

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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**DOES GOD CARE?—See page 8**

July 18, 1939





# The Flight of TIME

A king's escort. Flying boat, battleship, and destroyers following the "Empress of Australia," which bore the King and Queen of England on their American tour.

TOPICAL

## A Survey of World Events by the EDITOR

some mechanical failure may turn their strange and marvelous vessels into tombs of steel.

All too frequently have such disasters occurred of late; first the "Squalus," then the "Thetis," then the French vessel off the coast of Indo-China. Three tragedies so similar, following one another in rapid succession, have wrung the hearts of people everywhere, and caused a tide of genuine sympathy to flow toward the bereaved. There is not a reader of the *Signs* anywhere, we feel sure, who has not felt a pang of sorrow at the thought of the scores of splendid men whose lives have been so suddenly snuffed out.

Yet as we grieve over these sorrowful events we recall the many other calamities that turn our newspapers from day

to day into messengers of doom. Not only upon the sea is death striking swiftly, but on the land and in the air. Whereas but two hundred men perished in these submarines, forty thousand will die this year upon the highways of the United States alone. In disaster upon disaster this awful massacre proceeds, filling hospitals with wounded, cemeteries with dead.

How perilous indeed is life today! How quickly, in any one of a hundred ways, we may be ushered from time into eternity, to meet God in the judgment! Well may we all reflect upon the solemn warning, "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart." Tomorrow may be too late.



### DISASTER UPON DISASTER

WHEN the psalmist spoke of men going "down to the sea in ships" and braving the perils of stormy winds and waves, he never thought the day would dawn when men would dare the even greater dangers of sailing deep beneath the oceans.

But such times have come, and every day hundreds of brave men, at the call of duty, go down under the sea in submarines, taking their lives in their hands at every dive, never knowing but that

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### TOUCHING BOTTOM

WHEN men and women forget God and despise His counsel, there seems to be almost no limit to the evil they will imagine and seek to carry out. They descend to the very depths of sin and degradation. If it is possible to "touch bottom" in such matters, they surely touch it.

*Typical of the tragedy of the Jewish refugees, over 900 of whom arrived at Havana, Cuba, on this liner, but were refused admission. France, England, Belgium, and the Netherlands finally agreed to take a fourth of the homeless wanderers apiece.*

SIGNS of the TIMES



Back in the days before the Flood, people reached this place. It was said of them that "every imagination" of the thoughts of their hearts "was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5.

Today, "as it was in the days of Noah," a similar condition is arising. Luke 17:26. Once more the imagination of man is being polluted on a world scale, the process being hastened by crime-promoting movies, crime-advertising radio stories, salacious novels, and an unrestricted liquor traffic.

No wonder the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

Then, as if this description were not entirely adequate to cover the situation, he added: "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." Verse 13.

How accurately this ancient prediction fits our time! Our daily newspapers are largely a record of the sins that it describes. And the story of evil certainly seems to be getting "worse and worse."

Illustrative of this tendency is the amazing "murder for insurance" case tried recently in Philadelphia. Termed "the most gruesome and appalling case of mass killing in American history," it concerned a monstrous murder syndicate, which "poisoned, drowned, and sand-

bagged an estimated one hundred victims in order to cash in their insurance policies." Dozens of persons have been involved, and their nefarious activities traced into several states. One section is said to have operated on a "pay-as-you-go flat rate murder basis." "The entire thing," said one investigator, "is so fantastic that it is unbelievable."

It is indeed incredible that men "made in the image of God" should sink so low. As an example of extreme covetousness and total absence of "natural affection," this is perhaps the worst yet. These heartless criminals have surely "touched bottom" in their evil course.

All of which is but another sign of our times, warning us that the last days of earthly history are upon us, and that the coming of the Lord in judgment and redemption is near, "even at the doors."



#### DECEIVER UNMASKED

FOR generations past alcohol has been spoken of as a "stimulant," and multitudes have imagined that it has some magical potency in toning up the nerves and giving new energy to the human system. Recent scientific research, however, has completely exposed the fallacy of this belief.

Both in the United States and in Great Britain leaders in the medical profession have boldly announced that alcohol, far from being a stimulant, is actually a

*So strained did labor relations become in Kentucky recently that national guardsmen were called out to escort miners to work.*

#### OUR COVER PICTURE

This week our cover reminds us of the tragedy that befell the British submarine "Thetis" in the Irish Sea. Even as this photograph was taken, ninety-nine men were suffocating within. The men in the boat were attempting to cut a hole in the stern, but the cable snapped and the submarine sank to the bottom. Four men escaped by the Davis apparatus.

sedative, a definitely harmful narcotic.

The Medical Research Council in England has just issued a third revised edition of a volume entitled "Alcohol: Its Action on the Human Organism," in which the statement is made that "the action of alcohol on the nervous system is essentially sedative, and—with the possible exception of a slight direct influence on the respiratory center—is not truly a stimulant. The popular belief in the stimulating properties of alcohol, as regards nervous and other functions, seems to be of purely subjective origin, and illusory.

"The apparent stimulation is in the main, if not wholly, an effect of the narcotic influence of the drug, which, as we have seen, dulls the drinker's perception of unpleasant conditions in himself and his surroundings, and may make him feel better, more efficient, and stronger than he really is.

"Effects which are apparently of a different character,—effects such as the increased loquacity and freer gesticulation produced by alcohol,—which are usually interpreted by the drinker, if not by those about him, as evidences of stimulation, are really narcotic effects; they result from the removal of the control exercised by the higher nervous centers, a control

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INTERNATIONAL







# The COURAGE ★ of JESUS

*His Fight Against  
Slander, Poverty,  
and Misunderstanding*

*Another Inspiring Mes-  
sage From the Pen  
of*

**J. L. TUCKER**  
(Broadcast over KEX)

ONE Christian writer has said, "It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ." This meditation, or daily contemplation of Christ, would marvelously change these lives of ours, for by beholding we are changed into His glorious image.

In the epistle of John we are told that we are to "be like Him." 1 John 3:2. In His love for the lost, in His zeal to save, in the diligence of His study, in the earnestness of His prayer life, we are to be like Him, as well as in the exercise of faith, and in a life of purity. We are to develop the tactfulness He used in dealing with all mankind. We must have His fearlessness in meeting opposition, in dealing with sin. There must come into our lives the diligence He had in His. We must be about our Father's business. The great compassion of His heart must grip our hearts, and we, too, must be a living sacrifice; our all must be laid upon the altar of service.

And we must have His courage. The prophet Isaiah says of Him: "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have

set judgment in the earth." Isaiah 42:4. There were many things that came into and surrounded the life of Jesus that might have tended to discouragement. There was the stigma that rested upon Him regarding His birth. Again and again His enemies confronted Him with the insinuation that He was an illegitimate child. They said, "We be not born of fornication" (John 8:41), as they tried to discourage and humiliate Him. How many times have we met people who have felt they could not succeed because they could not rise above the stigma of their family connections! Jesus knew all about such discouragements, and He knows how to succor those who are so situated.

Then there is the poverty of Jesus. He had no wealth. Though the King of heaven, He emptied Himself and became so poor that He was homeless. "The foxes have holes," He said, "the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head." Matthew 8:20.

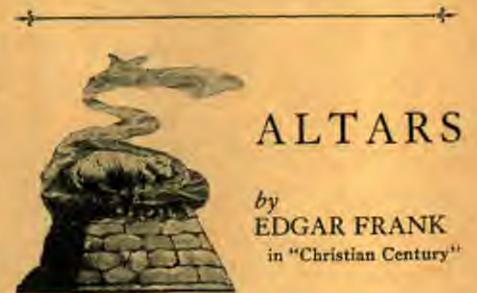
Have you become discouraged because you could not have all the fine things that others have? Have you repeatedly had a case of the blues because the wolf is frequently at the door? Don't be unhappy because of poverty; don't let it discourage you. Jesus would not let it discourage Him; in fact, He chose to be poor "that ye through His poverty might be rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Another thing that might have discouraged Jesus was the way He was treated by His home town folks. You will remember that Sabbath day follow-

ing His experience in the wilderness of temptation, after His baptism, when He came back to Nazareth. He went to the church, was asked to read the Scripture lesson and to make some remarks, and the words He uttered that day struck home to the hearts of His hearers like a two-edged sword. Instead of being humbled by the truthfulness of His words, the congregation rose up in anger, cast Him out of the synagogue, led Him up to the brow of the hill, and sought to

*"Consider Him that endured  
such contradiction of sinners  
against Himself, lest ye be  
wearied and faint in your  
minds."*

—Hebrews 12:3.



## ALTARS

by  
**EDGAR FRANK**  
in "Christian Century"

"A man I know has made an altar  
Of his factory bench.  
And one has turned the counter in his store  
Into a place of sacrifice and holy ministry.  
Another still has changed his office desk  
Into a pulpit desk, from which to speak and  
write,  
Transforming commonplace affairs  
Into the business of the King.  
A Martha in our midst has made  
Her kitchen table a communion table.  
A postman makes his daily round  
A walk in the temple of God. . . .

"To all of these each daily happening  
Has come to be a whisper from the lips of  
God,  
Each separate task a listening post,  
And every common circumstance  
A wayside shrine."



destroy Him. Have you ever tried to lift your voice against sin, wicked indulgences, and found that the home town folks did not appreciate it, and they tried to cast you out? Don't get discouraged. Jesus had that experience, but He would not let any ill-treatment discourage Him.

There was a time in the life of Christ when He rode upon a wave of popularity, when men on every hand proclaimed Him to be a prophet. On every side there was talk of making Him a king, and then, suddenly, because of His plain dealings with sin and His teachings concerning the spiritual nature of His kingdom, the great wave of popularity subsided and Jesus was left alone. It was then that He asked His disciples who were alone with Him, "Will ye also go away?" Yes, it is a discouraging experience to be popular one day and then to be snubbed and rejected the next.

Were you ever misjudged? Was your good ever "evil spoken of," as was the experience of Jesus day after day? Did you get discouraged and quit in the struggle for right because you were not appreciated? Jesus did not. He was lied about more than any man. More false reports were circulated about Him than about any other son or daughter of Adam, but He would not let it discourage Him. Ever ringing in His heart and mind were the words, "I must not fail nor be discouraged." Did you ever have your immediate friends betray you? In an hour of need desert you? Jesus knew what it was. He was betrayed with a kiss by one He had befriended, by one He had had great hopes for. He knew what it was to hear a close friend deny Him with cursing and swearing, and He also knew what it was to be humiliated and to bear others' burdens without any appreciation.

### *The Devil's Anesthetic*

"In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment. Amid the greatest opposition and most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage." Someone has said that "discouragement is the devil's anesthetic that he applies just before he carves out your heart." A discouraged man is a defeated man. He has lost his vision. We should be like the Christian who said, "I will not gratify the devil by being discouraged." I am fully convinced that discouragement is the choicest and most successful weapon that the devil uses in his warfare against mankind.

It was with much pleasure and profit that I read a portion of the life story of that quaint old Cornish preacher, Billy Bray. He had the habit of talking back when the devil whispered his tempta-

tions to discourage. When tempted one time, Billy said to the devil: "What an old fool thee art now; I have been battling with thee for twenty-eight years, and I have always beat thee, and I always shall." And then again when his potato crop was very poor, Satan tempted him to believe that God did not love him, else He would have given him a better potato crop. Billy recognized this as a temptation from the devil, and he said, "Why, I've got your written character home to my house; and it do say, sir, that you be a liar from the beginnin'." And then he told the devil, "When I served you, I did not have any 'tatures.'"

### *Christians Are Sons of God*

Another time when things were going hard for Billy, the devil whispered the suggestion, "The Lord is a pretty hard taskmaster. Perhaps if you would give up this preaching business and tend to some line of work, things would go better for you." And old Billy shouted at the devil, called him a liar, and said, "You had a good job with the Lord once

and you lost it, and now you want me to lose my job." He would not allow himself to listen to the voice of the evil one.

There are two reasons why Jesus did not become discouraged. First of all, He believed in His sonship. You will be surprised, as you read through the Gospels, to see how many times Jesus referred to His Father. Satan tempted Him and put doubts in His mind as to His sonship; but Jesus would not harbor those thoughts. Ofttimes Christians are assailed with doubts as to their experience. Satan would have them look at their failures, their faults, their weaknesses. He emphasizes their inconsistencies and then says, "Surely you cannot be a child of God." In that hour, friends, we need to say, "Now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him." 1 John 3:2. We can quote the promises of Christ. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." John 1:12. We cannot afford to question our sonship, lest we fall before the

*(Continued on page 10)*

## For Whom Will You Call?

by J. BERGER JOHNSON

DR. JOSEPH PARKER was once at a club dinner where one of the speakers foolishly asserted that Christianity had done very little for humanity; that he, for his part, believed that *gas* had been a greater benefactor than Christianity. Hisses and cries of "Shame!" came from all over the house. But Dr. Parker, a guest of the evening, quietly arose and said: "Hush! Do not quarrel with our friend. He is simply stating his belief. Now I, when I am nearing the end of my earthly existence, will call for the consolations of the Christian religion. But our friend here, on his deathbed, will call for the *gasman*."

For whom will you call when that hour comes? It is all very well to disdain Christianity and the hope it proffers, when life goes along like a song. It may be comparatively easy to rail against Christianity while life and exuberant health are ours to enjoy; but what of that hour when you are face to face with the grim reaper? In whom will you place your confidence then?

Representative of these two classes are the testimonies of Paul the apostle and Robert Ingersoll.

Paul said: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

Ingersoll said: "We do not know whether the grave is the end of life or the door to

another, or whether the night here is not somewhere else a dawn. Neither can we tell which is the more fortunate, the child dying in its mother's arms before its lips have learned to form a word, or he who journeys all the length of life's uneven road, painfully taking the last few slow steps with staff in hand. Every cradle asks us, 'Whence?' and every coffin, 'Whither?'"

Which viewpoint will you choose? Will you choose with Paul to say, with confidence, "I am now ready," "for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day;" or will you pass over into the dreaded unknown with Ingersoll's uncertainty? Weigh the question well, and decide it with your own conscience. If death should overtake you tomorrow, just what would be your attitude? For whom would you call?



*"Sustained and soothed by an unflinching trust, approach thy grave."*



**T**HINK of finding a human skull deep under the great Table Mountain in Tuolumne County, California, in gold-bearing gravel! More than one was found, and one whole skeleton, under other mountains in the Mother Lode country.

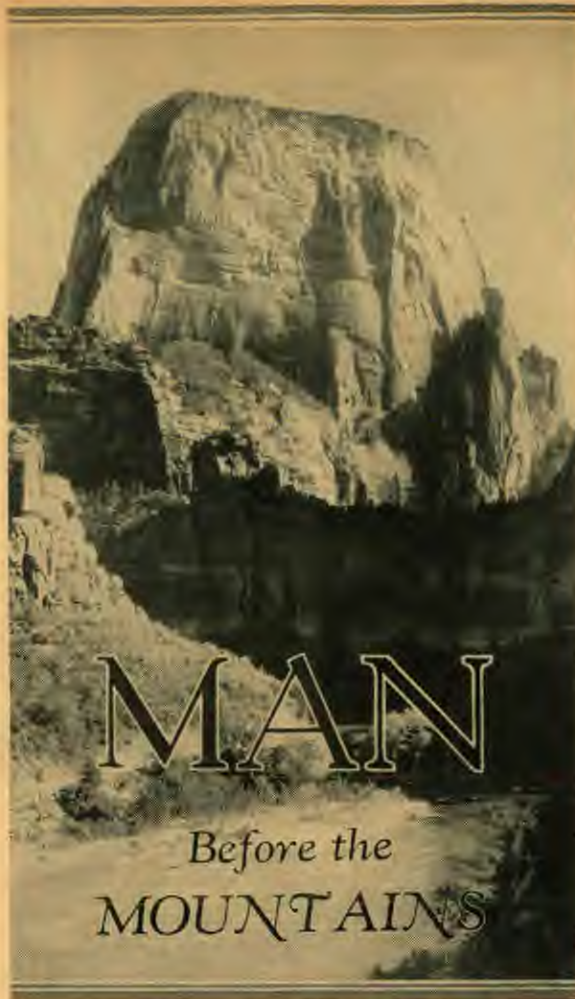
The first skull we speak of was found in July, 1857, in a shaft about 95 feet below the surface. Formerly it was deep beneath the great black lava cap, which at first extended out that far, but this cap has been broken off and eroded, now leaving only the water-laid lava mud (now rock) alternated with the various gravel layers. This skull was found under the Valentine Claim, in the gravel of an old river channel now left stranded thousands of feet above the present canyon bottoms which the modern rivers have cut on each side.

Mastodon bones were found with it, and petrified wood. Above the gravel was a thick layer of very fine water-laid volcanic ash and sand containing much fossil wood and many leaves of trees and plants now all extinct. The bones of many kinds of huge extinct animals were found all over that country in this gravel, under similar conditions.

As outlined in our previous article, State Geologist Whitney says these mud and clay layers were laid down *on the level*, and that the fossil plants and trees all belong to *one level*. But now that country slopes sharply to the westward and has been uplifted thousands of feet. We described how the Flood waters and upheavals could explain these mysteries. We will now describe where and under what conditions some of the human remains were found, and will reveal the great controversy that arose about them.

Of course, the finding of actual human bones could only have been expected. For years many stone spearheads, arrows, axes, blades, and various kinds of vessels and mortars for grinding and storing food had been found. These and many other hand-made tools and carved objects were found of both bone and stone, *all over the placer gold country*, almost wherever digging had been done.

Even earlier than this a human lower jawbone measuring five inches from condyle to condyle, a very large speci-



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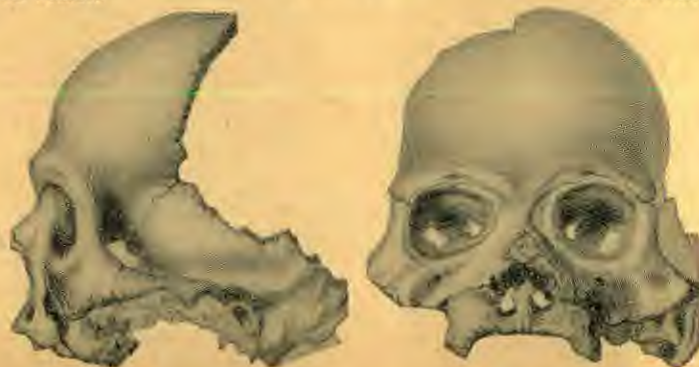
### *Pre-Flood Human Remains Discovered*

by BENJAMIN F. ALLEN, A. B., LL. B.

men, had been found under Table Mountain. In 1855 a whole skeleton was found at another place. However, the human bones and the fragile bones of other small animals were found only in diggings where the work was done by hand. The miners could then see the bones before they were destroyed.

Most of the work was done by playing huge jets of water from pipes against the banks of gravel, thus washing away the greater part of the material and getting it out of the way. The gold was separated

*The Calaveras Skull, found one hundred thirty-two feet below the top of a lava-capped mountain.*



from what remained, and from sluices or troughs through which the off-wash was run. These roaring waters from the pipes were under high pressure from dams higher up in the mountains. They pushed and ground the whole gravel mass together, even with many large boulders in it. This, of course, destroyed all delicate fossils at once. Besides, there was little chance of their being seen. No wonder nearly all the bones found by the hydraulic method were only the strong bones of mammoths and other large animals. And only the larger trunks of the many petrified trees withstood the terrible grind. Few small branches and no leaves were found.

The fact that in hand digging so many delicate fossils were found is strong evidence that they were also buried through the whole mass. This is also strong presumptive evidence that they were *fresh when buried*, else they would have been ground to powder then as now. Possibly thousands of human bones were destroyed by the hydraulic mining.

Human remains, either the bones or the tools and implements, were found over an area ranging two hundred miles or more northwest from Mariposa. Only the limits of the gold-bearing gravels, and therefore of the digging, has determined the limits of finding the human remains. *But of course this is no limit at all.* It is highly possible that they exist all along the Sierras, and on both sides, perhaps from the Aleutian Islands to Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America. Indeed, from the South American Andes come reports of similar finds, under almost exactly the same conditions. And, having been buried *before* these great uplifts, who knows how far and wide they lie buried where there are no uplifts?

Similar finds of human implements and utensils are also reported from Colorado.

Dr. S. Laing, in "Human Origins," page 388, says that in a mine called Minas Geraes, in Brazil, human implements and human skeletons were found deep beneath the surface. They are also found in the loess and gravels of the pampas of Argentina. They are reported from many other parts of the world also.



The only *well-known* human bones, however, which have been fully and critically examined are those of the famous Calaveras Skull, from Calaveras County, California, in the placer gold territory. This skull was found under the same conditions as were the other human bones. It was found in February, 1866, about 132 feet below the top of the lava-capped mountain called Bald Hill. Many writers have confused this skull with the one found in 1857 under Table Mountain. They were found in different counties. (J. D. Whitney, "Auriferous Gravels of California," vol. 1, pp. 258-288.)

This Calaveras Skull was found beneath the following layers, from the top down: 40 feet of black molten lava, 3 feet of gravel, 30 feet of light-colored water-laid strata of lava dust, 5 feet of gravel, 15 feet of light-colored water-laid lava, 25 feet of gravel, 9 feet of dark brown water-laid lava, 5 feet of gravel, and then the skull, then 4 feet of red water-laid lava, then 17 feet of red gravel, then bedrock of tilted dark slate—the usual bedrock if it is not granite or schist. It is in the slate and associated schists and gneisses that the gold-bearing quartz occurs in its original position. This is its original source. The waters ground it out of this underlying mass. The regular alternation of layers in Bald Hill suggests that the mighty waters were being disturbed regularly, as in tidal sweeps, the lava dust being laid down during the rest period between tides.

### The Skull Was Fresh When Buried

Dr. J. D. Whitney, who was state geologist while these discoveries were made, says the Calaveras Skull had been partly crushed. He says other small bones of the body, of the arm and foot, had been jammed into it. He says "it came to rest in a position where *lime salts* had access to it," which of course is a sign of ocean water. Indeed, certain lime deposits are found in that field, even in the old channels. That the skull was fresh when buried is proved by the fact that it formed, with these lime salts, sufficient albuminoids to cement a lot of other small bone fragments and the gravel and itself together. It also coated itself by precipitating a calcium crust, and it precipitated and formed crystals of sulphide of iron within it. Only fresh animal matter, with the fats and albumins of life still in it, can do such things.

These same facts are true of practically the whole world of animals buried by the Flood. A whole living generation of animals, perhaps hundreds of times more numerous than today, was apparently buried *freshly* killed. The witness of the chemical changes which their bodies went through is of tremendous signifi-

cance as indicating the extreme suddenness and world-wide calamitous nature of the Flood.

A rhinoceros tooth, for instance, found under Table Mountain, had 16.97 per cent of fluoride of calcium in it, practically certain proof of *ocean water* as well as fresh burial. Old bones from the surface, or old bones washed out from elsewhere and redeposited, could not possibly form these minerals nor be capable of such pronounced chemical activity. Not one bone in a million is buried this way today, and yet our present school of geologists claim as their *main doctrine* that *only by the processes going on today* can we account for the past.

### Other Bones of Men and Animals

In an article titled "The Antiquity of Man," appearing in the *Nineteenth Century Magazine* of November, 1887, Dr. A. R. Wallace sums up a few of the

finds of human implements and animal bones found in the California placer gold region:

"In Tuolumne County from 1862 to 1865, stone mortars and platters were found in the auriferous (gold-bearing) gravels along with bones and teeth of mastodon 90 feet below the surface, and a stone muller was found in a tunnel driven under Table Mountain. In 1870 a stone mortar was found at a depth of 60 feet in a gravel under clay and 'cement,' as the hard clay with the vegetable remains (an old volcanic ash) is called by the miners.

"In Calaveras County from 1860 to 1869, many mortars and other stone implements were found in the gravels under lava beds, and in other auriferous gravels and clays at a depth of 150 feet. In Amador County mortars have been found in similar gravels at a depth of 40 feet. In Placer County stone platters and dishes

(Continued on page 14)



## NEWS FLASHES

POINTED PARAGRAPHS  
OF WORLD INTEREST

by W. L. EMMERSON

- ✦ **PROTESTANTS DECLINE** The Archbishop of Armagh, at the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, reported a decrease of church members in southern Ireland from 220,000 in 1926 to 194,000 in 1936.
- ✦ **DRINKERS INDICTED** "You moderate drinkers, not the drunkard, keep the trade going," declared Viscountess Snowden, in a recent address before the National British Women's Total Abstinence Union.
- ✦ **THE JEW AND THE GOSPEL** "The Gospel of Jesus Christ," says a statement issued by the Committee of the World's Council of Churches, "is the fulfillment of the Jewish hope. The Christian church owes it, therefore, to the Jewish people to proclaim to it the fulfillment of the promises that had been made to it. And it rejoices in maintaining fellowship with those of the Jewish race who have accepted that gospel."
- ✦ **RELIGION IN GERMANY** According to the latest available statistics, 43,500,000 persons in the new German Reich are Protestants; 37,500,000 are Roman Catholics; while other Christian groups have 6,000,000 adherents. There are still about three quarters of a million Jews in Germany.
- ✦ **HIGHEST WIRE-LESS MAST** The new radio mast of the Deutschland-sender Station at Herzberg, Saxony, is claimed to be the tallest in Europe. It measures 1,111 feet.
- ✦ **CIVILIZATION AND HOME** "The whole of Christian civilization has been built up on the sanctity of the Christian marriage bond," asserted Fr. Owen Dudley at a meeting of mothers. "Remove that bond, and the whole structure of Christian civilization would collapse; and with it would vanish the whole of that happiness associated by millions with that magic word—home."
- ✦ **WHIRLPOOL OF HATE** "The waters," declared the Rev. P. T. Thomson, president of the Baptist Union at its Annual Assembly, "are in spate, and they threaten to become a whirlpool in an orgy of brute force. In the absence of a positive belief, our young people have been bemused by the sense of life's futility. A doctrine that negates all values has recoiled on the world of affairs with devastating effect. It has robbed millions of the sense and enjoyment of human rights. The surrender to materialism has engendered bondage, linked the ideas of fate and necessity, and paved the way for the worship of brute force."



*Eighth in the Series  
on the Promises  
of the Bible*



*Christ, during His ministry, had ever been thoughtful of His followers, and on the day of His resurrection made special effort to enlighten and comfort them.*



# DOES GOD CARE?

*The Promise of Divine Comfort and Companionship  
"Lo, I Am With You Always"*

by ROY FRANKLIN COTTRELL

CHRIST visited this sin-darkened planet to reveal the loving, kindly character of God. He bore the significant name Emmanuel, meaning "God with us." He preached good tidings; He healed the sick; He lived a life of flawless beauty and perfection. It was heaven to be in His presence.

At length on Calvary's hill there came the sudden and tragic termination of that rare life of ministry, followed by His triumphant resurrection from the dead. He was immediately recognized as "a risen Christ, a living Saviour," and during the next forty days that miracle of miracles was authenticated on numerous occasions, and in the presence of many witnesses.

For three and one-half years the Master had been with His disciples. Now the time of His return to heaven and the hour of leave-taking had arrived. As the place of His ascension, our Lord chose the crest of Olivet, a spot hallowed by so many sacred associations and memories. Near by, too, was Gethsemane, the scene of His betrayal and arrest; and the questions might reasonably have been asked: Now that Christ departs from the world and the people who have reproached, insulted, forsaken, and crucified Him, will

He not withdraw from them His sympathies and affections? Will He not transfer His love and tender regard to the sinless inhabitants of heaven who appreciate Him and delight to do His bidding? No, never; His promise to those

beloved disciples stands forth as sure and shining as the sun: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20.

With the departure of the Master, His enemies expected the disciples to be dejected and downcast. But to their amazement the people of Jerusalem looked upon a group of men who were happy, rejoicing, and enthusiastic. With praise and confidence they related the story of the wondrous life, the triumphant death, the victorious resurrection, and the glorious ascension of their Lord. They entertained no fears concerning the future. They knew that Jesus was in heaven, that they had a Friend at the heavenly court, that "in His name" they could present their requests to the Father, and that as His ambassadors they were to go forth "into all the world" with "good tidings of great joy."

These peasant disciples were unschooled men, yet for three and one-half years they had been privileged to sit at

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## ALWAYS NEAR

LIDA MARIE ERWIN

There is no place, afar or near,  
No spot on land or sea,  
Where, listening, I fail to hear  
My Father speak to me.

On distant shore, in lone retreat,  
I hear that voice resound:  
"Put off thy shoes from off thy feet,  
For this is holy ground."

For trusting eyes, His hand will push  
The veil from every place.  
Not sable cloud nor burning bush  
Can hide His love-lit face.

---



the feet of the world's greatest Teacher. In addition to this, they were bidden to tarry at Jerusalem until they received special equipment for their superhuman task—the infilling of the Holy Spirit. They were to encounter the bigotry and prejudice of their own people; while beyond the racial borders they would face a hostile pagan world.

To meet the crises ahead, Christ had promised: "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever. . . . I will not leave you orphans." John 14:16-18, margin.

The Comforter, or Holy Spirit, was commissioned to come and direct the Christian forces of the infant church in their mighty conflict with evil.

"The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." "They shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. . . . Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist." John 14:26; Luke 21:12-15.

The beloved John was exiled to the desolate Isle of Patmos, but there among the lonely rocks of the sea he was cheered by an angel visitor, and was privileged to behold in vision the future conflicts and victories of the church. Paul was "left at Athens alone," but in that metropolis of pagan culture, shrines, and temples, the divine Spirit enabled him to witness effectively for Christ. When brought before Nero, the apostle wrote, "No man stood with me, but all men forsook me. . . . Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; . . . and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion." 2 Timothy 4:16, 17.

Have you ever felt that your life's purposes were defeated and lost? Has trouble or grief laid its crushing hand upon your breast until there appeared no way to turn? Then remember that in spite of the fleeting centuries, the promises of God have lost none of their force.

"At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can

separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer."—"Desire of Ages," pages 669, 670.

In his pain and distress the patriarch Job once cried out, "Oh that I knew where I might find Him!" In that appeal he voiced the longing of countless numbers of men and women in many lands and climes. But Job did not long remain in doubt and uncertainty. He renounced his egotism; he found his God; and all others may find Him when they seek for Him with all the heart. Jeremiah 29:13.

The modernist would rob us of a personal, loving God who is vitally interested in human welfare, and in His place would substitute an absentee god far removed from this world of life and activity, who is powerless to intervene in the affairs of men, even if he would.

Like the modernist, the Athenians venerated an "unknown god;" but Paul presented to them the "God that made the



*"O yes, He cares, I know He cares,  
His heart is touched with my  
grief;  
When the days are weary,  
The long nights dreary,  
I know my Saviour cares."*

world and all things therein," who "giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." He appealed to them "that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us." Acts 17:24-27.

The true worshipers of Jehovah never bowed at the shrine of an absentee god.

Sensing God's presence, King David said:

"O Lord, Thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understandest my thought afar off. . . . If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me. . . . When I awake, I am still with Thee." Psalm 139:1-18.

"Still, still with Thee, when purple morning breaketh,  
When the bird waketh, and the shadows flee;  
Fairer than morning, lovelier than the daylight,  
Dawns the sweet consciousness, I am with Thee!"

"So shall it be at last, in that bright morning,  
When the soul waketh, and the shadows flee;  
Oh, in that glad hour, fairer than day dawning,  
Shall rise the glorious thought, I am with Thee!"

So faithfully did Abraham instruct the members of his household that when Hagar fled from the face of her mistress she realized that the all-seeing Eye penetrated to her hiding place, and her faith found expression in the well-known epigram: "Thou God seest me."

When Esau's murderous anger drove Jacob from home, God spoke to the disheartened fugitive in a vision, saying: "I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee." Awakening from his sleep, the astonished traveler exclaimed, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not." Genesis 28:15, 16. He doubtless spoke far more truly than he knew. Through angel ministry and the Holy Spirit, God is omnipresent, or as expressed in Holy Writ, "a very present help in trouble;" but how tragic the fact that, like Jacob, the vast majority of earth's millions know it not!

Moses was most reluctant to become the deliverer of Israel from Egypt's bondage; but with the call of God, there came the promise, "Certainly I will be with thee;" "I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." Exodus 3:12; 4:12. How wondrously the promise was fulfilled! Mere men who were but the spokesmen for a race of slaves might well have hesitated to enter the imposing palace of Egypt and make demands upon the mightiest monarch of that age. But with Christ there is victory.

In the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, He led them from the land of the Pharaohs toward the Land of Promise. In His mercy He supplied them with bread from heaven to eat, with water from the flinty rock to drink, and promised, "My presence shall go with thee,



and I will give thee rest." Exodus 33:14.

Of the people of Israel it is written that "in all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old." Isaiah 63:9. Yes, wonder of wonders, God led that race of nomads through the Red Sea and the "terrible wilderness," then across Jordan at flood tide; and, in spite of walled cities, giants, and formidable nations, established the Hebrews in the land of Canaan. At the eventide of his long and eventful life Joshua, the conqueror of Palestine, bore witness: "This day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof." Joshua 23:14.

More than thirty centuries have elapsed since those words were penned, and every true Christian still testifies that "not one thing hath failed." Ambassadors for Christ now laboring in Asia, Africa, and other lands sense anew and on many occasions the truth and sweetness of the promise: "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not over-

flow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. . . . Fear not: for I am with thee." Isaiah 43:2-5.

The explorer who spent many weeks alone in his dugout beneath snow and ice near the south pole might have known the comfort and joy of companionship with the "Friend that sticketh closer than a brother." The mountain climber who, in his attempt to scale Mount Everest, reached Mana Peak described the awe-inspiring stillness of that elevation as the "silence of eternity and space," but evidently failed to sense the presence of Him who "inhabith eternity" and who gave the traveler strength to make the ascent.

Jesus of Nazareth has promised: "I will guide thee with Mine eye." He will go with us all the way and "be our guide even unto death." Listening attentively, we hear His welcome voice in counsel, saying: "This is the way, walk ye in it." Obedient to that voice we need feel no dread or alarm of the future; for "whether we wake or sleep," we are the Lord's. "They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for He that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall He guide them." Isaiah 49:10.

## The Courage of Jesus

(Continued from page 5)

temptation and yield to discouragement.

The second reason why Jesus did not get discouraged is that He believed in His mission and its success. Repeatedly He made mention of the work He had to do. He said at the age of twelve, "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" Luke 2:49. Again He said, "I must work the works of Him that sent Me." John 9:4. Again, "The Son of man is come to save that which was lost." Matthew 18:11. He would not be deviated from the pathway of service. He would let no hindrance stand in the way. He would not fail nor be discouraged.

### The Preparation May Seem Long

We must recognize that God has a work for us to do, that "not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God." We, too, must be about our Father's business. We, too, must finish the work He has given us to do. Though the days and months and years of preparation may seem long, let us not become discouraged. I often think of Moses, who spent forty years in the wilderness getting a preparation for the service that God had for him to perform. The more delicate the piece of work, the more careful is God in the preparation to see that we are ready for the task He has for us.

Our business is to be encouragers. It says in Isaiah 41:6, "They helped everyone his neighbor; and everyone said to his brother, Be of good courage." May I give seven reasons why we should be of good courage? The Bible is true and its promises are sure. God loves us. We have a sin-pardoning Saviour. We see in the storm clouds that gather about us the omens of a brighter day. God is leading. The resurrection day will soon give us back our loved ones. The trials and tribulations we encounter are working for us, perfecting in us a character that will enable us to stand in that day, "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." Knowing that all these things work together for our good, we cannot but be of good courage.

And let us ever remember those wonderful words given to Joshua just before the people of Israel were led into the Promised Land: "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses My servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the

(Continued on page 18)

## HOUSE OR HOME?



*"A house can burn,  
but not a home."*

by  
MARTHA E. WARNER

IT WAS not until after reading a letter from a pen friend that it came to me quite forcibly that we mortals, in our confused manner of thinking, are quite apt to speak of the house in which we live as our home, but now I wonder.

Writes my friend, "Did I tell you that our house burned in December and we lost everything? Baby shoes and pictures and faded bridal bouquet, besides the furniture and clothes. But we are all safe, and friends are helpful. A house can burn, but not a home."

That last sentence was the sentiment of my friend's heart as, with her hand held tight in the clasp of her husband, she stood viewing the smoldering ashes of all her earthly possessions. Oh, the courage and faith of her!

Later in meditating upon it, the thought came to me so clearly that although we live in a tiny rented cottage, it is our privilege to own our own home. And nothing, nothing but our own ruthless act can ever destroy or take it from us.

The home is a priceless treasure, founded away back in the beginning of time by God

Himself. It is, indeed, so important that it occupies a place in the very first chapter of the Bible, and again in the last chapter; and if you read carefully, you will find that all the way in between the first and the last chapter there are woven thoughts of home.

The Bible really is a lover's book, for it tells one how to go about choosing one's mate, so as to lay the foundation for a happy home. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." It tells the wife to love her husband, and it tells the husband to love his wife. It tells us to train up our children in the way they should go, and we are cautioned not to spare the rod.

Oh, I am so glad that when God gave us our earthly home He gave us a bit of heaven, and I am so glad to know that it is within our power to keep that bit of heaven in our hearts if we will.

It takes faith and courage to stand by the smoldering ruins of all one's earthly possessions and say, "A house can burn, but not a home." But the woman who can say it is building for time and eternity. I wonder, how many of us own our own homes!



# The Exodus Story

*Fact or Fiction?*

by  
EDWIN R. THIELE

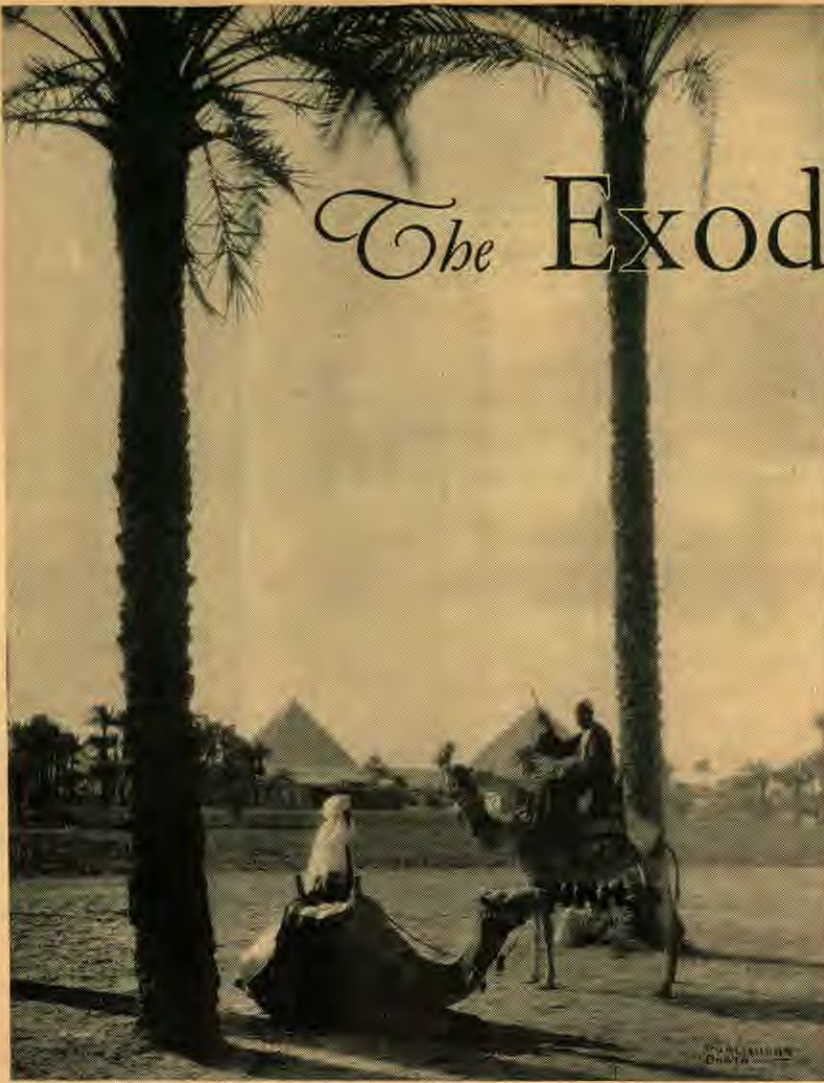
Professor of Religion and Philosophy  
Emmanuel Missionary College

cate at first glance at just which period in Egyptian history the events took place. Perplexing as the problem may be, it is, however, not at all beyond solution, for sufficient data are now available from the Bible and from the results of archaeological excavations to provide satisfactory answers to many of our questions.

If the experiences of the Exodus occupied a unique place in the history of Israel, it must be that those experiences also occupied a very unusual place in Egyptian history. The story calls for such an extraordinary sequence of historical events covering so long a period of time that if it is to be fitted without violence into contemporary history, it must be dovetailed into exactly its correct period or fail to fit in at all.

To locate this story in Egyptian history we must look first for an age when it would be possible for such a non-Egyptian as Joseph to rise from his prison cell to the post of grand vizier of that great land. We would then need to find an age when a new line of kings came to power who no longer knew Joseph and his favored race. Next we would have to look for such a very exceptional period when a daughter of Pharaoh could have invested within her sufficient authority to select and adopt a child and thus grant that child the right of succession to the royal crown. Later we would need to look for a turn in affairs when this future ruler of the land would himself be driven into exile, only to return again when the old king had died who had sought to take his life, and to demand of his proud successor the privilege of freedom for the Israelite slaves. Then we would need to look for a condition of affairs in Palestine which would allow the Hebrews to go in and conquer and hold the land without molestation from their former

*(Continued on page 15)*



*There are today in Egypt enduring monuments to the Israelites' enslavement and toil in that country.*

ONE of the most fascinating stories in the Bible is the record of Israel's entry into Egypt, their sojourn in that land of plenty, their epoch-making experiences of the Exodus, and their conquest of the Promised Land. It is here that we find the narrative of Joseph's sale into Egypt, his rise there to a position of fame and power, his revelation of himself to his brethren, the entrance into Egypt of Jacob with his sons and flocks and herds, the rise of a king who knew not Joseph and reduced the once favored Israelites to a race of slaves, the birth of Moses, his adoption by the daughter of Pharaoh and his training for the throne of Egypt, his exile, return, and final victory in leading the hosts of Israel from their slavery in Egypt to the borders of the Promised Land, the conquest of Jericho, and the seizure of the cities and lands of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua as the future home of the Hebrew race.

No story has ever left so profound an impression upon any people as has this on the sons of Abraham. Over and over again were its events retold in all their thrilling detail, thus to inspire their sons

and their sons' sons with a faith and courage to go forth and perform exploits for a God who had so remarkably manifested Himself in behalf of the founders of the Hebrew race.

As we review this tale, there may arise the question as to whether it is merely the product of a vivid imagination, cunningly conceived and skillfully told, or whether it is indeed sober history, capable of being fitted into the contemporary historical records of the ancient world. When and under what circumstances did Joseph and the Israelites enter Egypt, there to enjoy the best of that favored land? When did a king arise who knew not Joseph? When did the Exodus occur, and who were the rulers concerned? What were the circumstances that might make possible such an extraordinary course of events as is embraced in the Exodus story?

Explicit as the Bible often is in its narration of ancient events, it so happens that in the Joseph and Exodus stories the names of the Pharaohs then reigning in Egypt are not mentioned in the Biblical record, nor are any outstanding particulars given which would indi-



*"If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love."*



# That *NEW* Commandment

## *Which Is It?*

by W. B. OCHS

**T**HERE are many opinions concerning the new commandment, and in order to find the right answer we must go to the word of God.

Many Christian believers, and they are sincere, say that the new commandment is, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." But this is not a new commandment. Back in the days of Moses, the Lord said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Leviticus 19:18. Again we read: "Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Deuteronomy 10:19. Surely then this cannot be the new commandment.

But is not the new commandment a commandment of love? Indeed it is. Let us read it. "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." John 13:34. But notice that this love revealed in the new commandment could not be understood before the cross. The revelation of God's love centers in the cross. Its full significance tongue cannot utter, pen cannot portray, the mind cannot comprehend. Looking upon the cross of Calvary, we can only say, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son."

The source of this love is found only in God. We are told that "God is love." John the beloved disciple tried to picture that love, and the best he could do was to say, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us." 1 John 3:1. If we keep the new commandment, then we shall love each other, not as we love, but as Christ loved us. What a wonderful love! If Christians would only

talk less about love and reveal it more in daily lives, what a wonderful world this would be to live in!

What relation does the new commandment sustain to the law of God? There are those who believe that when they keep the new commandment, they are free from keeping the Ten Commandments. Is this the teaching of Christ and His word? No. There is no proof anywhere in the Bible that the new commandment has taken the place of the law of God. The Bible teaches very definitely that the new commandment supports the perpetuity of the law. In John 15:10 we read: "If ye keep My com-

mandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." Notice the words, "My commandments," not "My commandment." He says, "If ye keep My commandments," referring to the Ten Commandment law, then "ye shall abide in My love." We can come therefore only to one conclusion, and that is that the new commandment supports the binding claims of the law of God. Since the new commandment did not replace the law, but teaches us to keep it, we must conclude that Christ did not do away with the law, for He asks us to keep the new commandment.

One of the best proofs of the perpetuity of the law of God is found in the words, "As I have loved you"—or the death of Christ. It was love that caused Him to die for us. If the law could have been



## Coming Next Week

in addition to the regular features:

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- "I Will Come Again" . . . . . Roy F. Cottrell
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- The Two Commandments . . . . . Charles G. Bellah
- Facing the Wind . . . . . Inez Brasier



changed, then the death of Christ would not have been necessary. The death of Christ established the law. He says: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:17, 18. Someone may say, But does not the Bible say, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law"? Indeed it does, in Galatians 3:13. But where is the proof in this text that the law has been done away? It teaches the very opposite. It says, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law," not the law itself. If there is no law, then there is no curse of the law. "Sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4. Christ came to free us from sin, which is a curse, and set us free from transgressing His eternal law.

The new commandment helps us to keep the law. The unconverted man does not keep the law. He knows nothing about the words, "As I have loved you." Paul makes this very clear in Romans 8:7: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." We are not saved by the law, but through faith in Christ and His grace. When we are saved we keep the law, we are obedient to the precepts of the One who so loved us that He was willing to die for us. The apostle Paul was converted. He kept the new commandment. Therefore he could say, "I delight in the law of God." Romans 7:22. Without faith there is no conversion. The converted life is a life of faith. What is the relation of faith to the law? Let Paul give the answer in Romans 3:31: "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."

Love is revealed in obedience. Jesus said, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:15. How much do we love the Lord? Do we love Him to the extent that we are obedient to His law? Lip love is not sufficient. We must reveal our love by obedience.

"I love Thee, I love Thee, and that Thou dost know;  
But how much I love Thee my actions will show."

The keeping of the commandments unites us with God. Hate always separates, but love brings us together. Love holds us to God and God to us. Those who will stay united with God and keep the new commandment, "Love one another; as I have loved you," will finally hear the words, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14.



Bible Comparisons by CHARLES G. BELLAH  
and Contrasts—18

## The TWO LOVES

THERE are two loves—the love for God, and the love for gain; the first love, and the second love. The first nourishes the soul. The second benumbs the spirit.

Some leave the first love quickly. A hot iron soon cools if the fire goes out. A warm heart soon cools when fervor goes out. It is easier to keep the fire kindled than to rekindle it.

Some leave the first love slowly. Little by little, day by day, step by step, they wander away. "The love of many shall wax cold," said the Master. Matthew 24:12. And He knows. The storms of adversity and the floods of calamity slowly, gradually, and often imperceptibly, cool the ardor of the first love. You remember that Peter cooled his heart while he warmed his hands. Luke 22:54-60.

Jesus says, "I have somewhat against thee." But we can have nothing against Him. When He has something *against* us, we certainly have but little *for* us. Having something against us is a grievous matter to Him, and should be a serious matter to us. He continues, "Because thou hast left thy first love." Revelation 2:4.

His remedy is, "Repent, and do the first works." Verse 5. Take every step back to the very first step. Repent as we did at first. A reversion is the only remedy. Some will have a long way to go. The neglected pump must be primed as before. The candle must be lighted once more. Where the light failed, the love failed. Love may always be found just where it was lost. It is hard for the graduate to be returned to the primary. It is anguish to place the artisan back as an apprentice. But sometimes it is the only way.

No one has ever loved too much, even with the first love. Jesus says, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen." Verse 5. Remember when you had a little heaven on this earth, and were looking for a greater heaven beyond the earth. Go back to where God gave you a new birth, made you a new creature, and started you toward a new heaven and a new earth. Back to where you were more fitted to live than now, and more ready to die than now. Back to where you wanted to do everything the Bible required. You believed it then. Back to where it was easy to do right, and hard to do wrong. It is the only way home.

## The Courage of Jesus

(Continued from page 10)

right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. . . . Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:5-9.

We are nearing home. The land of our heart's delight is not far distant. The heavenly Canaan is almost in sight. We must not lose our conviction, our faith, our way, by discouragement. Our hope must shine brighter, our faith must ring clearer that we fail not of receiving the eternal inheritance prepared for those that love Him.

"I don't look back; God knows the fruitless efforts,  
The wasted hours, the sinning, the regrets;  
I leave them all with Him who blots the record,  
And mercifully forgives, and then forgets.

"I don't look forward; God sees all the future,  
The road that, short or long, will lead me home,  
And He will face with me its every trial,  
And bear for me the burdens that may come.

"I don't look round me; then would fears assail me,  
So wild the tumult of earth's restless seas,  
So dark the world, so filled with woe and evil,  
So vain the hope of comfort or of ease.

"I don't look in, for then am I most wretched;  
Myself has nought on which to stay my trust,  
Nothing I see save failures and shortcomings,  
And weak endeavors crumbling into dust.

"But I look up—into the face of Jesus,  
For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled;  
And there is joy, and love, and light for darkness,  
And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled."

## The Exodus Story

(Continued from page 11)

lords who for years had themselves held all of this part of Asia by the power of their mailed fist.

An era in Egyptian and Palestinian history granting all of these conditions it will be readily admitted is not too easy to find. And yet if the Biblical record of the Joseph, Moses, and Joshua stories is historically accurate, just such a period must be found. The many unusual details of the Biblical story call for such an extraordinary sequence of historical events that when once the proper period has been located there should be no doubt concerning its correct identification. The details of the narrative stand out as prominently as the projections of a sheet of paper where it has been torn in two. Fit those projections together again in their correct relationship, and you will have a perfect and harmonious whole. Thus also must the details of the Biblical narrative dovetail into the details of Egyptian and







ture of the California evidence. We repeat that, for strictly geological reasons, we place no time value whatever on the "Tertiary age" or any of the so-called "ages." Space will not be devoted to that just here. We merely regard these strata as a fundamental Flood deposit, as we do all of the major sedimentary layers.

Therefore we class these human remains as "Pre-Flood," and say that these men lived *before the rise of the Sierras*.

In our next article we shall cite other skulls and bones of man found in other parts of the world. We shall quote the opinions of opposing scientists, allowing them to speak for themselves, so that we may measure their reliability by their own words.

Readers who may have discovered human bones or implements in the Mother Lode gold-bearing gravels are requested to communicate with the author, giving full particulars. Address Benjamin Franklin Allen, 219 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, California.

## The Flight of Time

(Continued from page 8)

which enables the individual to weigh his words and acts, and renders him self-critical and solicitous as to the impression he is making on other people."

This revelation of the true nature of alcohol deserves the widest publicity, for it is this very sedative, benumbing effect of liquor that makes it so important a contributory cause to road accidents and crime.

Readers who are specially interested in this matter, and who may be anxious to warn their friends, should secure the special Temperance issue of the *Signs of the Times*, copies of which are still available.

THE honor of God, the stability of the nation, the well-being of the community, of the home, and of the individual, demand that every possible effort be made in arousing the people to the evil of intemperance. Soon we shall see the result of this terrible evil as we do not see it now. Who will put forth a determined effort to stay the work of destruction? —"The Ministry of Healing."

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# MEANING of TRIALS

by

N. P. NEILSEN

“WHOM the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.” Hebrews 12:6.

How often in the stillness of our meditation will the questions arise in our mind: Why does the Lord permit trials to be our lot, when He loves us? Why must we suffer when we belong to Him? Why does He not remove the affliction, when we plead so earnestly for relief? Is it because He does not hear our cry? Is it because He does not care? What can be His purpose in permitting us to be chastened all the day long? Our heart may be crushed and bleeding with sorrow and grief, and anew the question comes to our heart: Does the Saviour not care? The hand of death may be heavy upon us, and our dearest may be snatched from our bosom; and again the questions surge in our mind: Why did the Lord permit this to come upon us? Why did His loving hand not prevent this sorrow? In vain we may have tried to solve the purpose—is there no answer?

Yes, in the word of God there is an answer to these searching questions, but we may not be able to understand it in this life. We may not know all God's plans. The future is hidden from us, except as the Lord reveals it in His word. We know not what a day may bring forth. We know not what blessings the morrow may hold in store, nor what trials and sorrows it may bring. Unexpected events may come. Unlooked-for sorrows may be our lot. But of one thing we may be sure—the Lord will never forsake His trusting child, but will, with the ordeal that may come, also make a way of escape.



*Said faithful Job:  
“When He  
hath tried  
me, I shall  
come forth  
as gold.”*

Every dark cloud has a silver lining, and every trial, if we relate ourselves aright to it, may be a steppingstone upward to the God of love. He loves us and cares for us, and He knows what is best. He knows just what trials may be needed to round out our lives in harmony with His eternal purpose. He knows what afflictions are best for us to soften and mold our characters in accordance with the divine pattern, and He will temper the heat as may be needed.

A great oak stands alone. It is beautiful in its majesty. Under its pleasant shade the children play, and the birds sing in its branches. It is admired by the passer-by. But one day the woodman comes with his ax and under his sturdy blows the great tree crashes to the ground. It seems to be destroyed. Oh, why this terrible blow? Why should it be cut down? We wait—and, lo, it is made into boards which are used in making a great organ for the worship of God in His holy house. From it issue anthems of praise to God—sweet music, lifting the congregation upward toward heaven. Was it in vain that the oak received the blow? There was a purpose in it all.

The tree was wounded, it was cut, it was changed; but now from it come forth those sweet melodies, leading others nearer to God. It did not suffer in vain.

The wheat must be ground between the millstones before it can become bread to feed the multitude. The alabaster box must be broken before the ointment can flow out and fill the house with its perfume. The grapes must be crushed before the sweet juice may be used to quench the thirst.

Thus perhaps we, too, need to be ground, broken, or crushed before we can be meet for the Master's service. Perhaps we must die in some mission field that others may be led to accept the Saviour and thus live eternally. Our heavenly Father knows the way, and we may trust Him.

The patient Job exclaimed in the hour of his greatest trial and affliction: “He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” Job 23:10. The apostle Paul passed through many perils and afflictions in his labors. He had “a thorn in the flesh” and prayed three times that it might be removed, but the Lord answered him, “My grace is sufficient for thee” (2 Corinthians 12:9), and the “thorn” remained. Paul understood that his infirmity was according to the plan of God. He was willing to let the Lord have His way. He said, “Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake.” 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10.

“When affliction comes, the true Christian does not become restless, distrustful, or despondent. Though we cannot see the definite outcome of affairs, or discern the purpose of God's providences, we are not to cast away our confidence.”

Thus the Lord may lead us through the furnace of affliction to purge and refine us as silver and gold is refined. Malachi 3:3. His plan is to prepare us for greater usefulness. But in all these dark experiences we are not left alone. It is written, “In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old.” Isaiah 63:9. So while we may not be able to answer all the questions that may arise, it is enough for us to know that God cares for us and that He will never leave us alone.