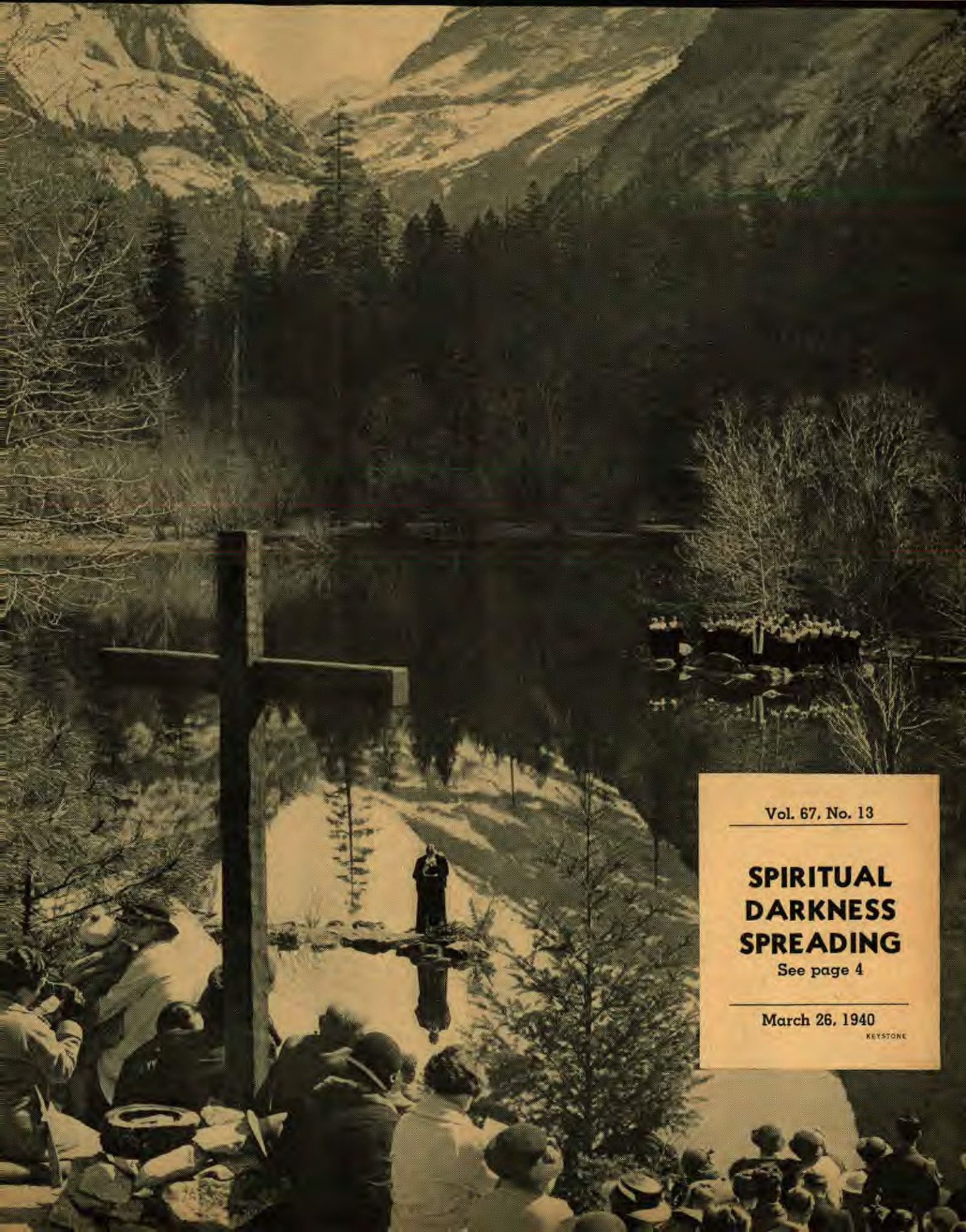


SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Vol. 67, No. 13

SPIRITUAL DARKNESS SPREADING

See page 4

March 26, 1940

KEYSTONE

POWER!

*Yours for
the Asking*

by
G. G. LOWRY

to actual test! The power that is needed is divine, and no human being can give that. Further, man's supreme enemy is his own inborn selfishness, and for this particular thing our would-be advisers have no remedy. They

themselves are afflicted with the same malady. After all, a selfish giant is a poor substitute for a selfish dwarf. His very physical and mental powers, being controlled by selfishness, make him all the more a menace to human society.

If the power we need cannot be generated from within, where, then, can we find it? Christ was quite clear and definite about it. It must come from without; it is the gift of God. "Ye shall receive power," He said. That means it must come from some source other than ourselves.

The writings of the apostle Paul, and of Christian men and women down through the ages, as well as the experiences of people everywhere today, all witness with one voice to the fact that a man cannot lead "the good life" in his own strength.

As soon as one sets himself resolutely to break his bad habits, overcome his inherited and cultivated weaknesses and failings, to live a life of purity, unselfishness, and goodness; as soon as he seriously accepts the standard set for all men by Christ,—*"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart; . . . and thy neighbor as thyself."* "Be ye . . . perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect,"—at once he becomes conscious of the fact that he is utterly unable to do it by his own efforts and in his own strength. "The good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. . . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" cries Paul as he meditates upon his own efforts to do that which is right.


It is this heavenly gift of divine power that Jesus Christ came to give. We some-

times call it the "Holy Spirit," and sometimes the "indwelling Christ." All express the same idea of God's power brought into the world by Jesus Christ, and sent forth among men to give them victory over evil, strength to battle against Satan and his temptations, and power to grow day by day into perfect men and women in Christ.

Power! Is that not exactly what we all want and need? Watch the streetcar as it rumbles along the street with its load of passengers. It is indifferent to heat, cold, dust, and weariness. What a giant of energy it is! And then suddenly something happens; the power has failed; the electric current has been cut off. In a moment the giant, so active and powerful before, becomes a powerless, helpless hulk, of no use to anyone, blocking the way. What is the secret? Why, it, too, was "endued with power;" but the power has been cut off. So long as the power was present, it was active and useful; but, when it was cut off, it was helpless. So it is with man. So long as he is connected through Jesus Christ with the heavenly powerhouse, he will be able to live as he should; but the moment selfishness, pride, envy, and love of the world are allowed to come into the heart, the heavenly current is shut off, and he becomes helpless.

When Christ promised to give special power to His followers, He did so with a definite purpose. This power, which was spiritual in its nature, was not given to them that they might become rich, or prosperous, or prominent politicians. Christ never promised His friends prominent positions in government, or good business positions with large salaries. Paul gave a very different description of the result of the Spirit's coming. "The fruit of the Spirit," he said, "is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." These characteristics are to be, and to abound, in those who have received the "power" that comes of the "Spirit." And what is this really but the character of Christ Himself?

Is it power that you want? But what do you want it for? Do you want this power to enable you successfully to fight the battles of life as they come to you? Do you want it to produce in your life the fruit of the Spirit, as outlined above? Is it your earnest desire through the exercise of this power to become more like your Lord? Then, you shall have it, for He Himself has promised it to you, and He will not fail to keep His word.



A FEW years ago some men sat around a table in Constantinople. They were discussing the education and moral training of youth. One of those present, a Christian, was describing the high moral teaching of the Gospels, when a Moslem interrupted him. "Excuse me, sir," he said; "what you say is good. But we, too, have good moral teachings in our scriptures. *What we need is power*; power to give our young men strength to shake off what is bad, and to live lives of usefulness and goodness. Have you any secret of that sort of power?"

Power! How desperately we need it! Not political power, persuasive power, or any sort of mechanical power, but power to keep our tempers when we are under a strain—when everything goes wrong; power to control the cravings of our lower nature and to live a life of purity and self-restraint; power to shake off our bad habits of sloth, deceitfulness, and dishonesty; power to be unceasingly kind and unselfish; power to keep the good resolutions we make. This power is needed everywhere by men and women, in the church, in the community, and in nations. If only we were stronger, we should be so much more useful and lovable and happy. Is the power we so sorely need available? If so, where shall we find it?

"Self-control," "self-culture," "self-development," "developing one's personality," "gathering soul force"—how often these expressions are used today! Psychologists, traveling lecturers, and other so-called learned men of the West; pundits, swamis, and moulvies of the East; all offer us this gift of power if we will try their method and pay their price. But how little comes of it all when put

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CHRIST IS COMING!

HE IS COMING! The hopes of Christian men and women since the day of His ascension in Galilee proclaim it. The longings and the prayers of millions of men and women for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to earth again to establish His kingdom will not go unanswered. The greatest need of the human race today is the coming of the Prince of Peace. And only the coming of the Great Deliverer can solve the world's problems and bring the everlasting reign of righteousness. Haggai 2:7.

HE IS COMING! The Bible proclaims it. The Book of God declares that our Lord will come in this generation. His own words, as recorded by the four Gospel writers and the apostles, make clear His promise and plan to return to this earth. The Bible tells us that His coming is imminent. World conditions are daily fulfilling the prophecies of both the Old and the New Testament concerning our Lord's second coming. He must come again to save humanity.

What If It Were Today?

by

ERNEST LLOYD

He will come again, for His promises are sure. John 14:1-3.

HE IS COMING! Political conditions the world over proclaim it. Political perils are threatening the very existence of nations. The winds of nationalism are fanning the hates of many peoples into terrible warfare. Statesmen strive in vain to check the forces of evil that are mobilizing for the destruction of Christian institutions and the guarantees of civil liberties. Lawlessness spreads itself like some horrible monster over every land. The spirit of revolution is rampant. The nations are angry, and terror fills the hearts of mankind. Matthew 24; Luke 21.

HE IS COMING! The decay of true religion proclaims it. Men have a form of godliness, but lack spiritual power. The popular pulpit today is weak because of modern atheism. Beautiful church edifices are everywhere, but many of them are fostering a pagan philosophy. Many others are merely ornate sepulchers of formalism. Man bows to his materialistic gods, and the Source of true spiritual power is forgotten. "When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" 2 Timothy 3:15; Luke 18:8.

HE IS COMING! The perils by land and water and air proclaim it. "Perilous times shall come" just before the second appearance of our Lord. Physical perils in earthquakes, floods, drought, accidents, and other disasters are increasing year by year. The very machines that man has invented are proving in many instances to be a menace to the human race. Sudden destruction shall come upon them is the prophecy of the apostle Paul. 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3.

HE IS COMING! His messengers proclaim it. In every land under the sun, missionaries of the cross are carrying the saving light of gospel truth to those who sit in darkness. The heralds of the advent message are making known to all the world the great need of preparation for the soon coming of the King of glory. In a thousand tongues the glad tidings are going to every tribe and nation. Blessed are they who hear the message and obey the call. Matthew 24:14.

HE IS COMING! Are we ready to meet Him? Would we be glad to see Him come today? We well know our individual need for preparation for "that great divine event toward which the whole creation moves." The Master's word to each of us is: "Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44.

"Signs of His coming multiply,
Morning light breaks in eastern sky,
Watch, for the time is drawing nigh—
What if it were TODAY?"

OUR COVER PICTURE

The celebration of Easter, under spectacular circumstances, is becoming more and more popular each year. This week our cover picture shows the sunrise service at Mirror Lake, Yosemite Valley.





Where Can Light Be Found?

SPIRITUAL DARKNESS SPREADING

by LEON A. SMITH

ONE reason for the present world crisis, a fundamental reason, is the fact that spiritual darkness overspreads the world. Great intellectual light and great spiritual darkness exist side by side. The knowledge of this world contributes nothing to the enlightenment of the soul.

The world is ablaze with the light of modern scientific progress. Incredible advancement has been made in the discovery of nature's secrets and the utilization of her forces. Modern civilization presents the acme of knowledge in the realms of the material and the intellectual. But never did the domain of spiritual knowledge present a picture of greater uncertainty. Never were heard so many and so conflicting voices professing to be spiritual guides; and never was the capacity of the human mind to believe anything, no matter how unscriptural or absurd, more amply demonstrated.

This spiritual darkness is reflected in material conditions; it is not a matter of the mind and credulity merely. When paganism overspread the ancient world, because men who knew God did not want to retain Him in their knowledge, it led to the most evil practices and harmful conditions; and the same paganism is today girding itself for a decisive conflict with Christianity. The kingdom of Satan is making a last desperate attempt to obliterate the kingdom of Christ.

Why is the world so full of war today? The answer is that there has been during the last century a recrudescence of paganism in the civilized world; and paganism glorifies war.

Paganism exalts the state above all. It makes the state everything, the individual nothing. The pagan ideal is the building up of the power of the state, to which end all individual interests must be subordinated. The state must be made powerful enough to overcome all opposition to its aims; and to these no logical limit is ever reached. If possible, it must rise to the position of world rulership.

A nation justifies world domination in its own mind by the assumption that its ideas and culture are superior to all

others, and therefore to impose them upon the rest of mankind will be for the benefit of the race.

History affords several examples by which to test this theory. Of these the most prominent was imperial Rome, which for centuries bestrode the nations of the ancient world. It was the most powerful of the universal empires. "The empire of the Romans filled the world; and when that empire fell into the hands of a single man, the world became a safe and dreary prison for his enemies."—*Gibbon*.

What did Rome ever do for the good of mankind? A scriptural answer to the question is given in the book of Daniel. This book speaks of four universal kingdoms, symbolized by beasts, that were to rule over mankind, of which the kingdom of Babylon was the first. Following that kingdom came Medo-Persia, then Grecia, then Rome. In the vision of chapter 7, an angel, speaking to the prophet, said: "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces." Verse 23.

Result of Pagan Philosophy

Rome did just this; and certainly it was not for the good of the earth to be devoured, trodden down, and broken in pieces.

Inordinate power, all history teaches, cannot be safely trusted to human hands. Dictators do not exercise their power for the benefit of their fellow beings, but to gratify their own selfish desires and to glorify themselves.

The modern recrudescence of paganism, with its philosophy that glorifies war and affirms that conflict between nations is necessary to human progress, began something less than a century ago, and was based, it is interesting to note, on the Darwinian teaching of the "survival of the fittest." In war, the "fittest" survive by their physical superiority; and the unfit—the weak—are eliminated, the theory affirms.

Darwin's teaching, which directly contradicts the Bible narrative of man's origin and denies the fall of man and any necessity for a restorer, sets forth eternal warfare as a law of nature. Christianity points in the opposite direction, and to an opposite goal. It affirms: "The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalm 37:11.

This philosophy of spiritual darkness and glorification of war set in motion a train of circumstances that has brought the world to its present chaotic state. An eminent apostle of this philosophy, writing prior to the World War, said: "War is elevating because the individual disappears before the great conception of the state. The devotion of the members of a community to each other is nowhere so splendidly conspicuous as in war. . . . What a perversion of morality to wish to abolish heroism among men!"—*Treitschke*.

In similar vein wrote another conspicuous advocate of the same philosophy: "The struggle for existence is, in the life of nature, the basis of all healthy development. All existing things show themselves to be the result of contesting forces. . . . Without war, inferior or decaying races would easily choke the growth of healthy, budding elements, and a universal decadence would follow."—*Bernhardi*.

"The inevitableness, the idealism, and the blessing of war," says this writer, "as an indispensable and stimulating law of

(Continued on page 18)

War impoverishes nations of all that is good and deliberately murders even women and children.



With the Master on the MOUNTAINSIDE

No. 1. "Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"

★

by LEONORA LACEY WARRINER



Much nearer to the ideal set by the Master was the attitude of the humble publican than was that of the proud Pharisee.

IMMEDIATELY surrounding the Master as He sat on the mountainside near the Sea of Galilee on that far-off day was a group of twelve men whom He had chosen to be His associates and disciples; beyond them thronged a great multitude, eager to hear the words of this new Teacher, whose fame was already spreading throughout Palestine. From Galilee and Decapolis, from Jerusalem and all Judea, and from beyond Jordan, they had gathered to listen.

Could it be He of whom the prophets had spoken? Had He come at last to establish His kingdom? to overthrow the hated rule of the haughty Romans? How their hearts thrilled with hope and glad anticipation as they waited for Him to speak! Already He had said: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand." Mark 1:15. Would He now declare just what that kingdom was, how it would be established, and what were the qualifications of those who should be its subjects?

A hush fell upon the waiting thousands as their eager eyes, fastened upon the Great Teacher, saw His lips begin to move. But what strange words were these that fell upon their astonished ears? "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom." Blessed are the mourners, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, the persecuted, the reviled. Strange characteristics indeed for those who were to be conquerors and to become the triumphant subjects of a great new kingdom! These were the people, too, the Teacher said, who would be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

With rapt attention they listened as He went on to tell them in more detail the qualifications of the subjects of this new kingdom—qualifications that must indeed have sounded hard of attainment to their unaccustomed ears, so foreign they were to anything they had ever before been taught.

The scribes and Pharisees—arrogant, self-righteous, and overbearing—neither possessed nor taught such virtues. The parable of the Pharisee and the publican, later spoken by Christ, gave a vivid and dramatic picture of Israel's spiritual leaders in the time of the Master. "God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, . . . or even as this publican." How the words reveal a spiritually self-satisfied state! No wonder the multitude listened in amazement to this new Teacher with His strange and gracious philosophy of life!

Reading carefully this great Sermon on the Mount, as recorded by Matthew, one sees that the first few sentences, known as the Beatitudes, contain in themselves the essence of all that makes possible the other qualifications spoken of later in Christ's sermon. If men and women will accept the teaching of these few verses in Matthew 5:3-12, allowing them to dominate their lives, they will be nearer of reaching the ideal set for them by the Master when later that day He said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Verse 48.

"The Poor in Spirit"

Let us take these Beatitudes as they come, one by one, learning the lesson that is in them for each of us.

"He opened His mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Many of those listening that day to the Master must have recalled the words of King David: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." Psalm 51:17. And again: "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Psalm 34:18. They must have thought, too, of what Isaiah wrote: "Thus saith the high and lofty

One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isaiah 57:15. "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is My throne: . . . but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word." Isaiah 66:1, 2.

How much nearer to the ideal set by the Master was the attitude of the publican in the parable, who, not so much as lifting up his eyes to heaven, smote upon his breast, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner," than that of the proud Pharisee!

Not to the proud and the arrogant, the satisfied and the self-righteous is the tender appeal of the Master, "Come unto Me;" it is to those who "labor and are heavy-laden," realizing their own worthlessness, and longing for relief from the burden of sin that the promise is, "I will give you rest." How gracious the words of Christ, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls"! Matthew 11:28-30. It is from Him alone that we can learn true renunciation of spirit, and in return receive that rest and peace which the world cannot give.

How many of the great characters of the Bible showed this lowliness of heart! Moses, the mighty leader of the children of Israel, manifested it throughout his long life; and Ezra cried: "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to Thee, my God." Ezra 9:6. In Daniel's prayer is shown this same spirit of humility. Daniel 9:4-19.

Isaiah, when he saw the Lord, recognized his own worthlessness and exclaimed: "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the

(Continued on page 13)

Is WORLD DISASTER INEVITABLE?

Invisible Wreckers at Work

★

by CARLYLE B. HAYNES



Evil spirits take on the forms of those who have been loved and lost.

WITH demoniac determination the spirits of devils are gathering the nations to "the battle of that great day of God Almighty." This is the deliberately planned objective that secret forces of evil are conspiring to reach. And the world is plunging headlong toward that supreme disaster.

Human affairs are increasingly passing under the control of invisible, powerful, fiendish forces of evil. And these are shaping all human events to one end—the final discomfiture and destruction of the human race.

We have been giving some attention to a study of these malignant agencies of evil as they are described and exposed in the Scriptures of truth.

Through all the ages of the past these wicked spirits, from the time when they were cast out of heaven with Lucifer, their leader, have been busily engaged in the work of unsettling the minds of multitudes of people. They have led many to madness, insanity, and ruin.

Through all their history they have never yet been known to reveal any truth of importance that has not already been revealed in God's word or discovered by the aid of good men of science.

Not one sinner have they ever led to Christ for the forgiveness of sin. Their invariable testimony is against God's word.

They repudiate the plan of salvation that word reveals. Their attitude toward Jesus Christ is today what it has always been: Jesus of Nazareth, let us alone; what have we to do with Thee? See Mark 5:7; Matthew 8:29; Luke 8:28.



And yet they appear in the dim light of spiritistic séances today, taking on the forms of those who have been loved and lost, masquerading as spirits of the dead, deceiving some of the greatest minds of earth, and pretending to have developed one of the greatest discoveries of modern times—the lying pretense of communication with the realm of the dead.

They influence rulers and people to their destruction, prating about the conjunction of stars and constellations having a bearing on the destiny of some power-mad dictator, and thus lead him to toss into the blood-drenched arena of modern strife the lives and destinies of his cringing subjects.

It may be true that scientists profess themselves to be baffled and perplexed in their investigations of the phenomena and contortions of these devilish spirits. But that is not to be wondered at.

Scientists come to such an investigation denying that such mighty forces exist; and an infidelity and a skepticism that doubt everything for which they cannot find an explanation, and which deny everything that they cannot weigh in a balance or measure with a foot rule, are bound to be imposed upon and deceived when they come to deal with the mighty evil forces.

If unseen, imponderable, undefinable, incomprehensible energies lie about us everywhere, in the mysteries of electricity, in the forces of gravitation, in the vegetative secrets of nature, many of which are still inexplicable, invisible, unmeasured, and im-

measurable, but which, notwithstanding this, still rule in our material universe with incalculable power and mathematical exactness, why should it be considered unbelievable that other forces and powers and influences and intelligences of which our learning and philosophy take little or no account may rule and control the hearts, minds, souls, and bodies of men?

At any rate, this is what is going on in the world. Scientists who deny the existence of such supernatural forces and intelligences simply because they cannot explain them and their phenomena are centuries behind the times.

What can they explain? What explanations have they been able to give us for the mysteries of seed, of plant, and of flower?

True, they can trace the steps in the growth of such things, but can they explain those steps?

Can they explain the germination of life, the growing of different fruits, flowers, colors, odors, foods, and poisons from the same identical soil?

Can any scientist tell why a mere whiff of air or the odor of a flower produces on some constitutions just as powerful an effect as a strong drug?

Can they explain why a heart should be broken or a life ruined and destroyed because of an evil passion, a disappointment, a harsh speech, or a look of hatred?

Can they explain the connection between mind and body, and thus reveal why wrong habits of thought will produce physical disease?

And if, as all scientists well know, the sensitive minds of some persons can be depressed and deranged by the will, the glance, the word, or even by some secret influence or thought of others, why

should it be thought a thing incredible that invisible spirits, cunning beyond belief, swift as electricity, subtle as magnetism, and as unaccountable as gravitation, may work on human minds and bodies until the mental equilibrium is unbalanced, reason is subverted, and life itself is destroyed?

Those who today deny the existence of such agencies of evil, and say that the working of such forces is an impossibility, in the face of the clear teachings of the Bible, are merely asserting omniscience for themselves while they are demonstrating ignorance.

It is these unseen agencies of evil and disaster who are rocking the world today with social discontent and unrest. It is their hidden influence that is running through civilized society like an infection, heating the elemental passions of men to the point of inflammatory turmoil and outbreak.

It is this that is erupting everywhere in periods of marked violence. It seizes upon people who formerly were immune to it. It is manifesting itself in every sphere of human activity. It has found voices to speak for it in journalism and literature, as well as from the platform and pulpit.

It is troubling all parties in all states. It is forcing itself on the attention of the most indifferent and heedless.

It has become a seething ferment in the mental blood of the world, until men can think and speak of little else.

More widely over the earth than ever before in history has this ferment of discontent reached, stirred into action by "the spirits of devils." It is filled with greater menace than ever before. All the elemental forces of human nature in the raw are being played on by these invisible agencies of evil, until the wild beast in man is about to be unleashed in the smashup and remaking of the world.

The deep foundations of the world are being convulsed. Volcanic forces are seething and surging beneath our feet. Perilous times have indeed come in all human affairs.

But we haven't seen anything yet. Serious as these times are, men of clear-eyed vision, of wide information, are able to see in them only portents of still more perilous times to come.

The present unrest and confusion are only the mutterings of the coming tempest, the tremblings of the coming earthquake, the eddies of the approaching whirlwind, the gratings of the avalanche of ruin that overhangs the world.

Everywhere, and in every social stratum, thinking men are afraid.

Governmental structures are tottering. Thrones and empires have crashed into the dust. And the process continues, and spreads. Revolt is in the very air. It penetrates everywhere.

Flashlines

by W. L. EMMERSON

COMPLICATED Ian Mackay in the "WELLINGTONS" *News Chronicle* states that the great Wellington twin-engined bombers have no less than 60,000 separate parts.

PRACTICE RATHER THAN DEFENSE "Christianity does not need defending," says Winn Stephens, in the *British Weekly*. "Christianity needs practicing—that is, working out in the light of, and applying to, present-day problems; and, first of all, it needs understanding."

THE GAMBLING EVIL Dr. Morgan, in "The Needs of Youth," states that the national betting bill of Britain is today about \$2,500,000,000 per annum, an amount equal to more than four times the total national expenditure on education. Of this sum about one tenth goes into the pockets of the promoters.

BLACK-OUT PERILS Commenting on the casualties on British roads since the introduction of black-out regulations, the Minister of Transport states: "Thus far the war period has brought an increase of 1,639 in road deaths, or approximately 66 per cent; and, if this is maintained, it will mean an increase of nearly 5,000 a year."

BIBLE A BULWARK "The Bible is our bulwark of defense for freedom," said Senator J. J. Davies on Bible Sunday in the United States. "Where the Bible is read and revered, constitutional government, individual liberty, and the rights of the people are respected. Where the Bible is unknown or rejected, despotism, dictatorship, or the rule of class hatred prevails."

SUPERSTATE WANTED "The League idea," says Mr. A. G. Gardner, famous author, "must be carried to the logical conclusion that will make world unity effective. . . . There must be a super-state, representing the collective conscience, interests, and will of all civilized peoples, equipped with such a police arm at sea and on land as will enable it to enforce the observance of international law against any aggressor."

AGAINST DARK FORCES "It is being increasingly realized," says the Reverend John A. Patten, "that we are engaged in a struggle with forces so dark and sinister, so brutal and inhuman, that we can say, without presumption, 'We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.' This is not merely a pulpit opinion; it is shared by our people generally."

All the restraints imposed by law, religion, custom, or even ordinary decency, are being cast aside as outworn, and free rein is given to every impulse and passion.

In the state, in the church, in the home, in society everywhere, this spirit of independence from God and His laws is manifesting itself, and calling for the storm of God's wrath to be visited upon an impenitent world.

The Spirit of God is offended, and is being withdrawn from the world.

And "the spirits of devils" are taking over control.

This distress of nations, distress of individuals, distress of society, resulting in perplexity and fear, constitutes one of the greatest signs of these present times.

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

The day in which we live is the time to which this prophecy points. Above all other times of which we have heard, or seen, or read, or known, there is distress of nations today. Demons are ranging through the world, bringing about a set of conditions that will end in world overthrow.

No, we have not misread the signs. In accordance with the words of Jesus, these things all about us testify to the positive truth that we are about to "see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

CHRIST is the light of all Scripture, the sole Lord and life of the true church. By His word we test all doctrines, conclusions, and commands. On His word we build all faith. Let us neither forget nor hesitate to appeal to it always with untroubled certainty and conviction. If Christ did not know and preach the truth, then there is no truth that can be known or preached. The rock of certainty is the mind of Christ, expressed in His living words, and in His speaking life. Beyond this we need not and we cannot go. Here is the ultimatum. This is the truth we say to men, because Jesus knew it, and lived it. He is the only source of authority.—*Henry van Dyke*.

"We shall have all eternity to celebrate the victories, but we have only the few hours before sunset to win them."

WHEN scientists buried the famous Time Capsule at the New York World's Fair, the Bible was among the items sealed in the metal tube for future generations to discover. This was a fitting symbol of the importance of the word of God in human life. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow the Bible stands as a light for the souls of men.

When we turn to the pages of history, we find that the word of God has been treasured by kings and common citizens alike. In the British Pavilion at the Fair I saw a Greek New Testament with red velvet covers, gold paneling, and richly enameled coat of arms, which had belonged to Queen Elizabeth. Near by was a volume of the Gospels read by Charles I of England during the months of his exile before his execution in 1649.

In our world of 1940, the Bible remains the "best seller," and the American Bible Society alone reports a distribution of almost seven million copies of the Scriptures in 1938. The day of which Erasmus dreamed, when every man might fill his mind with the golden words of truth, has arrived; the poorest child may have a copy of the word that kings have cherished.

But when we survey the attitudes of the contemporary generation toward the Bible, we find a wide variance of belief. There are many intelligent persons who will accept the Bible merely as a masterpiece of literature. Other men declare that the Scriptures contain some lessons of eternal truth; but they refuse to accept its complete inspiration. Another group of religionists assert that some portions of the Book are divinely inspired, but other sections they believe to be spurious. What is the place of the Bible in the experience of a sincere Christian?

If we would be followers of Jesus Christ, we cannot compromise with the Book of books. When questioned concerning the Old Testament, for those were the only existing Scriptures when Jesus Christ walked among men, the Messiah declared: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 5:39. Many instances in the ministry of Jesus might be cited where He specifically asked the Jews to read the Old Testament. In the hour of temptation, His weapon against sin was, "It is written." With His disciples on the road to Emmaus, the risen Lord expounded "in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:27. The Master not only believed the word of God, but He showed His disciples where the Old Testament prophecies foretold His advent.

In Jewish history there is no writer who loved the divine word more than did David. In his psalms he says with rejoicing: "Thy word have I hid in mine

The BOOK Th

The Unity, Power, and Permanence of the Bible

heart, that I might not sin against Thee." And, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:11, 105.

Paul, writing from the dungeon in Rome, never lost sight of the light that first appeared to him on the road to Damascus. Nearing his execution, he testified to the divine origin of God's word. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God," he said, "and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16, 17. "By inspiration of God" is literally "God-breathed" in the Greek. Is this not a parallel with the record of the creation of the earth? Adam was formed of the elements, and God breathed into him the breath of life. In like manner, the words for the redemption of humanity have been touched with the breath of God.

Although the Bible is a compilation of many writings, it has unity of theme and singleness of purpose. A powerful strand of thought links every page of the Scriptures. Peter lays the foundation for our understanding of the Bible's divine origin in this statement: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:20, 21. Read from Genesis to Revelation; you will find one continuous and progressive revelation of truth. John carries on the messages David presented; Paul amplifies the teaching Moses received from Jehovah.

The oneness of the word rests upon its central Figure—the living Christ. In the Old Testament, prophets look to the first advent of the Messiah; in the New Testament, disciples and apostles recount the life of Jesus Christ, and prophesy of His second coming. The first book in the Bible promises a Saviour who shall bruise the serpent's head; the last book anticipates the glorious return of the Redeemer as King of kings.

The test of Christian doctrine must come from the word of God. It is impossible to believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ unless we understand His teachings. How can we accept the name "Christian" unless we follow the Master in mind and heart? "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. The Bible alone presents the portrait of Jesus Christ. With the poet we say—

"O Lord and Master of us all,
Whate'er our name or sign,
We own Thy sway, we hear
Thy call,
We test our lives by Thine."

But how can we hear His call unless we believe in the inspiration of His message through the Bible? We must conclude that if we discard the Bible, we deny Christianity.

In the fifth decade of the twentieth century there is

The much-advertised Time Capsule, buried at the New York World's Fair.



LIVES Forever

by MERLIN L. NEFF

no solution for human problems outside the Bible. As war destroys the spiritual and cultural forces of nations, there is permanence alone in the eternal truth of God. Throughout the Middle Ages, when the Bible was a chained book, the faint gleam of light did not die. In our day, when a strange fear seizes men's hearts as we seem to be on the threshold of a new Dark Ages, the word of God is man's guiding star.

When modern criticism would scoff at the precepts of the Scriptures, we must heed the Saviour's admonition: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35. The sophistries of critics will be overthrown, but the word of God "liveth and abideth forever."

E. Stanley Jones has said that the Bible gives humanity the cure for "the three great oppressions"—sin, suffering, and death. For sin, there is the salvation of the Son of God

upon the cross; for suffering, there is the love of God; and for death, there is the promise of the resurrection and of eternal life. Neither the exhibitions at the current world's fairs nor the inventive genius of the laboratory can offer a cure for these maladies. As long as man's best skill brings tragedy, the Bible must remain the light of the human soul.

Medical science has given us a consciousness of the need of vitamins in our food. We attempt to balance our diet with essential elements for physical growth. But the Master declared that man shall not live by bread alone. Humanity hungers for the soul vitamins that only the Bread of Life contains. In the words of Jeremiah, we see the acceptance of God's word likened to the process of eating. "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy name, O Lord God of hosts." Jeremiah 15:16. How many a soul suffers today from spiritual malnutrition who might find salvation in the Scriptures!

The drift from faith in the Bible was distinctly foretold by Paul in his epistle to young Timothy. He emphasized that "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Timothy 4:3, 4. Without a faith in the Bible, men will follow the will-o'-the-wisp of cunningly devised fables. Some men attempt to deny the inspiration of the Bible, yet they profess to be Christians. To such compromisers the Master's admonition is pertinent: "If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed." John 8:31.

Through the fog and storm the airliner follows its course on a radio beam. If it deviates from its sky path, the pilot immediately recognizes the warning signal, and returns the airplane to its course. Blind flying has been made safe through radio signals and delicate instruments in the cockpit of the airplane. But in the storms of civilization, through the fogs of

despair and doubt, many men would attempt to steer their course without the beacon of God's word. Certain it is that if we cast aside Heaven's signal, we shall crash in the darkness of a doomed world. Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63.

The world needs men and women today who know their Bibles; civilization cries out for a preaching of the word. Ambassadors for Christ are demanded who are proud of their credentials and know the message of their King. "Be not thou . . . ashamed of the testimony of our Lord." 2 Timothy 1:8. Too many moderns are ashamed to study the Bible. Yet these same people are not reticent about delving into atheistic philosophy or salacious fiction.

Read It and Prove It

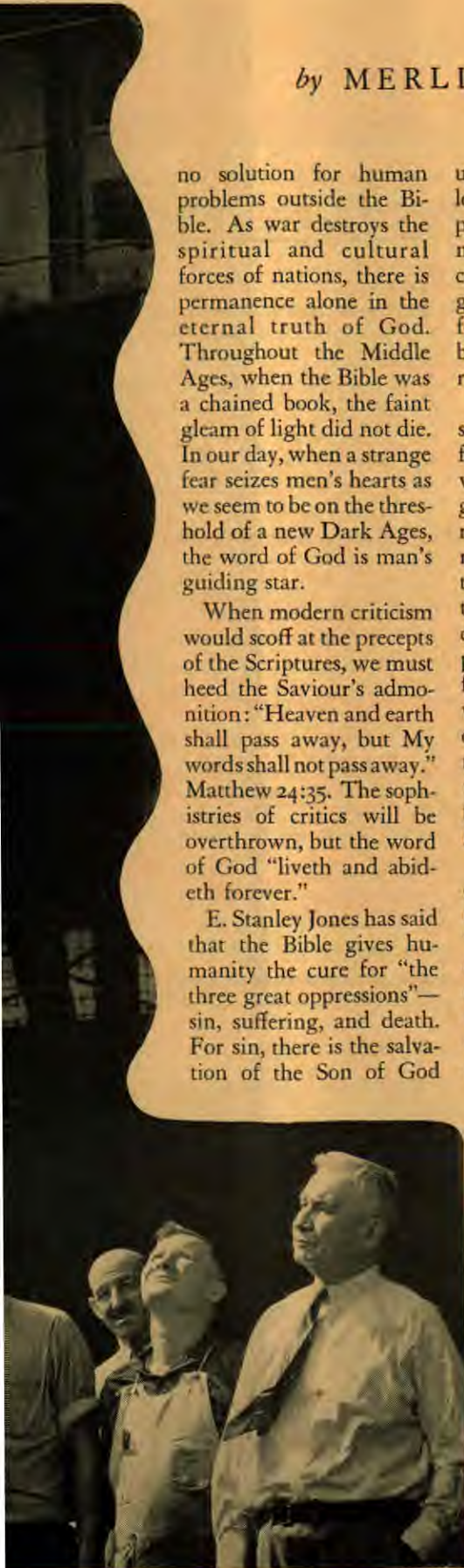
Christian, will you accept the challenge of the apostle Paul? "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15. Friend, if you are an unbeliever, will you not read the Bible and test its precepts for their moral and spiritual value to your soul? Will you not systematically study the messages from day to day, that you may find light in a perplexed and disillusioned era?

God's word is eternal. The empire that crucified Jesus Christ has crumbled to dust. The despots of the Dark Ages attempted to deny the Bible to all seekers for truth. The French Revolution aimed to root out all vestiges of religion. But in every age the word of God has triumphed. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever." Isaiah 40:8. We shall not be disturbed because of the efforts of critics to discredit the Holy Scriptures. After they have gone down into their graves the light of truth will continue to shine brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky!
We praise Thee for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lamp to guide our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age."

Make the Bible your spiritual guide for life. Search its pages for the way that leads right onward to the kingdom of God. The power of the living word will re-create lives today when its truth is translated into human hearts.

HEAVEN often disappoints because it has prepared some better thing for us. Let us, therefore, boldly hail all events.
—W. L. Watkinson.



WESTINGHOUSE



What Women Owe to Missions

by H. G. WOODWARD *Superintendent, Telugu Mission
of Seventh-day Adventists*

HOME on furlough after many years spent in the East, a veteran missionary was addressing a drawing-room meeting. "I have always felt," he said, "that women should have a special interest in missions. They owe so much more to Christ than does man." The more I pondered the words of the speaker, the more convinced I was that he was right.

John Cunningham Geikie, eminent Bible commentator, says: "The condition of woman in antiquity was little better than that of the slave. She was the property of her husband, if married; if unmarried, she was the plaything or slave of man, never his equal."

How different was the attitude of Jesus toward woman! The one home of all others in which He delighted to stay was that of Martha and Mary and their brother Lazarus. His association with women was so elevated and pure that even His bitterest enemies, in all their accusations, never dared breathe even a suggestion of impurity against Him.

To the woman taken in adultery and to the woman out of whom He had cast seven devils, He spoke a kind word. He did not condone sin, but He knew the circumstances that had caused the downfall of these women, and He also knew their sincere repentance.

How gladly He went to the home of the little maid, now dead, the only child of her father. Taking her hand He said: "Little girl, I am telling you to rise." Mark 5:41, Moffatt.

Wherever the influence of the meek and lowly Jesus has spread, woman is honored and respected. But not so where His words are unknown. No wonder that the missionary wife, who had given many years to inland China, could thank God that the four children given her were all daughters! She felt that the Lord wanted to teach the poor Christless heathen people who surrounded their home that God loves little girls as well as little boys.

There is no place, no honor, for womanhood in the great non-Christian religions of the world. When the Bud-

dha was asked whether it were possible for a woman to walk in accordance to his teachings, he said not, for the feet of women were not strong enough to tread it. How utterly he failed to comprehend the fact that woman has a special genius for appreciating the highest spiritual truths! We are told that it was as a distinguishing favor to Buddha that, in his well-nigh endless rebirths, he was never to be born in hell, as vermin, or as a woman.

Heathenism Degrades Women

The teaching of Confucius concerning woman degraded her. He taught that she is of a different state, a state as far inferior to that of man as earth is to heaven. Equality with man was altogether impossible for her. Says Confucius: "It is a law of nature that woman should be kept under the control of man, and not allowed any will of her own. The aim of female education is perfect submission—not the cultivation or development of the mind."

What has the religion of Mohammed to offer to woman? Those who have lived in lands where the teachings of the false prophet are accepted can tell you. If you are a woman, and have been invited, draw aside the curtain that leads into the women's quarters in a Moslem house, and witness the dense mental and spiritual darkness and the utter hopelessness of the women subjected to the teachings of Mohammedanism, and, as a result, confined to the harem. Then ask yourself, O thou woman brought up under the gracious influence of the religion of Jesus Christ, ask yourself how you would feel if your daughter, your sister, or your mother were confined to such a degrading experience.

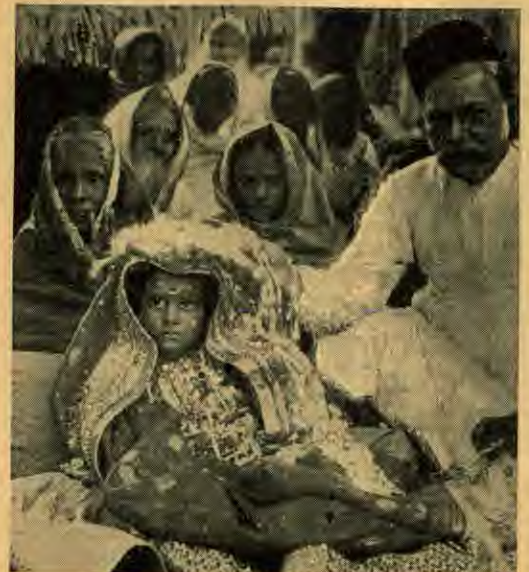
From long ago, when Mohammed, at the age of fifty-two, married Aisha, aged nine, to the day he died, leaving eleven widows,

Islam has degraded life in the homes of its people. It places a sanction upon polygamy, concubinage, and unlimited divorce. We are told that one of Mohammed's successors divorced one thousand wives.

Should it be thought that words such as the above are the result of religious prejudice, let me quote the words of a Mohammedan judge of the district court in Cairo: "Man is the absolute master, and woman is the slave. She is the object of his sensual pleasure, a toy with which he plays and then tosses away when he pleases. The firmament and the light are his. Darkness and the dungeon are hers. His to command, hers to blindly obey. His is everything that exists, and she is an insignificant part of that everything."

As a direct result of the leavening influence of Christianity, there has been a general spring-cleaning within Hinduism of late years. The Hindu wife has no need now to look forward with fearful anticipation to the day when she may have to throw herself upon the funeral pyre of her dead husband. Other terrible customs have also passed away as the light of the gospel has penetrated the land. But how cruel still is Hinduism!

A seven-year-old child of India and her husband.



Herbert Tichy, in his "Tibetan Adventure," tells of an invitation he accepted to visit an Indian family. That it was quite a modern household is shown by the fact that the daughters were present, and talked freely with the visitor. He noticed a very pretty young woman in the distant part of the room, who was assisting with the refreshments. A lively and interesting conversation with these educated Indians was soon in progress, and afterward they played some good phonograph records for their visitor. The young woman had not been introduced, and she sat silently in the corner of the room and listened to the music. She spoke not a single word.

Mr. Tichy was curious to know why it was she kept herself so aloof. He tells the story as follows: "I kept glancing at her in curiosity, and at the same moment the eyes of my host fell upon her. He sprang up angrily, and addressed some words in Hindustani to her that I could not understand. The young woman rose hastily and timidly disappeared through a door.

"No Right" for a Widow

"I looked questioningly at my host, who realized that he owed me an explanation. 'She is my brother's widow,' he said in a contemptuous tone. 'She cannot accustom herself to the idea of being a widow, and that she has no right to be among us when we have guests.' My host had spent three years at Oxford, and he certainly treated his brother's widow a hundred times better than would have been the case among the rigidly pious middle classes."

What could be said of the treatment of widows, often but tiny girls, in the villages is too sad for contemplation. Christian mother, thank God from the depths of your heart that the sweet little maid in your home was not born a Hindu. This hateful degradation of womanhood penetrates even into the palace. E. Stanley Jones tells of a Hindu queen whom he knew, who, in conformity with the teaching of Hinduism, used to go daily into her husband's bathroom, taking with her a small silver cup. There she would take a drink of the water in which he had bathed, thereby acknowledging her subjection to him.

Here are the words of Manu, the great lawgiver of Hinduism, and often called by educated Hindus, "The Moses of Hinduism." They were written hundreds of years ago, but are still an integral part of Hindu teaching. "There is no creature more sinful than woman. A woman is a burning fire; she is the sharp edge of the razor; she is poison; she is a snake; she is fire. She is verily all this in one body."

Truly there is no pity in a religion



Worshipping at a spirit tree—a few of the many, many millions in need of the blessings of the gospel of Christ.

without Christ; and, although the natives of India are naturally very tender and kind, Satan has thrust upon them a religion devoid of all mercy and one that attempts to crush their womenfolk underfoot.

We would repeat the question raised

by Philip Schaff: "What would woman be without Christ? Her condition in heathen and Mohammedan countries has but one answer." O Christian sister, Christ has saved you from far more than you will ever be able to comprehend. Turn your eyes to the women of another color in lands where He is not known! Enjoying to the full the blessings of the gospel, do you not feel within you an urge to send to them, your sisters, who sit in darkness, the uplifting, emancipating message of Jesus?

CHRIST is our Friend. That means everything we need. No want can be unsupplied. No sorrow can be uncomforted. No evil can overmaster us. For time and eternity we are safe. It will not be the streets of gold, and the gates of pearl, and the river and the trees, that will make heaven for us, it will be the companionship, the friendship, of Christ. . . . The consciousness that Christ is our Friend and we are His should check every evil thought, quell every bitter feeling, sweeten every emotion, and make all our life holy, true, and heavenly.—J. R. Miller.

For what must be I calmly wait,
And trust the path I cannot see—
That God is good sufficeth me.

—Whittier.

NEWSGRAMS by BENJAMIN MAXSON

NOTES AND QUOTES FROM FAR AND NEAR

Finland's Economic Progress Finland, today in the limelight as a country which has done well with meager resources, appears to owe its success partly to a declining birth rate and emigration, both of which have kept down crowding of farm population, which plagues central Europe. Predominantly rural, most of Finland's farmers hold small land areas, and three fifths of the farm families own their land. Factors which have enabled the Finns to achieve a reasonably satisfactory adjustment of population to their resources without extreme wealth or extreme poverty include intelligent use of these meager resources, the cultural level of the people, forward-looking social legislation.

Objectives After War When and if peace comes to Europe, this is what the people will want, in the opinion of Pres. Isaiah Bowman of Johns Hopkins University, the geographer who was an American expert at the World War peace conference:

Return to work; a decent standard of living; attention of government and of science to the problems of public health; disarmament and all that it implies in the way of profitable and useful investment of time and strength. Outlets for human energies in underdeveloped lands and new

industries; and a mutuality of trade that will give underpinning to an acceptable standard of living. Territorial arrangements, loans, commercial pools, tariffs, etc., will be made secondary to the main business of living decently.

No Deadlier Gases Reassuring information relayed by the American Chemical Society's Industrial and Engineering Chemistry journal is to the effect that German chemists are of the opinion that there is little prospect of finding new war gases more deadly than those already known. This information checks closely with ideas prevalent in U. S. A. chemical circles.

The Liberty Urge Is Dying The liberty urge is dying, and the big three of the democracies, the United States, France, and England, are all heading toward authoritarianism, is the verdict of an Oberlin sociologist, Prof. Newell L. Sims. The present-day American, he finds, takes little pride in individuality of thought and act. His great ambition is to be like everyone else. This new spirit is attributed to the modern industrial system, in which there is little chance for the average person to exercise free choice and individual judgment.



COUNTERFEIT BAPTISM

[Sixth in a series tracing the rise of many un-Biblical doctrines and practices still held by Christian churches.]

Immersion or Holy Water?

by MURL VANCE

WHEN Lucifer set out to counterfeit and attempt to destroy all divine worship, he left no point of doctrine unattacked. Step by step he examined every plank in the Christian platform, and produced a counterfeit for each. By a counterfeit theory to confuse men's knowledge of creation, and by a counterfeit memorial of that creation, he had gone far to make men forget Christ as their creator. He desired also to make men forget Christ as their redeemer; and we find a counterfeit in this connection also.

Every scholar who studies into religions that prevailed before the Christian Era would do well to remember that Lucifer was thoroughly acquainted with the plan of redemption long before Christ ever came to this world. The plan of salvation through the sacrifice of Christ, we are told in 1 Peter 1:19, 20, was laid before the foundation of the world. Lucifer unquestionably knew of the plan after he had sinned, and certainly could have learned of it in detail as it was revealed to our first parents and to succeeding prophets. Failure to recognize Satan's knowledge of the work that Christ was to do has turned many a scholar into an infidel, for we find that Lucifer counterfeited some of the Christian doctrines even before Christ gave them to the world. Such is the case, at least to some extent, in Lucifer's counterfeit memorial of redemption. Noting this point, scholars often erroneously assume that Christianity is copied after pagan religions, when, in actuality, Lucifer merely took advantage of his early knowledge of Christ's work.

The memorial of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as given by God is baptism by immersion. This point is made clear in Romans 6:3-8: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also

in the likeness of His resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him."

"Burial" in Baptism

Baptism, then, is a public confession of one's faith in the work of Christ. It represents the death of one's former lawless nature and the resurrection of a new creature in Christ Jesus. If the convert is not "buried" in baptism, then the entire figure is destroyed. The sprinkling of a few drops of water on an individual could not possibly typify a death, burial, and resurrection, but takes on instead the mystic cleansing of "holy water" almost universal among the heathen.

The use of holy water to cleanse one from sin has its origin in the devil worship of ancient Babylon. In Babylon, declares Jastrow, on page 103 of his book, "The Religion of Babylonia and Assyria," water was used with magic formulas in purification ceremonies. Worshipers were censed, and had holy water sprinkled on them, believing that thereby they were actually cleansed from sin.

Babylonian temple texts, as translated by the British Museum, mention holy

water thus: "Pour out . . . pure water in the temple of the lower ground. . . . Make prostration toward the gate of the setting sun. . . . Dipping his hand in water he says." "At sunrise, on the bank of the river, a green spot thou must draw up pure water. . . . May the cup of pure water of Merodach confer a blessing!" "To Merodach: The first-born of Ea, glittering water, pure water, holy water, resplendent water. The water twice seven times may he bring, may he make pure, may he make resplendent, may the evil incubus depart." "May Gulu, with quieting hand the consecrated water . . . send into his body." When a man took sick, we read that a woman approached to "pour over him the magical waters." One worshiper describes himself as "the pure pourer of libations to Ea." The instructions for one prayer read: "Before a vessel of pure water repeat the prayer twice. End of incantation. Repeat it three times, using pure water."

In Egypt, declares the Egyptian scholar, Sir Flinders Petrie, kings, priests, and people were purified by pouring water over them; following purification, incense was burned to Ra, the sun-god. He further declares on page 26 of "Religious Life in Ancient Egypt" that in pre-Christian Roman times the worshiper could secure holy water at the temple door by dropping a coin into a box,



In some ancient churches of Europe there still exist the old type of baptismal fonts in which early Christians were dipped under the water.

whether by overflow or by some mechanical device he does not say.

The devotees of Mithraism, the Persian and Roman form of Babylonian devil worship, were purified "*per lavacrum*," by sprinkling, we read in the "Encyclopedia of Religion," art. "Mithraism." Whole rivers, in fact, became "holy" among these ancients; and some of them have remained so to this day in pagan lands. One reads of the "holy" Euphrates, Tigris, Ganges, and others whose waters were used in the mystical cleansing ceremonies.

In the Christian church today there are two forms of administering the rite of baptism: by sprinkling, as did the ancient devil worshippers; and by immersion, as is taught in the Scriptures. We have already noted the origin of the former; let us examine a few scriptural instances of the latter.

When Christ our Example was baptized, He went to the Jordan to John. After baptism He "went up straightway out of the water" (Matthew 3:16), clearly showing what form of baptism was administered to Him. After the Ethiopian eunuch had been converted under the teachings of Philip, we read of them, in Acts 8:38: "They went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

"Baptize" Means "Immerse"

The very word "baptize" in the Greek, in fact, carries with it the idea of "immerse," and it is thus translated in Wilson's Greek-English Bible diglot. We find also from other Greek writers at the time of Christ that the same word was used to describe the plunging of iron beneath water to temper it; also when a ship sank at sea—but not when the wind blew a little spray across its bow!

With both the day of the sun and sprinkling as counterfeit memorials of the work of Christ, the master counterfeiter seems to have been highly successful in securing popular acceptance of his doctrines. With the majority of the Christian churches accepting at almost every point the traditional tenets and teachings of Babylonian devil worship, rather than the plain teachings of the Scriptures, small wonder that Christ, the true Leader of the Christian church, was forced to say: "Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:13, 14. Small wonder also is it that an oft-repeated warning was given to the professed followers of God concerning their dwelling in "Babylon": "Go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul." Jeremiah 51:45.

On the Mountainside

(Continued from page 5)

King, the Lord of hosts." Isaiah 6:5. It is when we truly see the King that our real condition becomes known to us, and in contrition of spirit we seek for cleansing and pardon.

Peter, face to face with the miraculous power of Christ, fell at His feet, crying, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord;" and the aged apostle Paul, writing to Timothy: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," adds, in deep humility: "of whom I am chief." Luke 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:15.

It is men like these, truly "poor in spirit," realizing that in them is no good thing, who make up the subjects of the kingdom of heaven and forward its cause here on earth.

To the Laodicean church, the church that is to be last in this world's history, comes this rebuke and counsel, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. . . . 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 3:17-20.

James wrote, "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?" James 2:5.

No arrogant rulers or proud dictators, no blind followers of Nietzsche's philosophy of ruthless self-assertion and supermanhood, no Pharisaical religious teachers, no spiritually self-satisfied, will ever attain unto the kingdom of heaven. Only the "poor in spirit" can ever hope to be among its blessed subjects.

Of these Jesus says: "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Thus He opened to men the spiritual kingdom of His love, His grace, His righteousness. "His subjects are the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted for righteousness' sake. The kingdom of heaven is theirs. Though not yet fully accomplished, the work is begun in them which will make them 'meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.' Colossians 1:12."

Darkness Spreading

(Continued from page 4)

development, must be repeatedly emphasized."

He even attempted to harmonize this doctrine with the teaching of the Prince of Peace. "There never was a religion," he wrote, "which was more combative than Christianity. Combat, moral combat, is its very essence."

Moral combat, however, in the Christian life is combat with sin. Christianity teaches the conquest of self; paganism teaches the glorification of self by the conquest of others. The world's greatest military figures were men who could conquer everything but themselves. The man who has achieved the conquest of self is not ambitious to make war on his neighbors.

War, proclaimed as a necessity by the law of the survival of the fittest, is in real-



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ity the greatest obstacle in the way of such survival. It sends the flower of a nation's manhood to be sacrificed on the altar of Mars. It unlooses the worst passions of human nature, bringing moral as well as material setback to the nations engaged. It impoverishes a nation of all that is good, and opens the floodgates to all evil. It leads to and excuses the most appalling crimes. War today means the deliberate mass murder of women and children.

The true Christian is no weakling; he cannot be overcome in the battle with the world, the flesh, and the devil. Comparing self-conquest with military conquest, Solomon wrote: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city." Proverbs 16:32. Real Christianity develops in man such virtues as "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Would that the world were full of such characters today!

Results of Rejecting Light

The world presents no more heroic figure than that of the Christian missionary, who, for the good of others, leaves relatives and friends, home and native land, to live a life of toil amid hardship, privation, and peril, in a strange and savage land. Christianity alone can produce character adequate to the successful prosecution of its world-wide mission.

The cause of all spiritual darkness is sin, especially the sin of rejecting light. Rejection of light inevitably brings the soul into darkness, which may, by persistence in evil, become impenetrable. The word of God is, says the psalmist, "a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105. God has given His word to mankind for their spiritual enlightenment, and has brought about conditions under which the inspired Volume is easily accessible to all; but how few there are who treat it with anything but neglect and indifference!

By persistent rejection of light and refusal of the gospel invitation, men grieve away the Spirit of God; and, as this divine agency is withdrawn from the earth, Satan is permitted more and more to have his way. Who can say that this adversary of God and man does not have almost a free hand in earth's affairs at the present hour?

But while the kingdom of darkness is at work to overspread the world, God is also at work. God sends light from heaven to counteract the darkness. To His church He now sends the message: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and

His glory shall be seen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1, 2.

The last gospel message to be proclaimed to the world is that which announces the arrival of the judgment hour. Revelation 14:6, 7. In connection with this, the further announcement is made: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Verse 8.

This has reference to spiritual Babylon; the literal city of Babylon had passed into oblivion long before the time of this revelation to the apostle John. This announcement, it is stated in chapter 18, is accompanied by great spiritual light. The prophecy says: "After these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen. . . . And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Verses 1-4.

While spiritual darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people, as is so evident in the moral conditions of today, God does not forget His people who are in the world, but makes them channels of light to mankind by entrusting to them the proclamation of the last gospel message prior to Christ's return. Into earth's darkness will shine the glory of God; and all who choose to accept and walk in this light will be delivered when the divine Receiver, arrayed in the robes of judgment, shall take over the affairs of a bankrupt world. Revelation 11: 15-18.

A Prayer of Confidence

O GOD, Thou art the fortress of my soul when I am beset; Thine arm is my strength when I am burdened; my feet shall walk in the light of Thine eye when they fare forth in the world; Thy will shall be my assurance and my comfort in all conditions. From of old Thou

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hast been the bulwark of all them who have put their trust in Thee. Today my soul shall repose in Thee. Today my heart shall sing the praises of Thy greatness and of Thy goodness. Today my heart shall thank Thee for the ceaseless stream of Thy pure mercies, and today my soul shall feed richly upon the abundance of Thy providence.

O God, my tongue would speak to Thee of the cloud that shadows my heart today—this thing that I fear, but do not understand. Must it come to me? I pray, my Father, that it may not come. But if Thou suffer it to touch me, even in this Thy will shall be my assurance and my great comfort—if my Father sees 'tis best for me and wills it so. And even in the shadow my feet shall go their



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way bravely in the light of Thine eye; my heart shall sing of Thy great goodness and wisdom and shall thank Thee; my soul shall feed upon thee.

So today I will go unafraid to my task. I will not be anxious, for I do trust Thee, my Father. My soul is in repose upon Thy will.—J. A. N.

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THE following persons desire late, clean copies of *Review and Herald*, *Youth's Instructor*, *Present Truth*, *Watchman*, and *Signs of the Times*, for free distribution.

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UNIVERSAL sympathy has gone out to the people of Finland, suffering from the most unwarranted and inexcusable invasion in modern history. Everybody has wanted to help the gallant Finns in their hour of trial, and relief funds have been opened all over the country. Many hundreds of thousands of dollars have already been contributed, and the tide of benevolence rolls on.

Our readers will be happy to learn that the *Signs of the Times* is now opening a Finnish Relief Fund and those who have not yet contributed elsewhere are urged to send their contributions to this office.

The Relief Organization associated with the *Signs of the Times* has operated in all countries where similar disasters have befallen, and has been able to assist individuals who might not have benefited from the ministrations of others.

We do not need to emphasize the urgency of this matter. The burning cities, the ruined homes, the suffering women and children, the dying and the dead,—these make their own irresistible appeal to all our hearts. We have no doubt as to the response. Donations should be forwarded to The Treasurer, *Signs of the Times*, Pacific Press Publishing Assn., Mountain View, California. All gifts will be duly acknowledged in the paper. EDITOR.

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BEAUTY *for* ASHES

by INEZ BRASIER

IT WAS such a busy day! There was much to be done,—for we were leaving in the morning,—and so few hours in which to do it. And then,—with bread ready to be molded into loaves, potatoes and other vegetables to be put on to cook if our country dinner was to be on time, and the messenger boy waiting for a reply to the telegram he had brought,—just then the telephone rang.

"Run over this minute," the cheerful voice of my next-door neighbor invited. "You simply *must* see my cactus!"

"And leave all this work?" I thought, a bit impatiently, as I sat down to write the reply the boy was waiting for. He ran down the porch steps, and I went to the kitchen.

As I hurried the vegetables onto the stove and the bread into loaves, I thought of my neighbor's call. Of course she could not know how my time was filled to the very limit, I mused. And something must have happened to her old cactus. I looked at the dinner simmering on the stove, and then crossed the yards between our homes.

She met me at the door, and fairly drew me into the living room. We stopped before her wide windows. Something had happened to her cactus, surely; but not what I had prophesied so many times. The long scraggly leaves were hidden beneath a mass of the most beautiful flowers I had ever seen. Not a trace of the whitened scars showed, so close together were the blossoms. "To think," I murmured, "how I have urged you to cut off those old leaves!"

"It is the old, ugly-appearing leaves that bear the flow-

ers," she replied quietly. "These fresh younger ones are—just leaves."

Many busy days have come and gone since I first saw that old cactus in bloom. I go often to see it, that I may never forget the lessons it has taught me.

How like it are our marred and broken lives! And yet the scars may be covered with the beautiful robe of Christ's righteousness. Nothing can remove the marks that sin has placed on them, yet they may be hidden with the presence of the indwelling Saviour. From the ashes of regret and broken resolutions His beauty will grow.

In our human shortsightedness we forget that the troubles of life not only produce the scars but also the beauty that hides them. The fires of tribulation leave deep marks on the heart, but ever after that heart bears the lovely flowers of sympathy for the woes of others. The griefs that cloud the very sunshine will leave their impress; yet from them tenderness for the heartaches of those about us will spring even as the beautiful blossoms appeared on the old branches of my friend's cactus. No matter the cause of the scars of life, be it sin or trouble or grief, it may burst into Christlike loveliness.

He whose life, so marred by the sins of others, was fragrant with love and tender pity for all will give "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." Isaiah 61:3. We have only to make this promise in richest fulfillment our own.