

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

THE WORLD'S PROPHETIC WEEKLY





INTERNATIONAL



WORLD CONSPIRACY

IN THE midst of all the turmoil and confusion of the present world conflict certain definite trends are taking shape.

From its very beginning we were all aware that this was a different kind of war than the world had seen before; but how different we are but slowly beginning to appreciate. Not only have new weapons been introduced, new methods

A realistic charge by troops in the army maneuvers in the St. Lawrence Valley. These men have just crossed the pontoon bridge shown on the cover.

of attack and defense been employed, but far more important is the new purpose behind it all, now gradually revealing itself.

In the secret council chambers of certain major powers there has been hatched a world conspiracy, a gigantic plot aimed not only at the overthrow and dismemberment of certain other powers, but at the uprooting of evangelical Christianity and its complete neutralization as an influence in world affairs.

An ocean liner as it appeared after being hit by bombs during the closing scenes of the Battle of France.

INTERNATIONAL



the flight of TIME

A SURVEY OF
**WORLD
EVENTS**

by the
EDITOR

Many months ago we expressed our conviction that Christianity was confronted with grievous perils; that it was indeed fighting with its back to the wall in many places. We pointed to instances of restriction and persecution, quoting also Dr. Adolf Keller's striking statement that "modern paganism is discovering the natural religious forces in the soul of man, and is preparing for a decisive battle with Christianity."

As the weeks have passed, evidence of the existence of this antichristian conspiracy has increased. As success has come to the powers involved in it, so they have the more clearly revealed their sinister intentions.

Hermann Rauschnig, in his most illuminating work, *The Voice of Destruction*, records how one great national leader told him personally that nothing would prevent him from "tearing up Christianity root and branch, and annihilating it." "The parsons," says this leader, "will be made to dig their own graves. They will betray their own God to us."

SIGNS of the TIMES

In *Battle for the Cross*, by Strader, the author claims that the new paganism "has the task of uncovering and fighting the damage which Christianity has done the people. It violently rejects Christianity in every form."

But the conspiracy is not confined to Europe. It reaches out to the ends of the earth. It is becoming especially noticeable in the Far East, where, according to press reports dated August 26, the dominant power has brought pressure to bear on Christian bodies to make their religion completely national, and to expel all foreign missionaries.

Even more dangerous to the cause of true Christianity, however, is the compulsion being employed to force Christians to visit pagan shrines. According to Harold E. Fey, in *The Christian Century* of August 14, "Japanese Christians continue to worship at the shrines; their bishops go to report their plans at Ise, the shrine to the sun goddess; children from Christian schools are taken by the hundreds to render their obeisance; and ministers' groups visit shrines for consecration."

Dark though the story of the church has been through the ages; scarred though it be with the wounds of many conflicts; stained though it is with the blood and tears of a multitude of martyrs, never did it face so desperately dangerous a situation as it does today. Cruel, ruthless, and powerful are the forces ranged against it, and black indeed would be its future but for the divine promises of timely succor and ultimate deliverance.

These evil days upon which the church is entering were long ago foreseen by the prophets of God. "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea!" exclaimed the apostle John, writing of the closing scenes of history, "for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:12.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman [the church], and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Verse 17.

The day will come, says the prophet, when one earthly power will even issue a decree that "as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." Revelation 13:15.

Nevertheless God will not forsake His faithful people. Constantly will He watch over them as His most precious treasure upon earth. And though all the powers of earth should conspire to make war with the Lamb, yet "the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful." Revelation 17:14.

The world conspiracy, urged on by the powers of darkness, may seem for a time to be making progress, even to the verge of success; yet it will fail. Its collapse, final and complete, is certain and sure. Said the prophet: "I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." Revelation 19:19, 20.

Thus eventually will perish all the enemies of the Lord who have plotted against Him, His people, and His holy cause of truth. With this assurance of final victory, well may the church resolve to maintain her loyalty to her Lord and Master steadfast unto the end.



WHILE waiting to go into the pulpit of the First Christian Church of a certain California city the other day, we talked awhile with the thoughtful and affable minister.

Reviewing all the plans that were made to bring about permanent peace

This cross and its background were formed of 15,000 Bibles, stacked in connection with the forty-first annual convention of the Gideon Society at the famous Hollywood Bowl. The Bibles used in the display are now being distributed to the schools of California.



OUR COVER PICTURE

This week our cover shows a company of National Guardsmen building a floating footbridge across the Raquette River, Norwood, New York, where they took part in the largest peacetime maneuvers ever held in the United States.

after the last war, he exclaimed: "That was the greatest period in the history of the world. Think of the League of Nations, the World Court, the Kellogg Peace Pact, and the thousand other noble efforts to improve international relationships and uplift humanity. History never witnessed anything like it before. Now it has all collapsed."

He paused for a moment, and then went on to tell how completely puzzled he was. He had put so much confidence in these schemes,—urging his congregation to do the same,—but now that they had come to nought, he did not know what to think or what to say.

Then he said a strange thing. Referring to a mutual friend, a minister of another church in the city, he said: "The trouble with that Adventist preacher is that he is always trying to interpret the prophecies."

I smiled.

I happened to know that Adventist preacher rather well, and I knew that *he* was not puzzled about the world situation. He was sorry, of course, about the collapse of the League of Nations and the

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PAGANISM DOOMED

Christ's Victory Certain

by

H. M. KELLEY

NINETEEN hundred years ago, angels, bending low over the hill country of Judea, sang to the shepherds who were watching their flocks by night, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." At the same time there was born in the little town of Bethlehem "a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:14, 11. This was the time and this the place where God offered the nations of earth the peace of heaven.

Pagan Rome then ruled the world with a rod of iron. Herod responded to God's plea for peace by issuing a decree that all the children in Bethlehem under two years old should be killed, so bent was he upon the destruction of Jesus. But the Child escaped, grew to manhood, and brought the gospel message of peace, which the nations had rejected, to individual hearts.

We now have the testimony of nineteen hundred years of history condemning paganism. Yet today, when millions of glad voices the world around rise in praise to Jesus Christ, pagan armies are again on the march, spreading destruction and death far and wide. How long will the God of heaven look on in silence? How long will He allow the godless to triumph? How long, O Lord, how long?

Pagan soldiers led the Son of God to Calvary to be crucified. With cruel hands they nailed Him to the cross of shame. His friends took Him down from the cross, and gently laid Him in Joseph's new tomb. After three days, though the tomb had been securely sealed and soldiers were standing at attention about it, a shining angel flew swiftly to the tomb and rolled away the stone, while the soldiers fell prostrate to the ground. The power of death was broken, and Christ came forth, appeared to His disciples, and afterward ascended to heaven, where He is now pleading for the sons of men. Soon the armies of heaven will follow Him as King of kings as He rides forth conquering and to conquer.

Paganism has stained the pages of all history with its bloody deeds. It raised its head in ancient Babylon, marched forth to kill and to destroy, and is still pursuing the same evil course today. But it cannot succeed.

It is fighting a lost cause. Christ, by His death and resurrection, sealed its doom. Moreover, its combined strength is as nothing compared with the army that is being organized in heaven, headed by Jesus Christ. Listen to what the prophet says:

"I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man

knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 19:11-16.

Today the judgment is set. The hour has come for the final settlement of God's account with paganism and the nations that practice it. But, before the end, the message of God must be given with a loud voice that will sound from pole to pole. It must be heard above the noise of battle. Every nation, kindred, tongue, and people must hear God's last call of mercy. It is a message of peace and hope for the individual soul.

Have you heard this message speaking to your own troubled heart? You may be troubled by what you see around you. You may have domestic and personal worries. But, remember, the Risen One is waiting for your invitation to come to your help. He has power to save and to keep that which you commit unto Him against that day.

Then let us come as it were to the open tomb. Here let us pledge our vows to the risen Christ. The pledged words of some national leaders may mean nothing any more, but the vow of a consecrated heart to Christ means eternal life and everlasting peace. No fear—not even that of death itself—can daunt those who are looking through the open tomb to a risen Saviour. Death to them is but a shadow that will pass away.

The advent hope lives today in the hearts of God's children in every nation under heaven, and it shines like the morning star in this time when rampant paganism is about to meet its

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When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, God offered the nations of earth the peace of heaven.



GRAMSTORFF

Forward and Upward!



GALLOWAY

There is nothing more beautiful in this world than a Christian youth leading a Christian life and engaged in Christian service. Indeed, youth are never more beautiful than when they are living, working, and dying, if need be, for a great cause.

The noble youth of the Bible always appear in action, never only as ornaments. Isaac is on the march toward Moriah; Joseph is seeking his brethren; Daniel is defending the right; Esther is risking her life to save her people; John is preaching in the wilderness; Christ is working and dying a martyr's death; Timothy, Titus, Silas, and Philemon are building up and strengthening the church.

True Christianity must express itself in love and service for mankind. Real conversion will result in vigorous activity for the cause of Christ, and make the church a vitalizing and life-giving force.

A youth movement which does not direct youth into service is a misnomer. The busiest department in any church should be the youth's department. It

should be as busy as a swarm of bees, and should literally bristle with life and action. Just a word to youth leaders: There is too much cheap praise and sentimental eulogy passed on to youth these days. We should compliment them only when they are trying hard to achieve or are actually achieving something worth while. To praise when youth knows, and we know, that nothing worthy of praise has been accomplished is harmful and embarrassing. He is a worthless leader who only congratulates but never leads and directs youth in service for Christ. No matter how important his position, he cannot be a hero in the eyes of sincere youth until he leads them out to do and to dare. Youth are naturally hero worshipers, and a hero is one who lives a great life and renders great service to mankind.

One reason why so many youth are losing interest in the church is that the church is satisfied with her mission, and offers little that really challenges youth to great deeds and sacrifices. What little work is being done is often carried on largely by the pastors or the adult church

A CALL TO CHRISTIAN YOUTH

Concluding Article
in the Series
on Youth's Problems

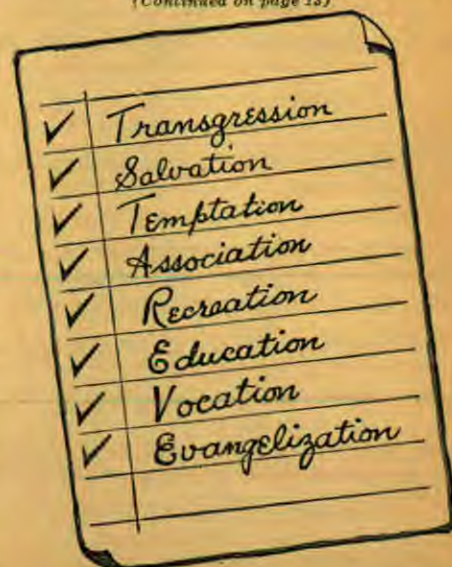
by
D. E. REINER

members. The chief burden of many so-called leaders of Christian youth of today seems to be to provide entertainments and amusements, in the belief that these will hold the youth to the church. While such things are pleasant and sometimes necessary, they can never count for much with forward-looking, growing young men and young women.

The watchword of Christian youth must ever be, "Forward and upward!" Christ's call to His colleagues was, "Arise, let us go hence." John 14:31. Paul's challenge to youth was, "Quit you like men, be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13.

How can Christian youth of today sit at ease when so many other young people are dying for want of the gospel light? How can they sleep and rest at ease when so many children and youth are marching toward the precipice without hope and without God? Does it mean anything to you to learn that thirty-seven million boys and girls of school age, in North America alone, are not attending any sort of church service, and are growing up without any knowledge of the Bible whatsoever? No one is better qualified to help this army of Christless youth than other young people who have found the Lord and yet are facing like problems and temptations. It has been said that "the youth, if right, could sway a mighty influence. Preach-

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EVERLASTING SECURITY

*People Talk of It; Politicians
Promise It; but—
How Will It Come to Pass?*

by

CARLYLE B. HAYNES

THERE is nothing that the human spirit more greatly desires than security. But human life, human welfare, human comforts, and human institutions are less secure today than at any time since the days before the Flood.

No wonder political parties are talking security, and promising to establish security. No doubt they think they can carry out their promises. But they are wrong. They cannot. The element of uncertainty and insecurity in all things pertaining to this world is becoming more pronounced every passing day.

And this will continue. There will be no permanent recovery in economic, social, or governmental affairs in this world "until He come whose right it is" to rule.

The second coming of our Lord provides the only prospect men have of permanent social and economic security and justice.

Political parties and the men who manage them are impotent to bring about recovery. Their objectives may be right. Their intentions may be pure. But the best they can do is not good enough. And the best that any other group can produce will not be good enough.

There is something about this whole situation that our political and governmental leaders do not take into account. They leave it entirely out of their reckoning.

It is this: There is that at the root of social and economic confusion, of human wretchedness and misery, which no scheme of man, no political philosophy, can ever remove or change.

And that thing which is the root cause of all human ills and which man cannot reach or deal with is bound, sooner or

*In the earth made new
the inhabitants will
know peace and secur-
ity—nought will mo-
lest or make them
afraid.*

later, to bring every human scheme of recovery to defeat.

The thing that is wrong with this world, the thing that produces all human maladjustments, all depression, all wretchedness and misery, all injustice, all unfairness and oppression, is not merely bad politics.

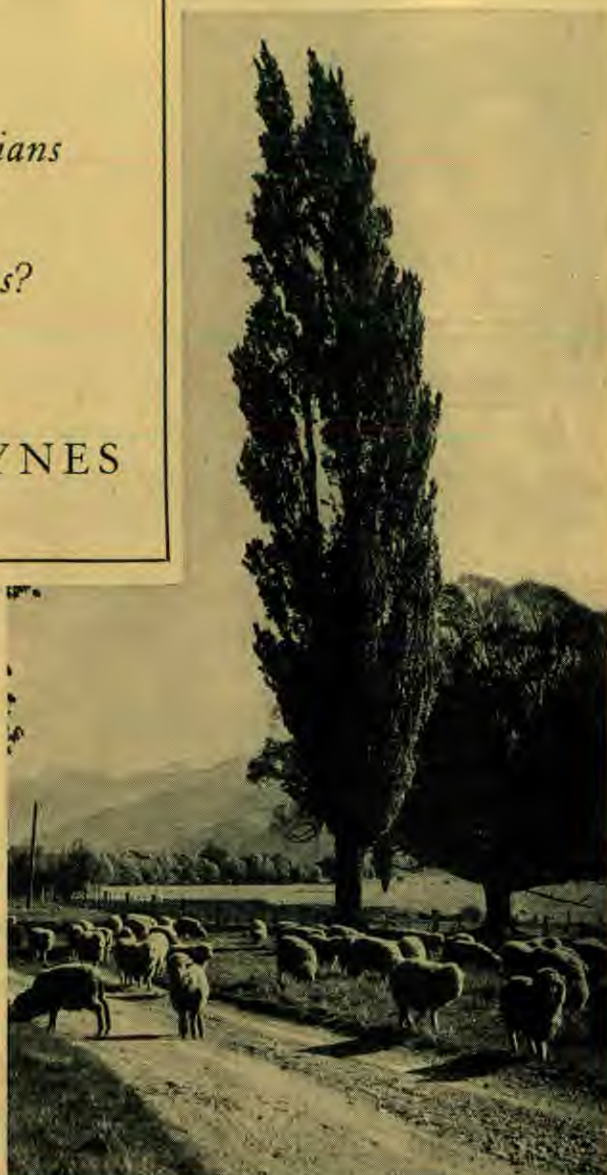
It is sinful human nature. Sin is the root cause of all that is wrong in the world. And sin cannot be removed and destroyed by any political, economic, social, or governmental machinery or policy that can be devised.

Change human environment as you may, regiment humanity as you will, change human conditions of life, change every social and economic arrangement and structure, change the government itself, change the whole political philosophy of government, and when all that is done, fallen human nature has not been changed one whit.

And it is human nature that is wrong. It is human nature that is productive of all other wrongs. The tree is bad. The fruit is bound to be bad.

Man has demonstrated that he can ruin a world. That is settled.

But he cannot reconstruct a world. He cannot repair the ruin he has made. He



KENT

cannot bring about recovery. He cannot bring about security.

It took man only a moment to ruin the world. He has had six thousand years for his many schemes of reconstruction. And all of them have failed. Every attempt he has made has only resulted in still greater evils. Indeed, progress in evil, in alienation from God, in the downward course toward destruction, is the feature of greatest prominence in man's history.

But this progress in evil has a limit. God has set bounds He will not allow it to pass.

He will make the wrath of man to praise Him, and the remainder thereof He will restrain. See Psalm 76:10.

When man has exhausted his feeble attempts to repair the damage sin has wrought, when every recovery scheme of man has proved futile, then God will

take things into His own capable hands.

He will bring about recovery. He will bring about security. And this recovery and security will be complete, effective, comprehensive, successful, and permanent.

Where man has failed, God will succeed. He will repair the ravages of sin. He will banish wrongs and injustice and oppression. He will plant equity, justice, righteousness, and peace in the earth forever. He will restore the conditions of Paradise itself.

The good is about to displace the evil. The blessing is about to take the place of the curse.

The second Adam is at hand. With Him will come the kingdom and the glory. He will come with the clouds of heaven. By the destruction of the wicked He will overthrow oppression and bring an end to crime.

He will deliver from this present evil world all who put their trust in Him and are obedient to His commandments.

He will establish everlasting righteousness; and on His righteous, peaceful throne He will reign forever and ever.

There is no other remedy for a ruined world than this. This is the one great hope of the whole creation. It is the only hope of a sorely burdened world, which under Him will at last know the blessedness of righteous rule.

All of this God has pledged Himself to bring about. He promised it to Abraham. Genesis 13:14-17. Abraham died before the promise was fulfilled.

God repeated the promise to Isaac. Genesis 26:2-5. Isaac never received the promise. He died before its fulfillment.

God repeated the promise to Jacob. Genesis 28:13-15. And Jacob did not get it. He died.

The promise comprehended the whole earth. Romans 4:13. It was not to be fulfilled through any law of national descent. It does not belong to the Jews merely. It is to be fulfilled through Christ. It includes every child of God, every Christian, every follower of the Lord. Galatians 3:16, 29; 6:15, 16; Romans 2:28, 29.

One thing, and one thing alone, connects any person with these ancient promises, and assures their fulfillment. It is to be "born again" a Christian.

Men of all nationalities—Indians, Japanese, Africans, Anglo-Saxons, Teutons, Latins—may be born again. When born again, they become true Israelites according to the Bible.

It is not the natural birth which makes a person an Israelite. It is the new birth, the second birth, the spiritual birth.

A literal restoration of literal Israel is not predicted in the prophecies of the Bible. To believe in such a restoration is to be utterly led astray as to the true meaning of the Bible prophecies.

It is by the last message of the gospel that true Israel is now being gathered out of every nation in the world.

This gathering call is sounding in all the nations of the world through the truth of God's final message to men. As this gospel call is heard and heeded, and men are brought to Christ, they become, through the new birth, Israelites.

And it is this Israel—those who experience the spiritual birth—which is to be restored to the spiritual Canaan, the new earth.

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MY FEET FOR GOD

Fourth in the Series,
"MY GIFT TO GOD"

by MARTHA E. WARNER

*"Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee."*

IT WAS the rush hour in the city. The streets were crowded with thousands of hurrying, jostling people. I was one of them.

The green light was set for us to "GO," but nobody attempted to drive across the street. Nobody honked a horn. A traffic officer stood with upheld hand in the center of the street, until a man, who had no feet, slowly and laboriously made his way across.

As I watched, I breathed a prayer of thankfulness that to me God had given feet, which was swiftly followed by a disturbing question: Are my feet going in

*Feet that are consecrated to God will go only
where He would have them go.*

the way God would have them go? Do I honestly want the Lord to keep my feet walking in the straight and narrow path, or do I long for the broad way with its countless attractions ever beckoning me on?

How often Christians have reasoned: "It doesn't do any harm to look down the road or to walk just a little way. I'll just listen to the music that is coming from that building. Oh, the people are dancing! I'm going in. Of course, I'll not dance; and yet as long as there is no one here who knows me, one dance cannot harm me."

And it didn't; or did it? Then our feet take us farther along down the way. We stop at the theater, a tavern, perhaps. We try a cocktail, not because we want it, or like it, but just because we want to see and to know for ourselves how this part of the world lives. We figure it out as a sort of educational trip. But God is not in the education!

What miserable failures we Christians make in trying to give our lives to the Master and yet keep them ourselves! And how Satan, the prince of this world, must gloat over our failures!

A woman and I were talking about dancing—she for it, I against it. And, to prove her side, she reminded me that David danced before the Lord, and then said that she had been so full of joy in her Christian experience that she could express it in none other way than by dancing—in the privacy of her own home, of course.

Today her joy is turned to sorrow, for her husband and daughter, both professing Christians, who learned to dance with her in the home, now have turned their feet down the broad way. They run with a fast crowd; they smoke, drink, and dance. Their feet are not "swift" and "beautiful" for the Lord.

We need disturbing questions, if only to help us realize what we mean when we say—

*"Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee."*



The Message

THE heavens are constantly telling of the handiwork of an omnipotent and omniscient Creator who brought into existence, and directs the movements of, the suns with their worlds and satellites. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork." Psalm 19:1. The study of astronomy should convince anyone that such a vast universe could not have come about by mere chance, but must have been designed and created by an intelligent Being, as set forth in the Scriptures. See Psalm 33:6, 9; Isaiah 44:24; 45:18; Revelation 4:11.

The celebrated astronomer, Kircher, had an acquaintance who did not believe in a Creator or a creation. To convince him, Kircher procured a beautiful globe with revolving satellites. He placed it in the corner of his study, and just before the arrival of his friend he wound it up and set it in motion. The skeptic looked at it admiringly, and then said, "Who made that?" Kircher answered in the very language the skeptic had so often used on him: "No one made it. It came into existence by mere chance. It was doubtless produced by resident forces." To this the skeptic answered, "Nonsense!" The satisfied smile of Kircher reminded his skeptical friend that he had convicted himself. Professor Olmsted truthfully said that "no man can be a lover of astronomy and an atheist at the same time." Let us notice further discoveries of modern astronomy in the light of the revelations of Scripture.

The Number of Stars

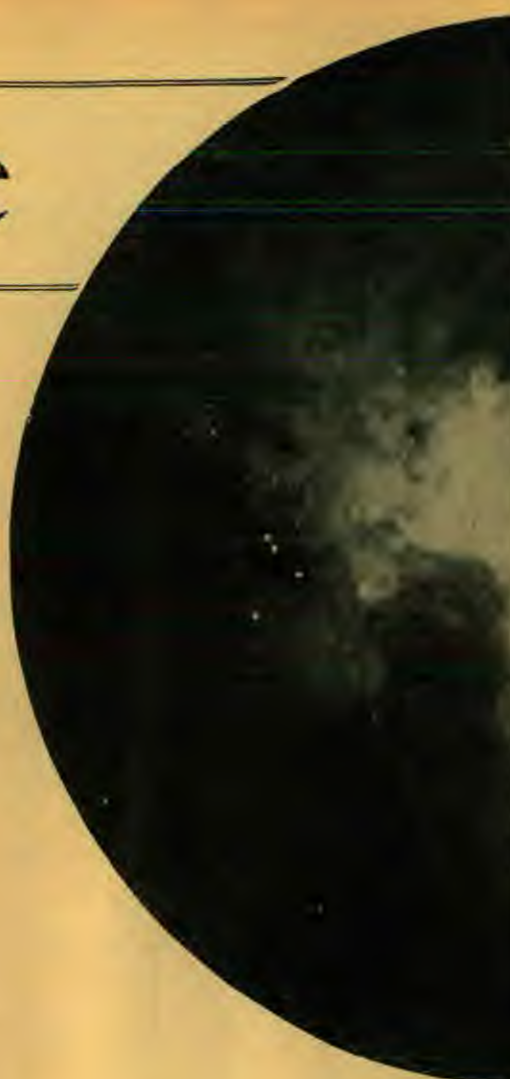
Ptolemy, Greco-Egyptian astronomer, in the second century B.C. counted the visible stars and declared that the heavens contained 1,022 stars and no more. More than three hundred years before this time, the Lord had declared through one of His prophets that the stars of the sky are innumerable to man. He said: "The host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured." Jeremiah 33:22. The earliest of the more modern astronomers said that 7,000 stars could be counted with the naked eye. Galileo's telescope increased the number of visible stars to 100,000, and the 2¼-inch telescope, at a later period, to 300,000. The 40-inch lens made possible an estimate of 100,000,000 stars north of the celestial equator.

Further Evidence of Their Confirmation of the Scriptures

The most recent developments in astronomical photography, employing the most powerful telescopes, reveal the fact that the spiral nebulae, hitherto believed to be star dust, or systems and stars in the making through the process of evolution, are in reality groups or galaxies of stars at such vast distances that they are inseparable. These distant galaxies are called "island universes." Our solar system belongs to the island universe known as the Milky Way. Of the number of stars in this single galaxy, F. H. Sears, Assistant Director of Mount Wilson Observatory, said: "The best estimate we can make, uncertain though it may be, shows a total of from 30,000,000,000, to 40,000,000,000 stars in our galaxy or system."—Los Angeles Times, September 29, 1929.

Sir Arthur Eddington, noted British astronomer, estimates that there are 100,000,000,000 galaxies or island universes, each of which contains billions of stars or suns. A dispatch from the Mount Wilson Observatory, dated February 1, 1935, declared that Dr. Edwin P. Hubble, by means of the 100-inch telescope, can see a distance of three sextillion miles, and that in this area there are some 900,000,000,000,000 stars. When we consider the fact that each star, or sun, is the center of a system, and that its "planets" in turn are the centers for revolving satellites, how full of meaning is the scriptural statement made two and a half millenniums ago that "the host of heaven cannot be numbered"!

Even the grouping of the hosts of heaven into systems, constellations, and galaxies seems to be indicated by the statement in Isaiah 40:26 that the Creator "bringeth out their host by number." While the finite wisdom of man cannot number the stars, the great Creator, whose understanding is infinite, knows both their number and their names. "He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth." Isaiah 40:26. "He telleth the number of the



stars; He calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite." Psalm 147:4, 5.

Distance and Size of Stars

Until recent years it was thought that the stars were comparatively close to the earth, which was believed to be the center of the universe. In Job 22:12 is the statement, "Behold the height of the stars, how high they are!" and in Jeremiah 31:37 we are told that the distances in the heavens cannot "be measured." Sirius is the nearest star to our system, and yet its distance is eight and eight tenths light years from the earth. A light year is a unit of measurement in astronomy. It is the distance light travels in a year at the rate of 186,000 miles a second, which is six trillion miles. It takes light about eight and a fourth minutes to reach the earth from the sun. Traveling at the rate of 500 miles an hour it would take a cannon ball 13,000,000 years to reach Sirius, the nearest star. Dr. Hubble of the Mount Wilson Observatory says that some stars are 300,000,000 light years away.

Is the immense size of the heavenly bodies indicated in Isaiah 33:17? "The land of far distances" is the marginal

of the STARS

by TAYLOR G. BUNCH

star differeth from another star in glory." 1 Corinthians 15:41. This is a scientific fact that modern astronomy has demonstrated by means of the telescope and astronomical photography. "Glory" is defined as "brightness, luster, splendor, radiance, effulgence." It is now known that no two stars are exactly alike in size, color, or brightness. Arcturus is noted for its brilliancy, which is a light rose tint. Betelgeuse sheds a light that is deep red tinged with orange, giving it a sort of rich topaz hue. Rigel, in the constellation of Orion, is a brilliant white star with a tinge of blue. It is the color of a blue-white diamond of the first quality. Other stars are deep blue, grape red, light yellow and reddish, sapphire blue, yellowish white, grayish purple, pale blue, greenish white, etc. The planets also are all different in size and glory. Some of them have but one moon, or satellite, others four, and one as many as eight. The rings of Saturn constitute one of the marvels of the heavens, and are now believed to be composed of innumerable small satellites of various colors. Each planet must also be different in its natural scenery and verdant glory. How full of meaning is the statement in Job 26:13 that the Creator "hath garnished the heavens"! "Garnish" means to "decorate, adorn, and embellish." Astronomers tell us that the different colors indicate different mineral compositions of the stars. This has given the theory of evolution a deathblow as far as the heavenly bodies are concerned, for if all the suns and planets in one galaxy evolved from the same central mass of star dust, they would be composed of the same minerals and would therefore shed forth the same light.

"The Golconda of the Heavens"

The Lord asked Job if he was able to "loose the bands of Orion." Job 38:31. "The bands of Orion" may refer to the spiral nebula in the belt of Orion. It was first discovered by Herschel, and after viewing it for a long time he said to his assistants: "Here is truly a hole in the heavens." Astronomer Garrett P. Serviss said: "There is nothing else in all the sky equal to it in splendor. . . . It is the Gol-

conda of the heavens." As the result of astronomical photography it has been estimated that this "hole," or "open space," in Orion is twenty trillion miles in width and fifty trillion miles in depth. In this celestial "gateway" the colors are the most varied and glorious of any place in the heavens. Like the Pleiades, the whole constellation is enveloped in a shroud of glory.

Speaking of the glory of this great celestial cavern, a writer recently said: "The nebula of Orion is the opening of a colossal cavern. It is no flat surface. One peers within cosmic deeps; one looks into a chasm before which all powers of imagination are submerged, and feasts the eye with supernal splendor. It is like looking in at a door. The chasm is the most beautiful object visible to human sight. Pillars, columns, walls . . . are within deeps of deeps. They glow and shine superbly with pearly lights."—*The National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1919.

Astronomer Larkin gave the following description of this remarkable nebula: "Human speech is impotent. Pen of writer, brush of artist, alike are lifeless and inert in any attempt even to describe this interior. Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, illumined by electric lights, is so beautiful that words cannot be used in its description. What, then, should be said of the mighty cavern in the depths of Orion's nebula? Torn, twisted, and riven masses of shining gas, irregular pillars, columns, and stalactites in glittering splendor, and stalagmites rising from the mighty floor! The appearance is that of light shining and glowing behind Herculean walls of ivory and pearl, and these studded with millions of diamond points—shining stars. Torn, twisted and distorted masses of shining gaseous matter, adorned with myriads of glittering points—starry suns, no doubt—form the gigantic walls; and the whole forms a scene of indescribable magnificence."

One night as Garrett P. Serviss was watching the matchless spectacle of Orion advancing to the meridian, he turned suddenly and said to a companion, "Is there not some vast mystery concealed in that part of the heavens?"

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*Of the great nebula of Orion, the poet said:
"I never gazed upon it but I dreamt
Of some vast charm concluded in that star
To make fame nothing."*

reading, and "a land that reacheth afar" is the American Revised Version. "Your eyes shall see the King in all His splendor, and gaze upon His broad domain," is Moffatt's translation. Our sun is about 865,000 miles in diameter, and is 600 times larger than all the planets, satellites, asteroids, and comets in this system put together. It would take a train, traveling a mile a minute, five and a half years to circle the sun. And yet the sun is so small compared with most of the other suns or stars that it is known as "the dwarf sun." Arcturus is said to be 21,000,000 miles in diameter, and Betelgeuse in the constellation of Orion, says Sir James Jeans of London, is 216,000,000 miles in diameter. Compared with this gigantic sun, our own sun would be like a grain of dust beside a tennis ball. If Betelgeuse were hollow and our sun were in the center, the earth, which is 93,000,000 miles away, could sail around the sun in its usual orbit without touching the inside walls of the great star. It has been estimated that Antares in the constellation of Scorpio is 390,000,000 miles in diameter.

The apostle Paul declared that "one



NO SECRET RAPTURE

A Dangerous Teaching Refuted

by ALLEN WALKER

LAST week we reviewed a few of the scriptural references relating to the second coming of Christ. Let us now examine the views of a group of Christians known as fundamentalists, who stress the second coming of Christ, but almost completely neutralize its importance by teaching that the righteous go to be with the Lord at death, and that this being with the Lord is in no sense dependent upon the second coming and the resurrection. Their teachings concerning the Lord's return are known as "the rapture theory."

The following quotation is from one of the leading evangelists of this school: "When the rapture comes, it will come in the twinkling of an eye, and will be altogether unexpected except by those who have been searching the prophecies and looking for it. After it has occurred there will be an army of preachers and church members who will not know that it is come, for the Lord at that time will not be seen by any except those who have been caught up to meet the Lord in the air. The remainder of the world will not know that He has been here, and they will not know what has become of the missing ones. They will seem to have disappeared in all kinds of unaccountable ways. But things will settle back into their old condition, and business will go on and governments will go on as now. After Jesus comes and takes the believers out of the world, then takes place the great tribulation. At the close of the tribulation the Lord will return, bringing with Him His saintly members of His body, to begin His millennial reign. Then He will reveal Himself to the Jews. They will accept Him as their long-rejected Messiah. Then the millennium will begin; the devil will be cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years; nations will be born in a day through the missionary efforts of the Jews."

The two cardinal points which this teaching tries to establish are, (1) that the millions who will be living in sin then, as well as the numberless millions

who will be born for a thousand years to follow, will have a chance to be saved; and (2) that the Jews after the flesh are to be regathered to Palestine and converted by the physical sight of the Lord's return seven years after the "rapture."

This teaching of a continued opportunity to be saved after the Lord's return is one of the most dangerous errors of these closing days, and is scheduled by the powers of darkness to be preached everywhere to neutralize the necessity of spiritual preparation for translation.

This teaching is becoming so widespread and so generally accepted that it becomes a sacred duty to show how dangerous and unscriptural it is.

One of the passages used in support of this "secret rapture" theory of the second coming of Christ is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17: "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Note the words, "voice," "shout," "trump." The purpose of such words is to attract attention, to cause people to look, to listen. No such words or sounds would be used if the Lord intended His coming to be "secret" and unnoticed.

It is claimed that at this time the Lord "catches away the saints," and that seven years later He will come again "with all His saints." Let us look into the meaning of the teaching that the Lord will come "with all His saints." The text says: "To the end He may stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints." 1 Thessalonians 3:13.

What is meant by the coming of our Lord "with all His saints"? Does it refer to the saints who were "caught up," as recorded in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17, or does the word "saints" here indicate the angels who are coming with Him? In Matthew 25:31 we read that Jesus shall come, "and all the holy angels with Him." Here it says, "all the holy angels" instead of, "with all His saints," but both verses mean the same thing. Again, "the Son of man shall come . . . with His angels." Matthew 16:27. The Bible says that angels are "saints." Jude 14 says: "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints." We find a similar statement in Deuteronomy 33:2, which says: "The Lord came from Sinai; . . . and He came with ten thousands of saints." This refers to the time the law was spoken in glory and intense brightness. David, commenting on this, says that these "saints" were "angels." We read: "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place." Psalm 68:17.

The passages which speak of Christ coming "with all His saints" have no reference to a third coming seven years after the second. The Bible knows nothing of a "secret rapture." In fact, the expression is not found in all the Bible. The only second coming of Christ that the Bible speaks of will be a visible, shining, glorious event.

The Jewish nation sealed its rejection of the gospel by the stoning of Stephen.



The next point we shall examine is the claim that the second coming of Christ will be "one act in two parts," with seven years between; that "the rapture of the saints" will take place at the beginning of this week of seven years; and that at the close of it the Lord will come again "to set up His kingdom on the earth."

This contention is based on a strange misinterpretation of Daniel 9:24-27. The twenty-seventh verse contains the expression about which so much is made by the believers in the "rapture": "He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week." These words were spoken to Daniel while the Jews were in Babylonian captivity, in punishment for their sins.

When the term of the Babylonian captivity was about to end, the prophet Daniel prayed earnestly that God would remember the promise of their release from captivity and their return to restore and to build again their city, which was in ruins.



Reference to this chart enables one to follow the events of the seventy weeks mentioned in Daniel 9:24-27.

The prayer was answered by the Lord in the form of a king's decree that all who wished could return to their land. The decree and date are found in Ezra 7:21-27: "I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree. . . . Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven." Then, in thanking the king for these favors, Ezra the priest said: "Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem." The date of this decree is 457 B.C.

It was while Daniel was praying that the angel came to him and told him that all this would be done, adding, however, that he was going to allow the Jewish people 490 years of probational favor. "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression."

Daniel 9:24. Seventy weeks, seven days to the week, equal 490 days. But in symbolic prophecy the year-day principle is used, which, according to Ezekiel 4:6, would indicate 490 years, instead of literal days of twenty-four hours each.

"Seventy weeks," or 490 years, of favor were to be allotted to Daniel's people "to finish the transgression." What does "finish the transgression" mean? It means, according to the Scriptures, that they would go to such limits in sin and transgression that God could no longer claim them as His "chosen people;" that He would disown them and "turn to the Gentiles." Acts 13:46. They filled up the cup of their iniquity in rejecting

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BACK AT SCHOOL

by LAURA GRAY

THERE was a stir down our street this September morning, a sort of breathlessness in voice and step, as boys and girls ran out from houses on both sides. Carefully washed and combed, with shining faces and most of them in new shoes, they walked—not with the abandon of holidays, but with new purposefulness. Happy, eager conversation showed that school, for them, was an enjoyable adventure—despite the popular idea that it is dreaded and disliked.

At the entrance of her front yard, young Mrs. Bently stood for a long time, shading her eyes toward the school, as if loath to have her precious six-year-old out of her sight. She turned toward the house, then came back again and stopped a big boy, in a new brown suit, who was whistling joyous notes. "Jim, have an eye for my Tommy—won't you?" she said. "School is new to him. Don't let anyone pick on him or bully him."

"Sure, I'll look out for Tommy, Mrs. Bently." Jim straightened, touched his brand-new cap, then strode on—whistling.

More doors opened; little girls with fresh frocks and new sandals, and eyes full of laughter, came out, joined others, and flocked up the street.

Then the doors of the big, gray school-house were closed, and the street was quiet—so quiet. Only a few lonely dogs were left, and they lay on the sidewalks, noses between paws, pointed toward the school, waiting hopefully for their playmates to come back.

What can we mothers do to help our children who have gone so eagerly to



spend the best hours of the day in the big, gray school? Is there anything we can do? If mothers could be teachers for a while, they would soon know that a pupil's success depends very much on the home from which he comes.

First, we can help him physically. You have only to look into the face of a child to know whether he has had a full night's sleep, been properly bathed, and had an adequate breakfast—with plenty of time to eat it. If so, it will tend to make his eyes glisten, to make him alert, to give him a grip on life and a consciousness of his rightful place among his fellows. Remember, attending school is real work.

We can help the school child socially, too. Some boys and girls have a way with them that wins friends immediately; others like them, trust them. Almost at once they are chosen leaders in various activities. Other youngsters stand aloof—shy, timid, unhappy, perhaps even sullen. Why? The

home should find out and bring about a reversal.

Clothes have a marked place in school life, just as they have in other kinds of society. Untidy, unclean, ill-fitting clothes give the boy or girl an inferior place in his own estimation, as well as in that of teachers and schoolmates. Unusual apparel—clothes unlike those worn by the majority—mark a boy or a girl as "queer." Youngsters do not often complain of these things, but they suffer much from self-consciousness. Let us, as far as our means will permit,—and it is usually not a question of means, but of understanding and care,—enable the student to face the day, his teacher, and his comrades, unconscious of his clothes. He will, if they are not noticeably unlike those of his mates.

You will want your child, also, to have a happy, genial outlook on life, with a readiness to help others. Consider that he can hardly do this if he hears unfavorable remarks against school, teacher, or pupils at home. It will help him if we welcome—get to know—the friends he brings home; and it will help to keep him at home if we manage to have some place—shed, basement, or garden—where "the gang" can and will come to play.

A quiet, warm, well-lighted place and a set time for study will be about all the help required of us with regard to the child's homework. And if we are alert, ready at all times to do for the child all that belongs to the home to do, it is unlikely that we shall be disappointed with the results at school.—National Kindergarten Association.

TWENTIETH-CENTURY minds do not accept the idea of sin very seriously. Even professed Christians play with sin, live in sin, and accept sin as though it were something which, because it is here with us, needs to be accepted as a conventionality; or we might say that this dangerous malady is accepted much as some people believe it is necessary for children to have all the diseases of childhood in order to become immune to them in later life.

Sin is malignant; it is terribly destructive and deadly, not only in the physical life but in the spiritual also. It blights the mind so that spiritual thinking becomes impossible, so that men cannot understand what is truth, and are unwilling to receive the Restorer as their physician.

God has a definition for sin. It is written that "sin is the transgression of the law;" and again, "All unrighteousness is sin." 1 John 3:4; 5:17. God gave us ten written words, expressed in the moral law of Ten Commandments. To obey them will mean physical and moral health. To disregard them will mean physical and moral death. God's character is represented in these words, which He wrote with His own finger and gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. See Exodus 20. To object to a law that represents all that God stands for is to refuse His righteousness; and, when this is done, there is nothing He can do for the sinner unless the sinner repents.

When a person comes to God willing to obey Him no matter what the consequences, he stands before the all-embracing law of God and sees himself a sinner worthy of death. That law condemns him to death because he has broken its precepts, and God has said that "the wages of sin is death" and that "all have sinned." Romans 6:23; 3:23. There can be no escape from this penalty,—death,—for "the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4.

But wait. Did I say that there is *no* escape? There *is* one way—Jesus! He is the way, and through Him you may be pardoned and stand before the law as though you had never sinned. He is the Lamb slain for the sins of those who will accept His sacrifice. He is the only way back to God. Christ's broken body, His precious blood, His complete abandonment of self, make possible the redemption of these lives of ours. Listen to the words which spell freedom from the death penalty for sin: "He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25.



LAMBERT

Does SIN Matter?

*Man's Deadliest Disease
And One Way of Escape*

by

WESLEY AMUNDSEN

"By His spotless life, His obedience, His death on the cross of Calvary, Christ interceded for the lost race. And now, not as a mere petitioner does the Captain of our salvation intercede for us, but as a Conqueror claiming His victory. His offering is complete, and as our Intercessor He executes His self-appointed work, holding before God the censer containing His own spotless merits and the prayers, confessions, and thanksgiving of His people. Perfumed with the fragrance of His righteousness, these ascend to God as a sweet savor. The offering is wholly acceptable, and pardon covers all transgression."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 156.

Isn't that beautiful; and, yes, so practical? But, is He your intercessor? Words and promises may be ever so beautiful; unless they are appropriated by the individual they are valueless. Are you conscious of your need as a sinner? Remember that the Bible records the fact

that "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10); therefore you need pardon, and the only way you can secure it is through Jesus. "He ever liveth to make intercession" for you. That is quite personal, isn't it? No mortal man can step in between and make the intercession. That place belongs to Jesus Christ, who is both High Priest and Lamb. The confessional does not answer the purpose as a place of cleansing from sin. It is written: "There is one God, one Mediator also between God and men, Himself man, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all." 1 Timothy 2:5, R.V.

No one is too great a sinner to come to Him; He died for all. He came "to seek and to save" the lost (Luke 19:10); and if you are a sinner, you are lost and He came for you. He is your "go-between;" and, no matter how scarlet your sins, He will intercede for you at the throne of His Father. Those arms are ever open to receive prodigals—sin-scarred, sin-stained men and women. No person is too vile for Him to cleanse. No murderer is so stained with blood of men but Christ is ready to make intercession for him.

Some years ago a man was found guilty of murder, and was sent to prison for life. Among his visitors was the Christian widow of the murdered man. There was no vindictiveness in her heart toward the one who had robbed her of her companion; she came to minister in the name of Jesus, who had taught her to say: "Father, forgive—he doesn't know what he has done."

Week after week she visited that place of living death. Slowly the seed of the gospel began to grow, and the heart of that hardened criminal began to show evidence of a tenderness one would never have believed was there. There came to this man the realization of Jesus standing before the throne pleading in his behalf; he saw in the wonderful ministry of the widow of his victim a representative of Him. He heard the voice of Jesus say: "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isaiah 1:18. There fell upon his ears the sweet promise, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. He saw the spotless Son of God dying upon the cross that he—a murderer—might be made clean and have eternal life with God. Bending low before the mercy seat, he found his Mediator—Jesus. It seemed to him that he could see Jesus, with those nail-pierced hands extended before the Father, pleading, "My blood, Father; My blood, in his behalf!"

Have you found Him of whom the prophets wrote? Have you learned to speak His name? Have you learned the actuality of the transaction He makes for you in the presence of His Father? He can and does forgive sin; and, when He does, He hopes that you will trust Him to keep you from sinning again. He wants to be to you a living, loving, helpful Saviour and Intercessor. Let Him do it today, won't you? The Holy Spirit will make Him very real to you if you will simply let God take possession of your whole life. Jesus still lives to make intercession for you.

The Message of the Stars

(Continued from page 9)

To men, at least, it seems so; for I can never shake off the impression that the creative power which made the universe lavished its richest gifts upon the locality in and around Orion." Since Orion is in the part of the heavens where Maedler and others believe the center of the universe is located, can it be that the gateway of Orion is the door leading to the throne of the Eternal King who rules the universe?

If knowledge in astronomical science continues to increase even at the present rate, the future promises disclosures that will stagger the imagination when the 200-inch telescope begins to sweep the heavens. If the spiral nebula of Orion is indescribably glorious now, what amazing wonders will be unveiled to human vision when this great cyclopean eye is focused on "the Golconda of the heavens"! Whatever these new revelations may be, they will only make more evident the scientific truthfulness of the Scriptures, giving added proof that "the heavens declare the glory of God" and the firmament of stars show the handiwork of an omniscient and omnipotent Creator.

Forward and Upward

(Continued from page 5)

ers, or laymen advanced in years, cannot have one half the influence upon the young that the youth, devoted to God, can have upon their associates."—*Messages to Young People*, page 204.

There are many who would be happy if they knew what we know and had experienced what we have experienced. Someone went out of his way for us, and we, too, should be willing to go out of our way for others. Have you found the heavenly light? Pass it on. Go out to your friends and neighbors, and tell them what great things God has done for you. The greatest joy of all the joys of life is the joy of soul winning. To believe in the gospel is to live it; to live it, is to give it. Christian youth have a

Flashlines

by W. L. EMMERSON

150 YEARS' PROGRESS During the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the American hierarchy it was pointed out that since the days of Bishop Carroll, the first Catholic bishop in the United States, the church has grown from 40,000 to 21,000,000, and the number of bishops from 1 to 134.

BESSARABIAN POPULATION According to the latest statistics prior to the occupation of Bessarabia by the Soviet Union, its population of 2,864,000 comprised 1,611,000, or 56 per cent, Rumanians; 352,000, or 12.3 per cent, Russians; and 314,000, or 11 per cent, Ukrainians.

SPIRIT GUIDES ADMITTED NOT INFALLIBLE Referring to the "No-War" prophecies of the so-called "spirit guides," Estelle Roberts, a well-known medium, admits, according to the *Psychic News*: "The 'No-War' prophecies were wrong; we do not attempt to deny nor excuse that. . . Remember, the guides have never claimed infallibility; they have always clearly stated that they are only a little further advanced in wisdom than we are."

CHRISTIAN STATE NOT YET POSSIBLE "Let us face realities," says Lord Hugh Cecil, in a letter to the *Church Times*. "A Christian state is as yet impossible, for the obvious reason that Christian faith and holiness do not so generally preponderate among us as to make it wise, or even possible, fully to express Christianity in the state. A Christian state must be based on the faith and holiness of Christian individuals, forming at least a great majority of the community. There is no such majority today, nor will there be after the war."

story to tell. The world is waiting for it, and will listen again when youth, as in the days of Christ and the apostles, will arise and preach it once more with zeal and earnestness.

Once again the old question arises, Where shall I begin, and what can I do? Begin where you are—in your own home or among your relatives and friends. Live a consistent, exemplary life before them. Distribute Christian periodicals, books, and tracts, and invite others to your youth's meetings and to evangelistic services. Visit the backsliders, the careless, and others in need of salvation. Call on the sick, and pray with them. Be kind to the needy; lift up the fallen; keep a prayer list; be a real friend to the lonely and the discouraged. Work as for life to save souls from the corrupting influences of this evil world. Then your soul will surely be blessed, and your experience will grow.

"Christ is calling for volunteers to enlist under His standard, and bear the banner of the cross before the world. The church is languishing for the help of young men who will bear a courageous testimony, who will with their ardent zeal stir up the sluggish energies of God's people, and so increase the power of the church in the world."—*Messages to Young People*, pages 24, 25.

There are reasons why great movements are built around, pushed forward by, and led to success by the spirit and enthusiasm of youth. Young people are quicker to learn, can adapt themselves more readily, can endure more hardships, can render longer service, can go faster and farther with less effort and expense.

The future of the church lies in the hands and hearts of its youth. They will either make or break her. What a solemn responsibility! What a challenge!



Coming Next Week

in addition to the regular features:

HOPE IN A DARK HOUR	James I. Robison
NOTHING TO THE PSALMS!	Lucretia L. Harmon
HAS SCIENCE BETRAYED HUMANITY?	Merlin L. Neff
MY VOICE	Martha E. Warner
THE STONES CRY OUT	Taylor G. Bunch
NO SECRET RAPTURE (Continued)	Allen Walker
THE DIVINE RECOVERY PLAN	Carlyle B. Haynes
THE UNSHACKLED LIGHT	N. M. Munson

No Secret Rapture

(Continued from page 11)

and crucifying the Son of God. Just before the cross, Jesus rebuked them for their sins and unbelief in the words: "Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers." Matthew 23:32. He meant that they were reaching the same measure of "transgression" that their fathers had, which sent them into Babylonian captivity for seventy years. The words of Paul are illuminating on this point. He said: They "both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost." 1 Thessalonians 2:15, 16.

We wish to find out now when this time period of "seventy weeks," or 490 years, began and ended. We wish also to see what happened to the Jews at the end of that period. In Daniel 9:25 we read: "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem," etc. We have found that this decree was dated in the fall of the year 457 B.C. Beginning there and running ahead 490 years would bring us to the year 34 after Christ. At this time their sins would reach the limit of God's forbearance. This came in the stoning of Stephen, as recorded in Acts 7:51-58. This was the final act in finishing "the transgression." From that time on the followers of Christ "went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8:4.

There is a special significance to the statement made A.D. 34 (the end of the seventy weeks) that the Christians "went everywhere preaching the word." Until this time their preaching was to the Jews only. Why? Because the Jews' probationary period had not ended. With this fact in mind, it is easy to understand why, in the first commission to the disciples, Jesus said: "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matthew 10:5, 6. Some have wondered why others besides the Jews were not included in this first commission. The

answer is plain when we remember that the probationary time of 490 years had not yet expired, and the Lord was going to give His chosen people every opportunity to escape rejection because of "transgression." But notwithstanding the long-suffering of God and the many infallible proofs given to convince them that Jesus was the true Messiah, they persistently closed their eyes (Matthew 13:15) and "stopped their ears" (Acts 7:57). Until the "seventy weeks" expired, the disciples restricted their labors to the Jews; at the stoning of Stephen "they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Daniel's "seventy weeks" were accurately fulfilled.

(To be continued)

Everlasting Security

(Continued from page 7)

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob received from God the promises of eternal life and eternal security in an eternal world. These promises have not yet been fulfilled to them. They have not yet been fulfilled to their spiritual descendants.

But they will be fulfilled. God's promises do not fail. He will give to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, the things He promised.

And inasmuch as these ancient worthies are dead, and in their graves, with the promises to them unfulfilled, it is quite plain that there must be involved in such a fulfillment a resurrection from the dead.

This is made plain in Ezekiel 37:12-14.

The promise of God, then, to all Christians is not that they shall inherit heaven or spend eternity there. It is that through faith, they, with Abraham, will become joint heirs with Christ in the new earth.

They will spend eternity on this earth in its regenerated condition. The only promise Christians have of a future inheritance is this ancient promise to Abraham, of the whole earth. We share this promise by becoming Abraham's true children, children of faith—faith in Jesus Christ.

"New heavens and a new earth" are to be established before long. Isaiah 65:17.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Advocating a return to the simple gospel of Christ, and a preparation for His imminent second appearing

EDITOR . . . ARTHUR S. MAXWELL

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God's people will inherit this new earth. Psalm 37:9.

The lowly followers of Christ will be given the earth. Psalm 37:11, 22; Matthew 5:5. They will dwell in this new earth forever. Psalm 37:29.

And all this is in fulfillment of His ancient promise. 2 Peter 3:13.

John was permitted in holy vision to see this new earth, and he describes what he saw. Revelation 21:1.

At that time, when the Lord creates this new earth, the wonderful promise of Micah will be fulfilled: "Thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion [the church], unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion [the earth as it originally came from the creating hand of God]; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem." Micah 4:8.

From the fearful ordeal of fire through which the earth is destined to pass when the wicked and all sin are burned out of it our world will emerge fully cleansed from every stain of sin.

The whole earth will then be again like the Garden of Eden, and the Holy City will be its capital.

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad; . . . and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." "The glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon." Isaiah 35:1, 2. The earth will indeed become what it was first intended to be—the eternal home of the people of God. There they will have eternal security and eternal life in an eternal world.

Paganism Doomed

(Continued from page 4)

doom. The prayer of their hearts is, "Come, Lord Jesus; come quickly." Soon they will cry, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us; this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Isaiah 25:9.

May this hope be yours. May it shine through the darkness, and bring to your heart the light of everlasting day.

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The Flight of Time

(Continued from page 8)

World Court and all the other plans for world betterment; but he was not in despair about it. He wasn't even disillusioned. A study of prophecy had enabled him to see the disaster coming before it came; so he was ready for it, and his faith, instead of being shaken, was strengthened and renewed.

Many others might find a good deal of enlightenment and consolation if they, too, would seek to "interpret the prophecies." Wrote the apostle Peter: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place." 2 Peter 1:19.

WHEN THE BOMBS FELL

OUT of the bomb-scarred cities of the Old World are coming many remarkable stories of providential deliverance.

Here is one that came to us in a letter from England a few days ago:

In a city on the much-battered east coast lives a certain elderly lady, a faithful Christian and a loyal supporter of the church of God to the limit of her strength and means. She believes in the Bible promises of divine protection in times of war and tumult, and claims them for herself.

Then one day a giant mine-laying plane, struck by anti-aircraft fire, came plunging down to earth. It struck a group of houses near her home, and exploded with devastating effect. (A picture of this destruction, by the way, appeared recently in the *Signs*.)

Knowing that this Christian woman was living somewhere near the scene of the disaster, a friend of ours went to investigate. "Reaching the house he found it to be a shambles. The doors were blown out, the windows were unhinged, and many of the slates on the roof had been blown off. Every ceiling in the house had collapsed. In the back bedroom, where Mrs. I. usually slept, great damage had been done. But she was not there. She had decided that night to sleep in the front room. Entering there, he saw that half the ceiling was lying across the bed. Under the debris was Mrs. I., safe, unhurt, and smiling cheerfully through it all."

Once more the promise had been fulfilled that "the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Psalm 34:7.

REFUGEE FUND

The following sums have been received for our Refugee Fund:

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- "The Fight for Health in a World at War," by Jane Stafford, Science Service writer.
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INTERNATIONAL

LIFE'S GREATEST JOY

How It May Be Yours



by N. P. NEILSEN

SOMETIMES we are tempted to think that money can buy everything, but there are some things it cannot buy. Money can buy a soft bed, but it cannot buy sleep. It can buy food, but it cannot buy appetite. It can buy medicine, but it cannot buy health. It can buy a house, but it cannot buy a home. It can buy life insurance, but it cannot buy life. It can buy material things, but it cannot buy life eternal.

We all want peace and joy in our hearts, yet we cannot buy them. However, these rich blessings may be ours "without money and without price" simply by living and working for others.

There is indeed no greater work in all the world than that of bringing the gospel to the lost. It is the grandest enterprise in this world. It will bring us the greatest returns, for it builds for eternity and not for time alone. It is impelled by the grandest motive of all—the love of God for the lost. It is supported by the greatest power there is, the "all power" that was given to Jesus. This work can know no defeat, for the spirit that actuated Livingstone when he said, "I will open a path into

the interior or perish" is impelling the devoted missionary to push on in spite of obstacles, privations, and persecutions.

There may be inconveniences in this work; but these will fade away into insignificance when the heart is filled with the love of God for lost souls. There may be privations that would cause men to grumble were it not for a consuming passion for the salvation of souls—the passion that burned in the bosom of Christ when He left the courts of glory and came down to walk among men. It was this consuming passion for His people that led Moses to forsake the riches of Egypt and cast his lot with the race of captives who were despised and afflicted by their persecutors. It was this same passion that burned in the heart of Paul when he wrote, "I seek not yours, but you." 2 Corinthians 12:14. This passion sustained him in persecution and in prison, in weariness and in pain, in hunger and in thirst, yea, in cold and in nakedness. It was this passion that led Livingstone to give his life for Africa. It led him to die on his knees, praying for the lost souls of that great land. It was this consuming zeal

that caused John Knox to burst out in the fervor of his prayer, "Lord, give me Scotland, or I die!"

There is real joy in sacrificing that others may be helped. This joy cannot be bought with money. It comes to us by lifting others from the miry clay of sin, and causes us to forget any suffering incurred thereby. To lift up fallen humanity brings joy to the soul that ease and comfort can never give. Christ willingly suffered all the reproaches that were heaped upon Him, to bring freedom and joy to us. He bore it all without a murmur, that He might rescue us from the thralldom of sin.

By working for others, we ourselves are blessed. The truth becomes sweeter as we tell it over and over again. The more of it we give away the more we shall have left. The plains that furnish the channel for the mountain streams to reach the sea are made more fertile by the passage of the stream through them. So when we permit the streams of God's blessing to flow through us to others, our own lives are watered. Passing on our blessings to others enriches our own souls.