended at the cross, does not in any way indicate that the Ten Commandment law ended at that time. Christ declares that "it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 16: 17. "Verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law." Matthew 5: 18. Heaven and earth are still in existence; the same stars that Abraham saw are still in evidence in the heavens; the same sun and moon still rise and set. Though the earth is waxing old "as doth a garment," it has not passed away. This, then, is absolute evidence that not even a jot (the smallest letter) or a tittle (the smallest part of a letter) has passed from God's law.

## STANDARD IN THE JUDGMENT

This law will be the standard of the final Judgment, by which all men's lives must be tried. (James 2: 10-12.) Man's whole duty is involved in keeping its precepts. (Ecclesiastes 12: 13.) Those who keep it faithfully will finally have a right to the tree of life, and will enter in through the pearly gates into the New Jerusalem, the city of God. (Revelation 22: 14.)

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## The Remedy for Stimulants

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three or four millions of addicts in this country."

In the South, there has been a great increase in the use of habit-forming drugs since the prohibition of alcohol. Some queer freaks have also been reported. Dr. Brill tells of a person who was rescued from alcoholism "only to go on what his family call 'roast beef jags' following the eating of six or seven pounds of roast beef at a sitting." This is because meat is a stimulant. The uric acid that it contains will produce a form of intoxication; hence this freak. Mr. E. M. Statler, owner of the famous Statler hotels, in referring to the predicament hotels are in since prohibition is enforced, predicts, "In time, we may become afternoon tea drinkers, as the English are."

He said: "In fact, I look for a spurt in this direction immediately in the cities where the dinner hour is seven o'clock or later. In the cafés abroad, you will see scores of men in the late afternoon sitting at tables drinking coffee. I predict that we will see the same thing in this country, though not to the same extent. The Englishman would rather go without his dinner than without his afternoon tea. People who know more about it than I do," he said, "assure me that good hot tea is a great pick-me-up, that it really is the cup that cheers and does not inebriate. They tell me that it encourages conversation, and that with a reserve supply of hot water and some trimmings of toast and French pastry, it is capable of holding a group together in animated talk for an hour or two. I certainly hope so," he added, "for it looks as though we hotel men have got to 'beat our swords into plowshares,' figuratively speaking; and if we can do it by turning our bars into tea rooms, so much the better."

### THE EFFECTS OF TEA

Tea is not the harmless beverage it is supposed to be. In time, it greatly injures the nervous system, making nervous wrecks of its users. It is one of the causes of the increase in insanity. "Personally," Mr. Statler said, "I think there will be more smoking with prohibition in effect than there is now." The chain stores throughout the country for the sale of tobacco, he says, "claim that the business goes up wherever there is prohibition." The use of tobacco has increased enormously the past year, and is still increasing. There has also been an immense increase in the sale of soft drinks containing caffeine since the enforcement of prohibition. The time is certainly coming when the use of these other intoxicants will be much more common than at present. Tea and coffee houses will in the future become a public nuisance. In Great Britain, in the seventeenth century, they had to be closed up by law as detrimental to the health and well-being of the people. Smoking also became so common that laws were en-

acted against it. It came to be regarded as vulgar. The time came when Dr. Johnson could say, "Smoking has gone out," although some years before that, the practice in England was general, women smoking as did the men.

### SNUFFED INSTEAD OF SMOKED

It is a matter of history that nine out of every ten who gave up smoking at that time took to the use of snuff. The snuff was drawn into the nostrils with a quill. The practice of snuff taking had its origin in French society. The use of snuff soon became general in Great Britain. Seventy years ago fully one half of the people of the United Kingdom, of both sexes and all ranks, were said to be addicted to the use of snuff. For every one that smoked then, five took snuff. We are informed that "the brilliant gayety and licentious excesses of the eighteenth century society were ushered in with snuff." The practice was in fact associated everywhere with "laxity of morals and brilliancy of society."

The profligate court of France was the home of snuff. Here snuff was everywhere in evidence. Napoleon abhorred smoking, but carried snuff in his waistcoat pocket and took it profusely. Nis-son, a Frenchman, described the English beau as a "creature compounded of a

Medicated snuffs were largely sold as cure-alls. These no doubt contained other habit-forming drugs, even worse than tobacco.

Snuff was regarded as a great blessing to mankind. Moliere said: "There is nothing equal to snuff. It is the craving of upright men, and he who lives without snuff is not worthy of life. It not only rejoices and purifies the brains of men, but it also instructs their souls into righteousness, and by taking snuff we acquire virtue." Snuffboxes were then passed around after dinners, instead of the pipe as formerly. George IV, it is said, had a dozen different kinds of snuff on his dinner table. His mother and wife (the ill-fated queen) both took snuff profusely. The almost fanatical extent to which snuffing was carried can hardly be appreciated. It is said that when Lord Peter-sham died, he left \$12,000 worth of snuff. Some had snuffboxes for every day of the year. At that time, if a crowned head desired to acknowledge an obligation to an individual, it was generally done by the presentation of a gold snuffbox set with diamonds.

Following the battle of Waterloo, the House of Commons, in one year, appropriated twenty-two thousand five hundred pounds sterling for snuffboxes alone, as complimentary presents to be bestowed upon diplomats and soldiers engaged in the events consummated on the field of blood. This represents a sum of over \$100,000.

### THE EVILS BECAME APPARENT

The time came when the evils of this filthy practice became as apparent as those of smoking had been before, and another wave of reform then swept over Great Britain. Snuff taking followed smoking and went out. But as it went out, in its place came the modern cigarette, and with it smoke inhalation. This practice was introduced into England about the year 1857. During the Crimean War, the British soldiers, being brought in contact with the French and the Spanish on the field of battle, formed the habit of smoking cigarettes. On their return, we are told, the youth of Great Britain "copied the manners of the heroes of the day, both by cultivating beards and by smoking cigarettes."

For years, Great Britain has recognized the practice as the greatest and most to be dreaded of all her foes. It is eating the vitals out of the nation by destroying her young men for service in time of war or of peace. The practice is now common among women also. During and since the war, the increase in the consumption of

cigarettes has been phenomenal. Great Britain recognizes her danger, but how to meet it is her problem.

### INTRODUCTION OF CIGARETTES

The use of cigarettes was not introduced into America until about fifty years ago. Since that time, the practice has swept everything before it; and to-day it is practically universal among men, old

## ✧ COURAGE ✧

By B. F. M. SOURS

ARE the colors down? Is the might all gone?  
Has the foe shot well, and no end in view?  
Brother—charge! Trust God for the victory,  
And charge; for above the clouds, the blue  
Ever abideth.

There are foes, are foes; there are roads all  
rough;  
There are victories that come at last;  
There are triumphs great that must wait the  
power  
Of a prayer of a humbled heart; then vast  
Power hideth!

Then rise and shout for the golden day  
When the tide shall turn, and the victory  
Shall fill all the skies with the flush of fire,  
With the foe 'mongst those whom history  
Derideth!

O courage, soul! Thank God for life!  
Thank God for power, for triumph won!  
Who conquers all? The Christ is He!  
To triumph He, the eternal Son,  
Swift rideth.

periwig and a coat laden with powder as white as a miller's, a face besmeared with snuff, and a few affected airs." "A snuffbox and a gold-headed cane survived as the professional equipment of a physician." "Ladies snuffed as artistically as men." The snuffboxes were of various designs. Some of them were studded with diamonds.



and young. Women too are now becoming victims of the cigarette. In the year 1900, the factories in the United States turned out three billion cigarettes. In the year 1918, the production amounted to thirty-nine billions. In addition to this, it is estimated that twenty billions were sold in this country by foreign concerns. The billions rolled by hand are not included in these estimates.

It is said that one manufactory alone had planned to spend five million dollars in the year 1918 in advertising. This factory claimed to be turning out at the time over one hundred carloads every month of one well-known brand of cigarettes alone. The advertising was cleverly carried forward. The sympathies of the people were enlisted. Even religious organizations that before opposed the use of cigarettes, were cunningly swept into the scheme, and aided the tobacco trusts in their propaganda.

How well the trusts have succeeded in doing this, it is not necessary to enlarge upon. Almost every one above the age of fifteen among the male population smokes. Converts to the habit are made at the rate of about two thousand daily at present.

#### THE ONE PERFECT SATISFIER

In every human being there exists a desire for something, he knows not what. This desire has been placed there by God. It is not a desire for narcotics, however, although these will for the time being obliterate it. It is a desire for the divine nature, which alone can permanently satisfy the longing. The devil is fully acquainted with the plan of salvation. He knows that God has placed in the human heart something that would, if followed, lead to a life of holiness and purity. His aim is to deaden the brain so that no such desire will be felt. Narcotics will do this most effectively, and hence he employs these. They are in fact his substitutes for the Spirit of God. They say, Peace, when there is no peace.

These narcotics—whether alcohol, opium, cocaine, tea, coffee, or tobacco—are the greatest enemies of the gospel. They do more to prevent the gospel message from coming to darkened minds than anything else. It is well to know that opium or cigarette fiends are seldom reached by the gospel. It is not in Sunday school or in church that these are found. "Wine is a mocker," says the wise man, "and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." This applies with equal force to other narcotics and intoxicants. They are all miserable deceivers.

"Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine," Paul admonishes believers, "but be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:17, 18. In giving up one vice, whether it is the use of alcohol, tobacco, tea, or coffee, do not plan to take up with an "equivalent vice," as did Charles Lamb, and as do all who do not know what the heart craves. Open the heart's door to Him who says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3:20.

This is the world's remedy. Without it, human nature will naturally resort to narcotics and stimulants. The one elevates, refines, and ennoble mankind, while the other degrades.



## SATAN AND HIS OVERTHROW

By A. J. MEIKLEJOHN

**T**HERE was a time when there was no sin. There was no devil, no cruel, deceiving foe. Throughout God's universe, unfallen worlds reverberated with notes of adoration to the Being whose mighty power and tender love created and sustained them. From the smallest creature to the majestic seraphim who stood beside Jehovah's throne, all lived to serve, and served to worship Him. No sin, no disease, no death! Oh, why did it not continue?

There came a day when dark designs filled the heart of Lucifer. Though he was created perfect in form and in mind, yet when long cycles of eternity had passed away, his heart became lifted up because of his beauty. (Ezekiel 28:12-17.) He went forth from beside the throne to raise the standard of rebellion. The ranking in his own heart soon spread to others. Angels who had never known sin, listened to him. Many were seduced and joined with him, spurning God's efforts to reconcile them to Himself. Then "there was war in heaven" (Revelation 12:7-9), and the devil and his angels were cast out. This newly created world was the next object of Satan's attack, and the story of the fall is known to us all.

Not satisfied with causing the fall and the consequent expulsion from Eden, he set himself to lead man still farther into sin. He raised the club that took the life of Abel. He instigated all the heathenism of the antediluvians. He fanned the flames of human lust until man, created in the image of God, sank lower than the brute. With every power of body and mind prostituted, God-given instincts and emotions were placed as votive offerings before his satanic majesty.

Then it was that "it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth" (Genesis 6:6), and the antediluvian world perished in the waters of the Flood. Noah and his family alone were left to repeople the earth.

But Satan worked none the less. The gage of battle was taken up, and warfare raged unmitigated. Wherever the haunts of men are found, there he has carried his nefarious enterprises. He entered the breast of the South Sea Islander and made him a cannibal. He deceived the African and made him a devil worshiper. He lured the financier and made him a profiteer. He reared his slimy form on the hills of Bethlehem and slew the innocents. With relentless hate, he pursued the Son of God. He plaited the crown of thorns and placed it on His head. He scourged His bleeding back, and then, in fiendish glee, spiked Him to the cross of Calvary.

#### SATAN'S DAYS NUMBERED

But when Jesus came forth triumphant over the tomb, Satan trembled. His days were numbered. Still, with a zeal that never flagged, he persecuted the church. He plots and deceives and destroys with all the power of his master mind. In the liquor traffic, in the records of the divorce courts, in the wave of crime and immorality that seems even now to be engulfing the race, we see the trail of the dragon. With all his devilish ingenuity, he is working to reproduce, on a more gigantic scale, his work of the antediluvian age. He incites strife among the nations. He heats the passions of distant peoples and sets the war blood boiling in their veins. He will deceive the kings of the earth and lead them forth in battle array to Armageddon. (Revelation 16:16.) Then Christ will come, and Satan, with his cohorts of demons, will be bound a thousand years. (Revelation 20:1-5.)

At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be let out of his prison. The city of God, with the saints, will come down to the earth, and the unnumbered wicked will be called forth from their long sleep. A thousand years will not have changed his character. He, with his angels, will marshal the unnumbered wicked, and together they will compass "the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city," and fire will come "down from God out of heaven," and devour them. (Revelation 20:9.)

#### VIEWS HIS HELLISH WORK

But before his destruction he will have an opportunity to view once more the results of his work. He will see the long battle line of sin reaching over seventy centuries. Beginning just out of Paradise, it reaches down past the Flood, over Calvary, past Armageddon, and on to the city of God. And there, inside the city, will be the objects of his assaults. There

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# The Authority of JESUS

By  
WILLIAM P.  
PEARCE



TO all appearance, Jesus was unauthoritative. He had little family standing, hence no name nor title gave Him advantage. He had little scholastic training, hence He was not counted among the celebrities. He had no political office, hence no "pull" with the "men higher up." In fact, He sprang from obscurity into notoriety at thirty years of age. From the so-thought precociousness exhibited to the doctors in the temple, when He was but twelve years of age, until the call of His apostolic band, His life was silence. And, judging by His sad, tragic exit from a spectacular stage of activities, His power was a cipher.

Nearly two thousand years have passed since then, and Jesus is better known and more potent than any man or set of men. His principles adopted, have made Christianized lands the most powerful and benevolent. His "Golden Rule" is the "gold chain" that links humanity to His heart, making all "newborns" sons and daughters of His Father God.

## MANY-SIDED AUTHORITY

But Jesus did have authority in more than one way. The word "authority" is used in several senses. His introduction to this earth was by *commissioned authority*. He was God's representative—the Ambassador of the court of heaven. It is true He brought no written credentials with a gold seal upon them, such as ambassadors carry to the court of the nation to which they go as mouthpieces of their own nation. Because of this, Roman and Jew considered His claim a fake. They did not believe He "came down from heaven" (John 6:38) to do God's bidding. But they found out later that Jesus represented God, and God's created ones who abode with Him in illimitable splendor. His word was law—law put aside by the generality, but now recognized by nations, and to be fully obeyed

in the coming days when He shall be recognized as "Crown Prince."

## SPOKE WITH AUTHORITY

Jesus *spoke with authority*. "He taught them," said Mark, "as one that had authority, and not as the scribes." Mark 1:22. The Greek word for authority in this place is *exousia*—privilege. "By what authority doest Thou these things? and who gave Thee this authority?" (Matthew 21:23), asked a formidable deputation of chief priests and learned scribes and rabbis, who came to the temple after He had silenced the commercialists, and was now teaching the people. They wanted to know His right to assume the functions of rabbi and prophet. But Jesus would not parley. Quickly He put a question to them—a question whereby they might discover His claims if they wished: "The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?" Matthew 21:25. They were nonplused by this sentence of twelve words. To deny John's mission would have endangered their safety. To acknowledge it, would have been to confess the authority of Jesus, for John publicly and emphatically testified that Jesus was the Messiah.

Though not "set apart" to the priesthood by the "ordaining council," yet Jesus was privileged to teach from "higher up." When He spoke, it was with the voice of God. "As My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things" (John 8:28), said He. He had expert knowledge. He was "the last word" on things relative to life and death, things dogmatic and prophetic, things spiritual and eternal.

## WROUGHT WITH AUTHORITY

Jesus *wrought with authority*,—extraordinary authority over elements, diseases, sin, death, and devils. When the lake waves boiled, and winds unchained

howled, He rebuked them, and quietude so reigned that His disciples asked, "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!" Matthew 8:27. Mark tells that "He healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils" (Mark 1:34)—devils that became dumb in His presence. To the man healed of palsy He said, "The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins." Mark 2:10. Lazarus and the son of the widow of Nain He brought to life from the dead. (John 11:43, 44; Luke 7:14, 15.) Strangest of all, He had power over His own death. At least He said so: "I have power to lay it [My life] down, and I have power to take it again." John 10:18. On this score, He appealed to men to have faith in Him: "Believe Me for the very works' sake." John 14:11. His calm assumption of authority "in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18) remains undisputed. No man has taken His crown.

## GOVERNS WITH AUTHORITY

Jesus *now governs with authority*. He has not swerved one iota from His first religious principles; and His commands are the axioms of right living and right doing, as when enunciated. He is "authority in religion" in spite of the liberalistic protestators. And obedience to that authority alone makes men free (John 8:32)—delightfully so, as contrasted to heathenism, which is despotic in its genius and spirit, and Islamism, which means submission—submission to blind fate.

"The love of Christ," said Paul, "constraineth us." 2 Corinthians 5:14. Jesus rules not with "a rod of iron" (Revelation 2:27), but by love—the greatest love ever exhibited.

The word "constrain" is sometimes interpreted as drawing or compelling. In relation to love for Christ, this is true; for "we love Him, because He first loved



us." 1 John 4: 19. But the Greek term (*sunecho*) used in this connection means "to hold together," like the hoops around the staves, which keep the barrel together; and like the law of attraction, which keeps certain stars whirling around an orb of magnitude.

Alcyone is the center star of the Pleiades. It is a thousand times more brilliant than our sun. Hugh Macmillan was of the opinion that our sun and its planets wheel around it at the rate of four hundred and twenty-two thousand miles a day, in an orbit that will take nineteen million years to complete—held together by some unknown astronomical influence.

In like manner, Christ is the center of mankind, holding His saints together for life, and for the countless years of eternity, by the undefinable, experiential love that controls them to serve or sacrifice, in any capacity, in any place, and among any people.

#### JUDGES WITH AUTHORITY

Jesus will judge with authority. He declared that the Father had "given Him authority to execute judgment" (John 5: 27)—judgment at two judgment seats: judgment seat one, where He presides to determine rewards of His saints; judgment seat two, where, in conjunction with His Father, He presides to execute the decisions reached. "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ," said Paul, "that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5: 10. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ," wrote the same apostle to Timothy, "who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom." 2 Timothy 4: 1.

Think of it, Jesus-Saviour now, Jesus-Judge then! Christians should bear in mind that there is to be a resurrection of credits as well as a resurrection from the dead. That is why John urges us to carefulness, that we may receive "a full reward." 2 John 8. Sinners should bear in mind that there is to be a resurrection of character as well as a resurrection of the dead.

It is said that a judge, hearing loud cries, rushed to the door just in time to see a horse come dashing down the street, with the carriage swerving to the right and the left. He ran into the street; and as the horse came up, he grabbed the lines at the risk of his life, and saved the driver. Some time after, this man was brought before him, charged with murder, tried, and found guilty. The judge asked if he knew of any reason why sentence should not be passed upon him.

"Judge," said the condemned man, "don't you know I'm the man you saved in that runaway?"

"Yes," answered the jurist, "I remember. I was your savior then, I am your judge now."

So with Jesus. He is God-empowered to forgive, to save, to comfort, and to heal; but His power reaches beyond the mortal and terrestrial. The saved He will justly reward; the unsaved He will condemn, and from His presence drive them to their doom.

"How careful, then, ought we to live,  
With what religious fear,  
We such a strict account must give  
Of our behavior here!"

## What Was Nailed to the Cross?

(Continued from page 3)

To this agree all the great Protestant creeds. I have before me the "Discipline" of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, edition of 1898. On page 4, article 6, I read: "Although the law given from God by Moses, as touching ceremonies and rites, doth not bind Christians, nor ought the civil precepts thereof of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet notwithstanding, no Christian whatsoever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral."

I also have at hand a copy of the "Confession of Faith" of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church; and on pages 43, 44, under the caption "The Law of God," is found the following language: "The moral law is the rule of duty growing immediately out of the relations of rational creatures to their Creator, and to each other, these relations being the product of the divine purpose. The law has its ultimate source in the will of the Creator. This law is of *universal* and *perpetual* obligation. . . . After Adam's fall, and that of his posterity through him, a written form of the law became necessary. This was given in the Decalogue, or Ten Commandments. . . . This law is not *set aside*, but rather *established*, by the gospel. . . . It accordingly remains in full force as the rule of conduct. It must not, therefore, be confounded with the ceremonial law, which was abolished under the New Testament dispensation."

Also, the "Baptist Church Manual," article 12, says, "We believe that the law of God is the *eternal* and *unchangeable* rule of His moral government."

Thus we see that the Bible and the church creeds agree that the moral law of Ten Commandments has not been abolished, but still remains in full force. God's standard of morality and righteousness is the same to-day as it always was. He never changes. Therefore the constant prayer of God's children to-day should be like that of David of old when he said, "Make me to go in the path of Thy commandments; for therein do I delight." Psalm 119: 35. For "thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6: 16.

## Satan and His Overthrow

(Continued from page 5)

will be Moses and Elijah and the prophets and apostles of the Lamb. And there, too, will be the martyrs, and ransomed men from cannibal islands and heathen lands—saved and beyond his power.

Then fire will come "down from God out of heaven," and destroy them. It will be the day of retributive judgment. The very earth seems to sink beneath their feet, and evil men and demons are engulfed in an ocean of flame.

When the last traces of sin are destroyed, the fire will cease to burn. He who caused sin and death, will never be any more. (Ezekiel 28: 19.) The wicked will be as though they had not been. (Obadiah 15, 16.) The earth will be recreated, and under the benediction of God's love, will be the long-looked-for home of the saved. May God hasten the day!

# Signs of the Times

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J. H. COCHRAN, Circulation Manager

## A Call to the Wanderer

THE whole purpose of divine revelation is to open a way for the wandering to come back, to convince the doubting, the fearful, and the despondent that their Father desires their return.

The whole book of God, from beginning to end, is a continual cry to the children of men, "Return unto Me, and I will return unto you." And God orders the whole course of His all-teaching and eternal providence to confirm the voice of a Father's yearning and pleading love which cries through His Word.

It is impossible for the wanderer to go beyond the reach of those bonds of love with which the Holy and Blessed One is ever drawing the disinherited child of earth back to his lost inheritance.

DANIEL MARCH.

## Promises to the Overcomer

It is almost axiomatic that when one becomes thoroughly converted, he no longer thinks of gratifying selfish desires, but in zeal for others, gives all to the cause—even life itself. Witness Paul, Peter, Huss, Jerome, Moffat, Livingstone, and a host of others, noble laborers, who gave all for the Word of God.

Just as surely as Jesus spoke the words to His first disciples, just so certainly does He speak to His people to-day: "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it." Matthew 16: 25.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne."

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels."

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." Revelation 3: 21, 5; 2: 7.

CHESTER E. KELLOGG.



## "Genuine Phenomena"

MUCH space in a recent leading church paper is devoted to the story of a series of public performances by a highly trained and much traveled preacher in order to show the absurdity or "tricks" of many of the spirit manifestations. The first part of the article would indicate that this leading prelate thought that all spiritistic manifestations were merely trickery, but he disabuses our minds upon this subject through the following paragraph:

"That does not mean that I deny the existence of genuine phenomena. I admit them, because I have seen some of them myself. But I do question the explanation given by the 'spiritist' and by the advocates of the 'diabolic' theory. Lightning was a phenomenon since the beginning of the world, and yet for sixty centuries civilized and uncivilized nations explained it by the devil, the gods, or by some preternatural powers. Then came an American, Ben Franklin, with his kite, and proved it to be electricity. So it has been with spiritistic phenomena—only we are still waiting for an adequate explanation."

"Genuine phenomena" are admitted; but this preacher questions the explanation given by the spiritists who think that they are communicating with the dead, and also that given by persons who advocate the "diabolic theory."

For a long time, popular teachers of religion held to the idea that spiritism was all the result of trickery; but gradually all these teachers, regardless of the church to which they may belong, are coming to realize that there are indeed "genuine phenomena." Many of these religious teachers who have tried to refute spiritism have failed, because they do not recognize a clear Bible truth which tears away the very foundation of the spiritists. The Bible nowhere teaches that a man has an immortal soul which may be separated from his body at death; hence the professor of Christianity who clings to the heathen dogma of the immortality of the soul holds as one of his beliefs not only the corner stone but the whole foundation of the spiritualistic doctrine. But once the Bible is allowed to speak, this foundation is swept away, and we know that the spirit medium is not bringing to us the spirits of the departed dead.

Having learned the Bible doctrine concerning the spirits of the dead, if we will go just a step farther and listen to some of the warnings against the deceptions that will be practiced, the whole subject of spiritism is readily cleared of all mystifications and misleading "phenomena."

Said Jesus, "There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you beforehand." Matthew 24: 24, 25.

How specific are the foregoing words of the Master in warning us against deceptions that will be so cunning as almost to deceive the very elect of God!

In harmony with those words is the warning of the apostle Paul in the second chapter of his second letter to the Thessalonians. He speaks there of "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." Verses 9, 10.

How very clearly does this text warn us against Satan as he works with "power and signs and lying wonders"! These writers in the inspired Book tell us of "genuine phenomena," but give us to understand that these "phenomena" come from Satan.

Then we may not depend upon "signs" and "wonders" in establishing our belief; but we must come directly to the



Wide World  
Archbishop Mannix, of Melbourne, Australia, who has recently visited America, and who, on his way to Ireland, was taken from a steamer by a British destroyer and was prevented from going to Ireland. For many years, he has been a bitter foe of England; and he never speaks but that he champions the Irish cause and vilifies English rule in Ireland.

Word of God, and let our faith rest upon this secure and unshakeable foundation. The warnings in this Word assure us that the evil spirits will yet appear to bring down fire from heaven in their work of deception; and multitudes of the mightiest men of earth, including its kings and great potentates, will be swept under the delusion. The events of this world are rushing toward the fulfillment of these prophetic warnings. We do well to place all of our confidence in the Word that is given to us through Him that knows. If our investigations are conducted merely through our human senses, they may deceive us.

## A World Role No More

DR. DAVID P. BARROWS, president of the University of California, through extensive travel and research, has unexcelled facilities for knowing world conditions. In a recent address, he is reported to have said: "The decline of Europe is so tremendous that Europe will never again play a world rôle. The advance of America and Asia alone prevents European domination in world affairs."

Great world leaders are constantly placing these dark pictures before our mind. The outlook from a mere human standpoint is not very assuring; but when we personally come to know God and His prophecies and promises, the face of everything is changed, and we look into the future with calmness and confidence. Is this experience yours?

## Would Control Palestine

THE leaders in the Catholic Church have been quite outspoken in their opposition to the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine as proposed by the Zionists. The *Catholic Standard and Times*, in its issue of August 21, devotes much prominent space to the views of Pope Benedict upon this question, and the instruction that he has sent to the Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem. A special dispatch from London concerning the Zionist movement, in this same issue of the *Times*, has the following very striking paragraphs:

"As long as the British administration is in power there is no doubt that Christian interests will be safe; this is recognized by the Swiss Holy Land Society, which views the situation in terms of Catholic interests alone. But when the time comes for local self-government in Palestine what will happen? Here again the Swiss Holy Land Society has a ready answer.

"It is clear, says the society, that the only safe course will be for the holy places of Palestine to have their guardianship vested in some international power; a power with no political ambitions. And the only international power that is able and capable of exercising this guardianship is the holy see."

Students of prophecy are quite fully agreed that mighty interests are going to center in the Holy Land just before Christ comes. All understand that it is here that the world-embracing forces of Armageddon's war are to be gathered. And regardless of how the details of those prophecies will work out, we can see the immense interests that are centering in Palestine, and that events are rapidly shaping themselves for the last great struggle.

The Turkish power has held that territory for centuries, and will not in the ultimate fully relinquish it without a desperate conflict; and on the other hand, the crusades all through the centuries have been inspired by the desire to wrest the holy places of Palestine from the "infidels." But regardless of just how that prophecy will be worked out, all will be deeply interested in following the events that cluster around that land of the ancient Israelites and of Christ and His early apostles.

It may not be necessary, at this time, that we know how the details will be worked out; but it is important that we carefully study the prophecies themselves, so that our minds may be wholly familiar with the inspired predictions; and then, with a keen interest, we will keep close track of the current events that center in Palestine. For whatever God has foretold in prophecy, will be fulfilled most accurately just as He has predicted. And if we will to do His will, He has promised to guide us.