

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES



TOPICAL



# the flight of TIME



INTERNATIONAL

U. S. Army planes thundering over Miami during air maneuvers.



**FALSE  
PEACE**

## A Survey of World Events

by the EDITOR

**A**FTER a most gallant struggle to preserve her territory and independence, Finland has capitulated.

While philanthropic people were raising subscriptions for bandages and Red Cross units, while Congress was languidly debating whether or not to loan a few million dollars for "nonmilitary supplies," the mailed fist struck again, and won.

With the Mannerheim Line broken,

with her limited resources rapidly failing, and with little more than good wishes coming from her friends, there was nothing else that Finland could do. So she agreed to the galling terms of peace.

But this is no peace. It may be an armistice, a temporary cessation of hostilities, but it is no peace.

Peace is not made this way. History has demonstrated, over and over again,

that a "dictated peace," forced upon a noble but defeated people, only makes another war more certain.

This so-called "peace" is the sort of peace that the school bully imposes on the smaller boys on the playground. It is the peace that falls upon the lesser beasts of the forest when the tiger passes through.

Now if Russia had said to Finland: "You have put up a magnificent fight; we admire your courage and tenacity; we did not realize before what a wonderful people you were; we are sorry we bombed your cities and wasted so much of your land; come, let us bind up your wounds and rebuild your homes and be friends forever"—yes, if Russia had said this, then indeed might lasting peace have eventuated.

But nations do not speak in such terms. The prophet Daniel was right when he pictured them as wild animals and fearsome beasts that "devoured" and "brake in pieces." See Daniel 7. And the more godless they are, the more heartless their terms of "peace."

No wonder Christ once said: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: *not as the world giveth*, give I unto you." John 14:27.

"Not as the world giveth."

No, not like that. Christ does not force anybody to receive His peace. There is no compulsion about it. It is not an imposed peace or a dictated peace, but an accepted peace—a peace that is joyously and willingly received as between friend

*Spotlessly clean and tidy under normal conditions, this street in Helsinki, Finland, has been turned into a shambles by Red bombing planes.*

INTERNATIONAL





and friend. It is a peace that flows from the heart of God into the heart of man, bearing with it on its tranquil tide all the quiet confidence, trustfulness, and understanding of perfect love.

This is the only way true peace, lasting peace, ever can come, or ever will come, to individuals or to the world at large.

Would that the nations might learn this fundamental lesson in the art of peacemaking! But they will not. That is too much to hope. Yet if we want this sort of peace for ourselves, we may have it—no matter in what land we may live or what language we may speak. The peace of God “which passeth all understanding” is available for all who are willing to receive it.

Then one day all who have this peace in their hearts will be brought together, in God's own wonderful way, to dwell in harmony and brotherhood forever. They will form “the nations of them which are saved.” Revelation 21:24.

Then “the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” Psalm 37:11.

And “they shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord.” Isaiah 65:25.

May that happy day soon dawn!



**“THESE ALL DIED”**

**T**HE other day, following a long series of meetings, we boarded a boat taking a group of sightseers around Biscayne Bay, near Miami.

An old sea dog with a stentorian voice was pointing out the places of special interest as the crowded little craft passed by the palatial residences of America's “successful” men.

“Over there on the right,” thundered the guide, “is the magnificent home of —, well-known manufacturer of — toothpaste. He spent \$100,000 on beautifying the grounds alone. He died two years ago at the age of sixty-seven.

“Turning to the left, we see the splendid edifice built by — of Grand Rapids, Michigan, furniture manufacturer. Cost half a million dollars. He died last year. Age sixty-five.

“Away out on yonder island is another millionaire's home, truly regal in its splendor. Has its own dock, where the finest private yacht in the world is berthed. Only son died in a car crash last year.

“Again on our right, another magnificent palace, built by —, who made his money selling chewing gum. Died recently at age of sixty-nine.

#### OUR COVER PICTURE

This week our cover shows a novel method adopted for training antitank gunners. Motion pictures of advancing tanks are shown on the screen, and the shot automatically stops the film, a small light showing where the bullet struck.

“Just beside it,—the house with the green roof and the royal palms in front,—that was built by —, retired merchant of Baltimore. He died of heart failure two years ago.”

And so on, until we seemed to see the angel of death hovering over each of these beautiful homes. Even here, we thought, here in this heavenly setting, among these gorgeous estates, these elegant yachts, these exquisite islands, these lovely waterways, this exhilarating air, this wondrous sunshine, even here, death had come. Yes, death at the height of prosperity, when the battles of life were over, and work was done, and there was time to play.

Somehow death seemed out of place here, like the serpent in the Garden of Eden. It seemed unusually cruel and heartless, striking so ruthlessly in the midst of such beauty and splendor, such hard-won rest and satisfaction.

Yet death was here. All about us. The guide told us so, with his stentorian voice, and it must be true. Death, with all its sorrow and its tears. Death, with all its crushing of man's cherished hopes and plans.

As we looked and listened, we seemed to hear another voice, more melodious

and soothing, speaking of another heavenly place, with rivers and trees, too, but far more beautiful, a place where there shall be “no more curse” and no more night. See Revelation 22:1-5.

And the voice said: “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4.

Yes, in that wonderland of tomorrow “they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.” Isaiah 65:21, 22.

Thank God for the glorious provision He has made for His redeemed!

JESUS CHRIST was born in a stable; He was obliged to flee into Egypt; thirty years of His life were spent in a workshop; He suffered hunger, thirst, and weariness; He was poor, despised, and miserable; He taught the doctrines of heaven, and no one would listen. The great and the wise persecuted and took Him, subjected Him to frightful torments, treated Him as a slave, and put Him to death between two malefactors, having preferred to give liberty to a robber, rather than to suffer Him to escape. Such was the life which our Lord chose, while we are horrified at any kind of humiliation, and cannot bear the slightest appearance of contempt.—*Fénelon*.

*The vulnerable east coast of England has been heavily fortified with big guns such as this. The artilleryman with hand upraised is awaiting the order to fire.*

TOPICAL





# The PLACE of REFUGE

*in a Storm-Swept  
World*

*God's Provision for the  
World Crisis—4*

by

LEON A. SMITH

REFUGE! The word looms larger in the consciousness of mankind as the days go by and it becomes increasingly evident that civilization is crumbling under the impact of forces of disruption and disintegration beyond human control.

Everywhere may be seen the fulfillment of the words of Christ in His prophetic discourse on the Mount of Olives, affirming that there would be "upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21:25, 26.

The destructive passions of human nature—greed, hate, lust for power, lawlessness—dominate the actions of individuals and of nations. Thoughtful people see that there is no real peace anywhere—at best it is only an armistice, a temporary lull in combat; that nations are being crushed under an ever-mounting load of taxation, the money that should go to feed and clothe the people being spent to prepare them to fight one another; and, most disheartening of all, the fact that the situation appears to be without remedy.

The same passions that produce an eruption of the volcano of war are at work in society to cause class hatred and class conflict. While dictatorships enslave the masses under them, democracies find that many and difficult are the problems of popular government. Contrary to Darwin's theory of the "survival of the fittest," it is found that under the conditions of modern civilization it is the unfittest who survive; partly because war devours the fittest, and partly—and very largely—because it is the morally and ethically unfittest elements of society who bring large families into the world, while the better classes have rela-

tively few descendants. Hence, there is a constant debasing of the material out of which society and government in a democracy has to be made; and this lower, and now very numerous, class becomes a ready instrument for great harm in the hands of demagogues and that class of criminals known as "racketeers."

All this causes apprehension in the minds of those who give serious thought to the future. The failure of all efforts to halt the march of war and to stay the progress of degeneracy in society holds out only the prospect that conditions will go from bad to worse, until the collapse of civilization is reached. There is indeed abundant cause for "distress of nations, with perplexity."

Where will there be a refuge when the climax of these conditions is reached? Looking the world over, what has it to offer for safety? Where is there security? Certainly not in wealth, or in legislation, or in military force, or in treaties and confederacies, or in new theories of government—not in anything representing the works and wisdom of man. Time has discounted all these; they have been tried and found wanting.

This, however, is only one side of the picture; there is another and greater side. Mankind has more to reckon with at this time than the evils that threaten chaotic political and social conditions. The at-

titude of the Almighty, the Creator of this world, must be taken into account. He has been forgotten by the beings whom He made in His image. Today His gospel is met with a sneer of unbelief. His word is ignored, His authority disregarded, His law daily trampled underfoot, by an impenitent world.

For generations the light of the gospel has been shining over the civilized world. Bibles have been within easy reach of all. The message of salvation has been proclaimed to every nation and people. But few have responded to the gospel call. By the great mass of mankind the light of divine truth has been rejected; and there is no more offensive sin in God's sight than the rejection of light. Jesus declared that even Sodom, sunken in the lowest depths of depravity, would fare better in the judgment day than the respectable and outwardly pious cities where He taught and performed His miracles, and against which they hardened their hearts. Matthew 11:20-24.

It will be now as in the days of Noah, when God said: "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." Genesis 6:3. There is a limit to divine forbearance; and, when that boundary line is reached, God will take the affairs of earth into His own hands. Then will come "the great day," "the day of the Lord." God

*(Continued on page 18)*



*A greater storm than any the world has ever known is in the offing; the only refuge in that day will be the one that God Himself provides.*



THE third beatitude reads: "Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5.

Who are the meek? Are they those who are merely submissive and servile, supine, and lacking in backbone? Rather, are they not those who possess gentleness, kindness, and the love that is not easily provoked; who bear all things, yielding where no principle is involved so as not to cause trouble, but ready at all times to suffer and to die for the right?

If we study the lives of the men and women whom the Bible portrays as truly meek, we shall find the right conception of this virtue, which is such an important one in the life of a Christian.

Moses, described as being "very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3), had the courage to stand undaunted before the mighty Pharaoh. It was he who fearlessly met the angry murmurings of Israel's rebellious thousands, and led that great host for forty years through untold hardships and dangers until they reached the borders of the Promised Land. Yes, Moses had a meekness that had nothing in common with the popular conception of the word.

In Hebrews, the eleventh chapter, is given a graphic picture of men and women whose lives manifested that form of true meekness which made them strong to labor and to suffer for the cause of God. To them also had the promise been given that they should inherit the earth; and, though they all died without receiving the fulfillment of that promise, by faith they were assured that at last they should gain that better country to which they were heirs.

Meekness is held up before the Christian as essential virtue in those who become subjects of the kingdom. We are told that "a meek and quiet spirit" is of great price in the sight of God (1 Peter 3:4); that we should follow after meekness (1 Timothy 6:11); should show meekness to all men (Titus 3:2). Meekness is one of the outstanding virtues developed as the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22.

"Throughout the Beatitudes there is an advancing line of Christian experience. Those who have felt their need of Christ, those who have mourned because of sin, and have sat with Christ

# GOODNESS WILL WIN

*The Meek and  
Their Inheritance*

by

LEONORA LACEY WARRINER

in the school of affliction, will learn meekness from the divine Teacher."

The greatest example we have of meekness is found in the Lord Jesus, "who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant." For our sakes He became poor. Philippians 2:6, 7; 2 Corinthians 8:9. It is He who bids us, "Come unto Me, . . . for I am meek and lowly in heart;" and of whom it was said, "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek." Matthew 11:28, 29; 21:5.

Of this same meek and lowly One it is written in another place: "His eyes were as a flame of fire; and His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters. . . . Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in

his strength." John, seeing this glory, fell at His feet as dead, so great was the power and might. Revelation 1:14-17. Yes, the very One who died for the world in love and meekness is still the mighty God, having left us a sublime example of sacrifice and self-renunciation.

To the meek is the divine promise: "They shall inherit the earth." Centuries before the Master spoke the Beatitudes, the word of Inspiration had declared: "The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalm 37:11. And yet this very definite promise that they should inherit the earth has not so far been fulfilled. Certainly today the earth and the fullness thereof does not belong to the meek; neither is there an "abundance of peace."

Abraham, honored as "the friend of God," though promised all the land that his eyes could behold, still had no inheritance in it, for the Scriptures specifically state that he had "not so much as to set his foot on: yet He [God] promised that He would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him." Acts 7:5. Of the righteous it is said: They "shall be recompensed in the earth." Proverbs 11:31.

What is the answer to this seeming failure of God's promise to His children? Hebrews 11:13-16 gives us a clue. Of those valiant ones who followed the Lord even unto death it is written: "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, . . . embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. . . . A better country, that is, an heavenly."

When man was created a sinless being, he was placed in the Garden of Eden, the Paradise of God on earth. It is said of this earth: "He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited" (Isaiah 45:18); and, though man, through his disobedience, has lost his first inheritance, the plan of God that His children shall at last inherit this earth will not be frustrated.

Centuries ago the promise was given that the first dominion given to man should, through the sacrifice of Christ, be restored to him.

(Continued on page 14)

*Moses, though an example of meekness, had courage to stand undaunted before Pharaoh.*





THE glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ has ever been like a sun in the midst of the moral darkness of this world. All the intellectual progress men have made through the centuries has been made because of the light that has been shining from the cross of Christ.

Time was, however, when this light nearly disappeared from the world; and, because of this, men have come to speak of that time as the Dark Ages. It was the black-out of Christianity. The light of the gospel was allowed to glow only in the wilderness, in the caves and dens of the mountains.

That time was a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. It was foreseen and foretold. Prophecy pointed out in advance that the darkness would be temporary in its duration, and that the light would shine again and cover the earth.

Indeed, the light of the glory of God, shining through the great truths of human redemption, is destined to come to all men everywhere. Human history will close only when the light of the truth of the last message of the gospel has been taken into all the world.

In the prophecies of the Bible there are significant, searching statements of the appearance in the affairs of men of a great, oppressive, persecuting, powerful opposition to God, to truth, to light, and to justice.

This is predicted in many places. It is called by different names. The Bible describes it so fully that it should be easy of identification. This is Satan's counterfeit of Christianity. It is his substitute for the work of Christ.

In Daniel 8:9-12 it is spoken of as "a little horn." It is described as opposing "the host of heaven," and casting down some of the host to the ground, and stamping upon them. It even goes so far as to oppose "the Prince of the host," or Jesus Christ. It reaches out to take away from Him His mediatorial work, and casts down the place of His sanctuary. Further, it casts down the truth to the ground.

In the divine explanation given of this striking symbol it is made plain (Daniel 8:23-25) that this "little horn" represents "a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences;" that "his power shall be mighty," but it will not be his own power, but power imparted from a hidden source; that "he shall destroy wonderfully," especially "the mighty and the holy people;" that policy, craft, self-exaltation, and deadly trickery will be outstanding characteristics; and



*During the Dark Ages the light of the gospel shone only in the caves of the wilderness and in the dens of the mountains.*

## BLACK-OUT OF CHRISTIANITY

*When the Light of Truth  
Well-Nigh Went Out*

by CARLYLE B. HAYNES

that his crowning audacity will be his opposition to the "Prince of princes."

The prophecy further declares that in all this trickery and craft and God-defying persecution this remarkable power will "prosper, and practice."

In the book of Revelation God gives this false system a name. He calls it "MYSTERY." That is, it is something that takes on a false appearance, that masquerades as something else; that does not manifest its true self to the world, but pretends to be what it is not; that hides its true character under an outward appearance of great sanctity.

Paul is still more specific in his identification of this power. He speaks of its work under the name of "a falling away," or an apostasy; and calls it "that man of sin," "the son of perdition;" and describes it as opposing and exalting itself "above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.

From a study of these prophecies it is not difficult to discern that their fulfillment involves the appearance among men of not only an anti-Christian system

—a system that would be opposed to Christ—but also a system that would be a complete counterfeit of the work and gospel of Christ.

While its fundamental purpose will be opposition to Christ, it will carry this on under a pretense of being Christian.

While presenting itself to the world with the claim that it is the true church and has the true gospel, it will be in every part and detail nothing but a substitution for, and a counterfeit of, the true church and the true gospel.

While it will be the "man of sin" and "the son of perdition," it will claim for itself all the worship that is due to God alone, and will actually usurp the place of God, "showing himself that he is God."

In casting our eyes over world history in search for this dreadful opponent of God, so that we may identify it, we must bear in mind that it will carry on its work under the appearance of religion.

For, in order for such a system to "prosper" in the accomplishment of such a work of deception, it will be bound to appear to men as similar in all points to that of which it is only a counterfeit.



Consequently, the counterfeit of the gospel must, at least in outward appearance, possess all the external features of the gospel.

It will use Christian terms and maintain Christian forms. It will carry on Christian ceremonies and establish Christian institutions. It will look like a church. It will have all the appurtenances of a church. It will act like a church. It will claim to be the only true church.

It will present to men a scheme of salvation that will appear very like the genuine. It will be in every detail an exact counterpart of that which it claims to be.

Underneath all this outward appearance its essential work will be to "cast down the truth to the ground." Daniel 8:12.

Therefore it will do the work of Satan while professing to do the work of Christ.

It will ruin souls while professing to save them.

It will cast down the truth while professing to defend and to teach the truth.

It will lead men away from Christ to perdition while professing to lead them to Christ and salvation.

In short, it will be the masterpiece of Satan's cunning and deception while claiming to be the only true church of Christ.

And in all this work it will "prosper." Millions will be deceived by it.

Millions will accept it as genuine. Millions will live and die in its fold, and, dying, will believe it to be the true rather than the false.

Millions will give it their allegiance, thinking thereby that they are loyal to Christ. They will be so deluded by it as to be led to believe the true gospel to be really a falsehood.

### *A Mammoth Deception*

But during all its history among men it always has been, is now, and ever will be, solely and altogether a mammoth deception and fraud.

This deception may not be a conscious deception on the part of its human leaders and followers; rather, they themselves will be the victims of deception by the great archdeceiver and adversary of God.

The angel Gabriel, describing this power to Daniel, said, "His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power." Daniel 8:24.

There will be, then, in this system something that is above and beyond the power of man. There will be a wisdom in it that far surpasses human wisdom.

One will be unable to study and to analyze it without a profound conviction that such an organization could not be produced by man.

Through the centuries it will outlive every other human organization.

It will witness the rise and fall of great empires.

Its history will be centuries old when nearly every nation now in existence was born. And it will still continue with unabated vigor.

The magnificence of its rites and ceremonies will be well calculated to impress the masses.

There will be a solemnity about its worship that will impress and hold the worshiper.

There will be an impressive pomp and pageantry about its services that will appeal irresistibly to the natural human heart.

It will be wonderful in its workings. It will compel admiration for the perfection and the power of its organization.

But it will be only the surpassing product of Satan's genius and ingenuity. It is his counterfeit for the gospel of Christ.

And it should be remembered forever that its sole and only purpose—the one thing for which it was brought into existence and for which it has worked, is working, and will always continue to work—is the complete destruction of the truth and the church of God.

Underneath all its tinsel and pretense,

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## Flashlines

by W. L. Emmerson

**COST OF DEPRESSION** According to the National Resources Committee, the depression has resulted in a loss to the United States of some \$200,000,000,000 worth of goods and services. "If," says the report, "all the idle men and machines could have been employed in making foods, the extra income would have been enough to provide a new \$6,000 home for every family in the country."

**GERMANS READ BIBLE** In spite of the present regime in Germany, Bible reading and the keeping of the "morning watch" have enormously increased, states the *British Weekly*, on the authority of a Berlin paper, *Die Furche*. The demand for Bibles has increased by 50 to 70 per cent since 1934, while the editions of "Daily Readings" are ten times as great.

**MORE CHANCE FOR LEAGUE** "I believe," Lord Tweedsmuir, late Governor General of Canada, declared, in a recent speech, "there is now more chance of success for a League of Nations than there was in 1919. The world must have some kind of League of Nations or go to pieces."

in spite of all its impressive ceremonialism and elaborate pageantry, we should never forget that it was born in sin, shaped in iniquity, and designed solely to stamp out and to take the place of the gospel of Christ.

Such a system is in the world. It is making its claims. It is doing the work foretold. It is deceiving honest souls.

It is not enough to know the truth about Christ. We must also know Christ who is the truth.

It is not the Bible that saves. It is Christ. It is not a church that saves. It is Christ. It is not a creed that saves. It is Christ. It is not the truth about Christ that saves. It is Christ Himself.

### *Christianity Is a Person*

Christ does not ask you to accept the truth regarding this and that. He asks you to accept Him. All the rest will follow. But this is first—*accept Him*.

Christianity is not a set of doctrines. It is not a code of laws. It is not a statement of creedal expressions. It is not a church. It is not a body of teaching. It is not a priesthood. It is not even a religion.

It is a Person. And that Person is Christ. *He is Christianity*.

And the center of Christianity is not a church, not a creed, not a principle, not a power, not a doctrine. *It is a Person*.

And no one, no thing, no organization, must ever be allowed to stand between us and Him.

No person, however venerated, must ever be allowed to take His place.

No system, however splendid, no organization, however ancient and imposing, must be permitted to interpose between our souls and our Saviour.

He it is who bids you, "Believe in Me," "Come unto Me," "Learn of Me," "Follow Me," "Abide in Me."

Personal acceptance of Him as a personal Saviour is the condition of salvation, and the only condition.

Acceptance of Him, surrender to Him, faith in Him; believing Him, trusting Him, knowing Him, following Him; learning of Him, abiding in Him, resting in Him—these are the indications and blessed privileges of Christian experience.

Then let us believe the truth about Him. But, above all else, let us be sure that we believe Him, that we know Him, that we accept Him, that we follow Him, and that we abide in Him.

That is life eternal.

That is what Christianity means. That is what Christianity is. Let us not be deceived. The central thought of Christianity is, "None but Christ."

Let us hold to that. And as long as we hold to that, we shall live and grow and triumph.

Once let that go, and all goes.



# Why God Made Us FREE

*He Might Have Made Mechanical Toys;  
Instead, He Gave Men Liberty and  
the Power of Choice.*

by MERLIN L. NEFF

A PAIR of blue eyes glistened with joy as they watched the antics of a tin dog on the table. When the toy was wound with a key, it would jump about and wag its tail. After the little girl had watched the metal figure perform its one trick for the twentieth time, she begged for something different.

"Please make it lie down and roll over," she begged in childish innocence.

"But it can't do that," I tried to explain.

"Why not?" was the inevitable query.

"Because it is a mechanical toy. The cogs and levers inside the tin dog make it do just one thing. That is all it can do."

"Oh!" came the bewildered exclamation from tiny oval lips; "I'm glad I'm no tin doggie. I can do what I want to do." And with this bit of philosophy she climbed down and went to play.

But I did not forget the childish expression, and I found an opportunity to use it a few weeks later when a businessman began to discuss the causes of crime and war. "If there is a God," he harangued, "then He is responsible for all the misery in the world. He allowed it to come. It's all His fault."

Then I told him the story of the tin dog. "If God had not given us the power of choice to do good or evil, we human beings would be nothing more than puppets. God could pull the strings, and man would always respond according to the higher will."

"But that would have saved us all the sorrow, wouldn't it?" countered my friend.

"Perhaps it would," I agreed. "But it would have destroyed all the happiness and joy too, for both man and his God. The Bible states that man was made for the pleasure of his Creator. Revelation

4:11. Man was given the power to reason and to choose of his own volition; he was not a mechanical toy."

For some time we discussed the principles of free will as bestowed upon man by the Father in heaven. God, who sees the end from the beginning, entrusted His creatures with creative minds. He gave human beings free will. The wish of Heaven has ever been that all men will turn from sin to salvation; but they must do this through their own choice. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1.

When the human race was formed in the image of God, it was necessary to leave the doors of good and evil open. This was the risk the Father must take to create men and women who could love and honor Him. "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" is God's message in Deuteronomy 30:19. If there had been but one way for man to go, he could not have taken any responsibility himself.

"To every man there openeth  
A Way, and Ways, and a Way,  
And the High Soul climbs the High Way,  
And the Low Soul gropes the Low,  
And in between on the misty flats,  
The rest drift to and fro.  
But to every man there openeth  
A High Way and a Low,  
And every man decideth  
The Way his soul shall go."

God foresaw the wrong decision that our first parents would make; but He had prepared a way of salvation if they should choose to return. If they delib-

erately broke the divine commands and turned to follow Satan, they must also bear the consequences. But in His infinite love, God prepared the way of salvation to redeem those who should repent and return to Him.

With the responsibility of choosing between allegiance to God or servitude to Satan, Adam and Eve were not left without instruction in righteousness. When the serpent tempted Eve, she replied: "God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." Genesis 3:3. Obedience to the Creator was a reasonable requirement, which would have brought perfect happiness.

Why was it necessary for God to permit sin? If men were to exist in this life only, perhaps it would have been wise for the Father to create human beings like mechanical toys, for then they would have been preserved from evil and its



By choosing to disobey God, Adam a





forfeited all right to their Eden home.

attending sorrows. But in His infinite wisdom, He was looking ahead to His completed plan for the universe. Through all eternity He longed to have creatures who would love Him and honor Him, and this could be possible only as they were given intelligence, reason, and the gift of free will.

There is no slavery of mind or body in the universe as God created it. Man can serve his God wholeheartedly, voluntarily, and freely, or he can reject the grace and love proffered him. The Spirit of God entreats men to follow the way of life. Through the revelation of divine love in nature, in the Bible, and in the conscience of the individual, God calls a prodigal world to Him. "I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." Ezekiel 18:32.

When my friend and I had discussed

these problems at some length, he turned to me with another question. "What are you going to do about the earthquakes, pestilences, and calamities that sweep the earth? Isn't the God who created the world responsible for such catastrophes?"

"It might seem so from hasty conclusions," I replied. "But let's consider the point more closely." Then we began a further study of the results of sin on this planet. When man forfeited his dominion to the powers of evil, Satan claimed the rulership of this earth. For six thousand years the forces of sin have battled against the truth of God. Every man must struggle "against the rulers of the darkness of this world" if he would be victorious over sin. Paul further likens the power of Satan to a ruler of the earth when he calls him "the prince of the power of the air." Ephesians 6:12; 2:2.

The fury of degenerating nature has been used against man as the reign of sin has continued upon the earth. It is true that God has allowed certain destructive forces to come as judgments against sinners, as witnessed in the Flood and in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Some calamities may come as object lessons to a careless and godless generation. But the powers of darkness bring disasters upon human beings in an effort to destroy souls. John, seeing the conditions just before the final crisis in the world, writes: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:12.

If God were to withdraw His guardianship from us momentarily, all the inhabitants of the earth would be destroyed by the prince of evil. The prophet describes the angelic beings who are holding the winds of strife from the earth until those who seek after God shall be redeemed. Revelation 7:1-3.

When Satan desired to test Job with every calamity, God did not bring the evil upon His servant; but He permitted the evil one to strike. We, like Job, cannot always see behind the experiences that come to us. We cannot fathom the mysteries of this life but we can say with Job: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." Job 13:15. The American poet, Whittier, has voiced the submission that is necessary in those hours of darkness when only faith can sustain.

"It is not ours to separate

The tangled skein of will and fate,  
To show what metes and bounds should stand

Upon the soul's debatable land,  
And between choice and Providence  
Divide the circle of events;  
But He who knows our frame is just,  
Merciful and compassionate,  
And full of sweet assurances  
And hope for all the language is,  
That He remembereth we are dust."

Instead of rebelling against the bitter sorrows that finite minds cannot understand, it is for us to walk humbly with our God, knowing that "all things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28. If we patiently wait upon the Almighty and trust His leadings, He will some day make it plain to us.

God has endowed us with the power of decision; we choose our course and chart our destiny. We must accept that responsibility, and act upon the light that comes to us. God's word is the compass to guide our ship to the harbor, but every man is the captain, and must decide the set of the sail.

If you are a father or a mother, you could not imagine anything more distressing than to have a son or a daughter who had no ability to make decisions for himself. It might be easier for you to control the youth with your mature judgment; but there would be no happiness in watching mental and spiritual growth, there would be no love, no honor, and no independence. In like manner, God looks upon His children of the earth. They must be free to love and obey Him, and His heart yearns to have them return; He gives every man the power of choice, and in His faithfulness awaits our return.

Modern thinking has turned frequently to the theories that man's fate is sealed without his consent or action, or that this universe is a giant machine that moves inexorably with no consideration for man. Such a philosophy is not from God. The worth of one human soul cannot be estimated in human values. Man was redeemed not with silver or gold, but with the life of the Son of God. Christianity lifts the individual to the highest plane that the finite mind can comprehend. God says, "I will make a man more precious than fine gold." Isa. 13:12.

Will you not value your life in the light of the sacrifice of Calvary? The divine plan gives you the choice, and the promise is sure: "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17. We are not mechanical toys; we are 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; for we shall see Him as He is." 1 John 3:2.





*Round the World With the Gospel*

# DEBTORS

## to a WORLD in NEED

by H. G. WOODWARD

*Superintendent, Telugu Mission  
of Seventh-day Adventists*

**M**AKING Christ known to those who knew Him not was not to Paul merely a pleasant pastime; it was, rather, a heavy responsibility to be discharged—a debt he owed to all mankind. Because he could say, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ" (Romans 1:16), he was constrained to admit, "I am debtor" to preach it (verse 14). And then it was the most natural thing in the world for him to declare, "I am ready." Verse 15. Circumstances have not changed; every true child of God owes a debt to the world—the debt of making Christ known. Our loyalty to Christ makes us debtors.

I have traveled into many parts of the world, and, wherever I have gone, I have noted how insistent are the claims of the world. When off the beaten track, how many times I have been asked the questions, "Are you a trader? Are you a planter? Are you a government officer?" But it seems to me that those to whom the joy of Christ has been revealed should be the most enthusiastic of all in pressing the claims of Christ upon a needy world. It is a debt we owe the world, and we should be prepared to discharge it. The same fervor that takes possession of the trader or the government official should possess us.

A businessman who had spent long years in China fell to discussing with another seasoned traveler the question of missions. With vigor he said: "It is an impertinence to send missionaries over here to try to change the religion of these people!"

The second man happened to be a missionary, but he urged the businessman to go on with his indictment. It covered the usual range: missionaries break down the old family system that gives such stability to Chinese society; the education the young Chinese receive creates discontent in them. Thinking to add conviction to his tirade, he concluded: "Anyway, we have no right to impose our religion on them if they do not want it."

*The Christian Century*, which related this incident, says that the missionary

replied: "If you will stay away, I will."

The businessman, puzzled, inquired, "What do you mean?" The missionary explained: "Why, you sell the Chinese engines and rolling stock, and build railways for them, and so fill their heads with new ideas. You cut across superstitious and religious notions. You cause the young people to leave their homes and settle in railway towns; you encourage the development of factories, and cause the shifting of whole populations. You destroy the old ways of making a living, and leave whole localities in poverty. You undermine the customs of ages, and cramp the style of the devotee when he bows to the old mud idol."

The railway man was thoughtful. "Perhaps you are right," he said. "I had never looked at it in just that way."

Compassion surely makes us debtors to those in need. Here is a story from Africa, which illustrates this point. It is told by Aloysius Horn, and you may read it for yourself in the book "Trader Horn," which was at one time a best seller. It is the true account of an eyewitness: "After an early breakfast, I

walked down the mountain to get a good look at the falls and the river beyond. At the falls, I noticed a small gathering of people at the riverbank, and, on inquiry, found that this gathering of people was for the purpose of witnessing the drowning of an old white-headed grandma, who had outlived her generation. . . . I was powerless to stop it.

"I hurried down to the scene, and was told that the man who had the legal right to drown the old white-headed woman had not arrived; but he soon put in an appearance. And after a little parley with the people around, during which the poor victim stood bolt upright and did not show any signs of emotion, the relative seized her and tossed her into the swirl of the rapids below. This being done, they walked away without even turning their heads. . . .

"This was perfectly legal according to the laws of the natives, and happens very frequently. . . . Many useless slaves were drowned or done away with after

*These Africans may appreciate the beauty and grandeur of the Victoria Falls; but they know not the One who keeps them within bounds.*





their usefulness as rubber cutters was over. A slaver would often buy a father, son, and wife, and leave the girl's mother behind; and, as the old woman was aged, she was generally drowned."

Time and time again, to just such people has the glorious light of the gospel been revealed, with such marvelous results as to be well-nigh unbelievable. Dare we allow darkness and horror to continue, knowing that it can be dispelled by the introduction of the gospel? What answer shall we be able to give at the bar of God if we evade our responsibility in this matter? Verily are we debtors to those lying in darkness. We owe it to them to reveal the Lord of light and glory.

Here is a report from China. It was written some years ago by a missionary-wife, the mother of four little girls, but the facts are as true today in inland China as when these lines were first written.

"One of the curses of China," she writes, "is not to let their little girls live. They say they have the trouble of bringing them up, and then, when they are married, the dowry they receive does not make up for all that has been spent on them.

### *The Cruelty of Paganism*

"I went into a mother's house once and found her groaning and asked where the baby was. It was born at daylight, and immediately it was just thrown into the moat or into the pagodas, which are built for this purpose with a certain hole so that the wolves can jump in and get the baby when they want it. How many times have I come home brokenhearted! God gave me four little girls. He gave me them for a purpose. He wanted these people to learn a lesson. . . . He wanted them to learn that God loves little girls as well as little boys." Is not this a challenge to the one to whom Christ has revealed Himself in all His beauty? Dare we hide our light under a bushel?

Now let me repeat a story from India. The words are those of a friend of mine who has spent many years of splendid service in the mission field.

"She came to the door of the tent and sat down. I looked up from my book, and asked, 'Who are you?'

"She answered, 'I am poor Tursi.' "What is your trouble; why do you cry?"

"Sahib, I will tell you,' and here is the story. It is quite true. I know all the people well.

"Khura's wife was sick. She had been sick for two years with tuberculosis, and was getting worse. The native doctor was called. He picked a sal leaf, smeared it with oil, rubbed it with another leaf, and carefully examined the pattern left on the leaf. . . . According to the 'in-



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*A witch doctor of Central Africa.*

fallible' rules, the pattern showed witchcraft. More 'infallible' divination revealed that Tursi was the guilty one, and was, as these people say, 'eating the sick woman.' She was therefore brought and commanded to cure the woman at once, or take the consequences. She had to stay and nurse the woman, and was beaten because she did not at once recover.

"The woman died. The village elders sat in solemn conclave, and fined Tursi fifteen rupees, and added the threat that if she ever 'ate' anybody else, the consequence would be serious.

"Shortly afterward, . . . Khura himself began to decline, with the same disease. He accused Tursi of not being satisfied with his wife's life, but wanting his also. The native doctor confirmed this, and accepted his fees. . . . The village elders again met. What could be done?"

"In olden days, before the British came, witches were taken outside the village and stoned to death. They cannot now openly murder them, although

they are murdered secretly, several of them every year. Wives, sisters, mothers even, are quietly strangled behind closed doors, at night. Sometimes one is chopped down with an ax in some quiet spot in the jungle. In this case it was decided to brand Tursi on both cheeks with hot irons; so a big fire was lighted, and men were sent for her. However, as it often happens, the woman's wits had been just a bit quicker than the man's logic, and Tursi was not to be found. Her husband was therefore caught and dragged into a house, knocked down and thrashed unmercifully.

"By and by, when things had quieted down somewhat, Tursi came back. She has been solemnly found guilty, and fined thirty rupees, which she cannot pay, and is about to be formally outcast. Her very life is in danger. So it was she came to us, crying."

Knowing as we do know, that such things can exist only in an atmosphere of darkness, and that all such evil practices pass away at the entrance of the light of the gospel, dare we selfishly clasp to our breasts God's best gift in the person of Christ, and not share Him with those who so sorely need Him?

Two millennia have passed since the Lord Jesus made His way to the cross. Long years have passed since was heard the triumphant cry, "It is finished." Yet there are countless millions to whom the Saviour's name has never been carried. We have been put in trust with the gospel. Have we been faithful to that trust? Have we discharged the debt we owe?

"Shall we whose souls are lighted  
With wisdom from on high,  
Shall we to men benighted  
The light of life deny?  
Salvation, O salvation!  
The joyful sound proclaim  
Till earth's remotest nation  
Has heard Messiah's name!"



## NEWSGRAMS

by BENJAMIN MAXSON

NOTES AND QUOTES FROM FAR AND NEAR

### **Nation's Man Power Weakened**

How economic depression and unemployment weaken a nation's man power is being observed in Canada these days, as the Dominion inspects thousands of volunteers who step up for war duties. "This is not a war in which crude man power is demanded," declares Miss Charlotte Whitton, C.B.E. "In this war, it is technical skills and economic and financial contributions that are wanted. A higher range of skill and stamina is required." Yet less than five months of this war, she says, has revealed this condition: "A solid corps of younger men who have never worked, and older men, who, unless reconditioned and

trained, would not be acceptable to an army or to factories working under wartime pressures."

### **Revitalization of Religion**

In these days of stress it is encouraging to know that many of the world's prominent men recognize the fact that there is not enough emphasis on religion. Secretary of State Cordell Hull recently declared: "Humanity desperately needs today a moral and spiritual rebirth, a revitalization of religion. There is no sure way to this supreme goal save through adherence to the teaching of the Bible." Unfortunately, this rebirth will be experienced by only a comparatively few individuals.



The COUNTERFEIT

## Destruction of the WICKED

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

by MURL VANCE

"God is love." He is "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." He "so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." 1 John 4:16; Exodus 34:6; 2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16. This is the character of the God we serve. It seems hardly possible that Satan, the master counterfeiter, should make the majority of the Christian world believe that God is cruel, vindictive—anything but what He is. Yet this is what has happened as a result of the counterfeit teaching regarding the destruction of the wicked. Here is the picture as it is commonly understood and taught today:

A sinner lives a few short years—perhaps ten, twenty-five, or, even in rare cases, a hundred—before he dies and comes before the judgment bar of God. Because of his refusal to accept salvation, he is sentenced to eternal hell-fire.

A hundred years pass. Writhing in agony, the sinner lifts his voice to God and pleads for mercy, for death rather than torture. Back from heaven thunders the voice of God: "No, burn on!" A thousand years more pass, then a million. Additional pleas addressed to the Ruler of the universe receive the same uncompromising sentence: "No, burn on!" Time stretches on endlessly; passing millenniums are but the inch marks on a never-ending scale; but throughout the universe, as each mark is passed, the voice of the Creator echoes: "No, burn on!"

Probably no doctrine of devil worship has ever created more infidels than has this, for no intelligent being could love or worship such a God. Yet such is today a commonly accepted teaching of the Christian church. One book, *written for children*, describes the picture in detail, telling how the saliva sizzles in the mouth, the blood boils in the veins. The sinner opens his mouth to ask for

water, and fire shoots out, as it does also from his ears, his nose, and his eyes.

The origin of the doctrine of eternal hell-fire, as anyone who gives the subject a thought must know, is in ancient demon worship. It is the generally accepted theory among heathen tribes today. Buddhist temples contain pictures of souls being cast into hell-fire, while the four "heavenly kings"—hideous figures in dark, each carrying a pitchfork, and wound around with the coils of a serpent—look on.

Olcott declares, on page 49 of his "Sun Lore of All Ages," that it was the generally accepted belief among all ancient sun worshipers that at death men were sent either to the sun or to the moon, there to suffer eternally in fire for their misdeeds. The ancient Germans taught that all evildoers received eternal punishment in the heat of the sun. In a book written within the past century by the

*The conception of an ever-burning hell is not compatible with the Bible teaching of a God of love and mercy.*



Reverend Tobias Snoden, the learned preacher seeks to prove that the sun is hell, and that the sun spots are gatherings of damned souls!

Some Christian churches today teach that there is a purgatory where those undeserving of eternal torment may go to be purified of their sins, after which they will be received into heaven. Indulgences of a certain number of days are granted for the saying of certain magic words, or for doing good deeds. The Douay Version of the Scriptures, in its Preface, promises three hundred days out of purgatory to everyone who will spend fifteen minutes in reading the sacred pages.

The Bible itself does not mention or even hint at this place called purgatory, and clearly teaches that there is no such thing as eternal torment for the wicked. To answer this very charge against Him, God declares in Nahum 1:9-11: "What do ye imagine against the Lord? He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry. There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the Lord, a wicked counselor."

*"The Wicked Shall Perish"*

Other Bible prophets add their testimony against the ever-repeated charge of demon worshipers that God Himself is a demon. "I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the Lord. I will consume man and beast. . . . I will cut off the remnant of Baal [literally, master or lord; but used among the Hebrews and many ancient nations as the specific title of the sun-god]; . . . and them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops." Zephaniah 1:2-5. "The wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away." Psalm 37:20.

SIGNS of the TIMES



"Evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." Verses 9, 10.

Isaiah plainly declares that the wicked shall be destroyed, and the fires will go out which burn them: "Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it." Isaiah 47:14.

Nor does there need to be any speculation as to the location of the place of punishment. It is not on the sun or in some cavern beneath the surface of the earth that those who chose eternal death will find it; it will be on this earth itself, and in the sight of the righteous. "Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. . . . And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 4:1-3.

### The Destroyer Will Be Destroyed

Even Lucifer himself shall be brought to ashes upon this earth in the sight of the watching righteous. "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty: . . . I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee." Ezekiel 28:17, 18.

The Scriptures teach that nowhere are men now being burned for their sins. "Where are the dwelling places of the wicked? . . . The wicked is reserved to the day of destruction" (Job 21:28-30), or, as Peter says: "The heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men," when the "elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:7, 10.

In spite of the fact that Romans 6:23 declares that "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," a great majority of professed Christians seem to persist in reading into this verse that the wages of sin is eternal life in hell-fire, thereby making their Creator the most diabolical of demons.

Part of the confusion is undoubtedly caused by the lack of the equivalent in modern languages for the Greek word *aiônios*. Meaning, literally, "age-lasting," the word was used freely by the Greeks to describe almost anything, both temporal and eternal. In the Greek, it is perfectly proper to speak of an age-lasting tree, an age-lasting man, an age-lasting God, and an age-lasting hell-fire. In every such case, the meaning of *aiônios* is governed by the age or perpetuity of the thing described. In the case of God, *aiônios* would be equivalent to our English word "eternal," because He is eternal; in the other three cases, *aiônios* would be limited by the life span of the thing in question. As one lexicographer has expressed it, *aiônios* is like a tree toad—it changes its color with its surroundings.

This confusion as to a modern equivalent of *aiônios*, from which we get most of our "eternals" and "everlastings" in the Bible, together with the handed-down doctrine of demonology, has resulted in an unfortunate translation that at times appears contradictory to the texts quoted above; a little study into the original, however, removes the apparent contradiction, and leaves God's name untarnished as a just and humane being.

Again we have two teachings dealing with an important Christian doctrine, one originating among the devil worshipers of ancient Babylon, the other being clearly set forth in the Scriptures. One we know to be counterfeit, aimed to discredit the Creator and to lead men to despise His name; the other presents the just and mercy-tempered punishment that will be meted out to those who persist in rebellion against divine law. Knowing the source of each of these teachings, the true Christian can do but one thing in his thinking and teaching concerning the destruction of the wicked: He will flee out of Babylon, as commanded in Revelation 18:1-4, and take his stand firmly upon the word of God.



## COMING NEXT WEEK

in addition to the regular features:

People Preparing for Heaven . . . . .	Leon A. Smith
Do You Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness? . . . . .	Leonora Lacey Warriner
A Mighty Masquerade . . . . .	Carlyle B. Haynes
After the War—What? . . . . .	Merlin L. Neff
The Gospel Still the "Power of God" . . . . .	L. V. Finster
Bringing Courtesy Back to Our Homes . . . . .	Agnes Lewis Caviness
Counterfeit Crucifixions . . . . .	Murl Vance
One Day at a Time . . . . .	Grenville Kleiser

## The Place of Refuge

(Continued from page 4)

will arise "to shake terribly the earth." Isaiah 2:19. That will be a shaking compared with which the greatest earthquake on record will fade into insignificance.

What will the armies and navies and air armadas of the great world powers amount to in that day? Where will a refuge be found in the great day of God's wrath?

Inspired prophecy gives a clear picture of what will take place when proud, ambitious men, grasping for power and self-glorification, with the multitudes who have banished God and eternity out of their minds, are suddenly surprised by the day of God. "The heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places," the prophecy says; and continues: "The kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:14-17.

"Who shall be able to stand?" will be the question on all lips then; and few indeed will have the answer. They will not be the great men of the world, the dictators and the military leaders. Of these the prophecy says: "The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols He shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty, when He ariseth to shake terribly the earth." Isa. 2:17-19.



The only refuge in that day will be one that God Himself provides; and His love and mercy have not failed to make such provision for His people. There will be some who will be able to say amid the scenes of the great day: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." Psalm 46:1, 2.

There will be a place of refuge. Of it Inspiration says: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." Psalm 91:1-8.

To prepare the world for the coming of the great day of His wrath God is sending a message to all nations and peoples, calling out from the world all who will give heed to it and obey it. It is a gospel message: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:6, 7. Of those who obey this call the prophecy says: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Verse 12.

The prophecy of Joel, after speaking of "the day of the Lord" as "great and very terrible," adds these words of assurance: "It shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call." Joel 2:32.

There will be deliverance for "the remnant." This remnant can be none other than the remnant church—God's people who will be living on the earth at the end of time, and who are now being called by the last gospel message. This view is confirmed by the language of Revelation 12:17: "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." The "dragon" is Satan (Revelation 20:2),

and the "woman" symbolizes the Christian church (Revelation 12:1-6).

The final message of the everlasting gospel, announcing the arrival of the judgment hour, is now being proclaimed to mankind, calling out of all nations and peoples of the earth the true Israel of God, who worship Him who made heaven and earth—the true God—by the observance of the creation Sabbath, the seventh-day Sabbath of the Decalogue. They "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus," says Revelation 14:12; and verse 17 of chapter 12 adds that they "have the testimony of Jesus Christ." These are the marks of identification of the "remnant" church.

To this company the gracious call is given: "Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain." Isaiah 26:20, 21.

Today the gospel invitation is to all; the door of refuge is open. "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.

## Goodness Will Win

(Continued from page 5)

This earth, now scarred by the effects of sin, will one day be restored to its Edenic beauty, and be given back to man as his eternal home.

Listen to what the word of God has to say about this final restoration: "Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. . . . I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people. . . . They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. . . . And Mine elect shall long enjoy the work

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of their hands." Isaiah 65:17-22. "Seek ye out of the Book of the Lord, and read. . . . He hath cast the lot for them, and His hand hath divided it unto them by line: they shall possess it forever, from generation to generation shall they dwell therein. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. . . . For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. . . . And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness. . . . The redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isaiah 34:16, 17; 35. Read the whole chapter, and see what is prepared for the meek of the earth when at last they receive their promised inheritance.

Peter wrote: "We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13.

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever. And My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isaiah 32:17, 18.

No fear then of long-range guns, bringing desolation and death to innocent women and children; no deadly gas fumes slowly spreading out over crowded city or fertile plain; no whining airplanes overhead, raining down destruction, and mutilation that is worse than death. In view of present-day terrors, and all that sin has brought us of sorrow, degradation, and death, it is not strange that the Master taught us to pray: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10.

Daniel, writing of the time when the kingdoms of earth shall come to an end and Christ's kingdom shall be set up, says: Then "shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed;" "and the kingdom and domin-



ion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High." Daniel 2:44; 7:27.

Regarding the inheritance of the saints, Paul, quoting from Isaiah, said: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Peter, referring to the deferred promise of this inheritance and the destruction of the sin-scarred earth, wrote: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise; . . . but is long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; . . . the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. . . . Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:9-13.

John, the beloved disciple, in vision on the Isle of Patmos, described in wonderful detail this new earth and its beautiful capital, the New Jerusalem. Read those glorious chapters, Revelation 21 and 22. We have space here for only a few brief extracts: "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. . . . And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. . . . And He [God] will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. . . . And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. . . . And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. . . . And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: and they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads."

"These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show unto His servants the things which must shortly be done. . . . Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give to every man according as his work shall be. . . . I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things. . . . He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."



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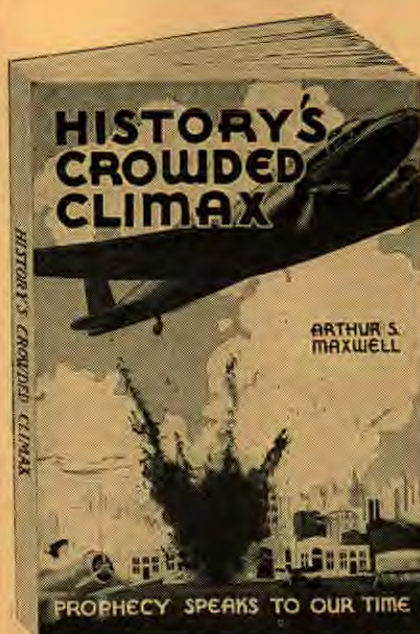
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# KNOTGRASS

by INEZ BRASIER

**K**NOTGRASS, a species of a lowly family numbering mostly troublesome weeds, grows along our driveway. For years it has grown there, and also around the great flat stone at the foot of the porch steps. Many times have I stepped on it, never thinking about it except that it made a soft, green carpet on the path.

One day, not long ago, as I noted its greenness for all the winter's cold, the lesson of the knotgrass came home to me. Walked on, trampled by many feet, day after day, yet it lives and grows. It bears flowers, very tiny and intricate. Its seeds drop to the trodden ground only to live and become more knotgrass in the path. And what an unlikely place a beaten path is! Yet from it spring plants,—lowly though they are,—to live, to flower, to produce fruits.

How like life it is! Forbidding surroundings, untoward circumstances, handicaps of time and place—even here life is to be lived well. The flowers of His grace are to bloom, and the "fruit of the Spirit" is to develop.

The heavenly Gardener does not always place His plants—our human lives—in the most favorable environment. Neither does He always surround us with circumstances we think we should know and understand. We complain, thinking how much we could accomplish for Him if only we were anywhere but where we are; when all we need to know is that where we are is the place of His choosing for growth and development of character. "The Creator does not always

require favorable conditions in order to bring His designs to perfection."

I thought of all this again as I waited in a jeweler's shop for the jeweler to attend to my small need. There, in the cases before me, were many valuable jewels. I tried to picture the places where they had been formed, deep in the earth or hidden in a shell. I thought of the friction and the pressure they had borne before they reached such gleaming perfection.

"Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory. . . . As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, Come, learn of Me, and in thus coming we begin the life eternal. Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. The longer we are in the heaven of bliss, the more and still more of glory will be opened to us; and the more we know of God, the more intense will be our happiness. As we walk with Jesus in this life, we may be filled with His love, satisfied with His presence."

Daily trampling for the knotgrass, and it shows luxuriant growth; cutting and polishing for the jewels, and they lie in sparkling brilliance in a showcase. Just so it may be with us. The heavenly Gardener, the Master Jeweler, would have us grow into His perfection, would have us reflect the loveliness of His graces. Every day of our lives may be beautiful in Him.

