

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

THE WORLD'S PROPHETIC WEEKLY

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LAMBERT

THANKS *for* EVERYTHING

A THANKSGIVING
DAY MESSAGE

by HARRIETT D.
JOHNSON



IT WAS Thanksgiving Day in Judea—some two thousand years before the Pilgrim Fathers in America devoted a special day to the giving of thanks.

From the surrounding country came hundreds of people to the festival in Jerusalem. It was a motley throng that crowded the streets of the ancient city, and to many gathered there it seemed there was little to be thankful for that year. For seventy years they and their countrymen had been captives in a strange land and only recently had they been allowed to return to their former beloved homes in Judea.

True, the walls of the city of Jerusalem had been rebuilt after a long and discouraging struggle, and the temple had been restored; but the greater part of the once beautiful city was still in ruins—grim reminder of the terrible destruction inflicted upon it by the enemies of the people of Israel.

But on this autumn day the expectant people surged through the street that was before the water gate, taking a sorrowful interest in the scenes about them. In the center of the street a pulpit of wood had been erected especially for this occasion, and on the pulpit stood Ezra, leader of the people, now an old man.

In his hands Ezra held a book—the treasured book of the law of Moses. Slowly, dramatically, in the sight of all the waiting throng, he opened the book, and as he did so the people arose as one man. Reverently they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord while Ezra offered a prayer of thankfulness and praise to the living God.

“And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads, and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.” Nehemiah 8:6.

Then Ezra began to read, slowly and carefully so that all might hear and understand the solemn words. Assisting him in the services, which lasted until noon, were the priests and the Levites. “So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.” Nehemiah 8:8.

The effect of hearing the wonderful words of the law was evident from the

first, for everyone listened with rapt attention; but as the service came to a close the people could no longer restrain their emotions, and all began to weep. They realized anew how great had been their sins, and they were over-

whelmed at the consequences of their transgression of God's commands.

But Ezra and Nehemiah were not pleased with the cries of grief, and immediately commanded the weeping to cease. As they sought to still the people, they exclaimed, “This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep.”

“Go your way,” Ezra told them kindly as the weeping died away, “eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10.

Thus, after devoting the first half of the day to religious services, the people of Israel spent the remainder of the time enjoying their Thanksgiving dinners and recounting the blessings they had been overlooking as they mourned for the “good old days.”

This, then, was the program that Ezra and Nehemiah, prophets of God, outlined for Thanksgiving Day in that far-away land and age—a convocation of all the people for hearing God's word and rejoicing in His mercy, eating and drinking of the bounties the Lord had provided, and sending gifts to the poor who otherwise would have had nothing.

An ideal way to observe Thanksgiving Day except for one thing—the people wept. Strange, perhaps, that they had to be *commanded* to rejoice and give thanks for their blessings. Their ungrateful hearts forgot that God would forgive their sins, that they had been allowed to come home, that the temple had been restored and the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt. They saw only the unrepaired ruins of their homes and thought only of the hardships they had endured and those they were anticipating.

And yet ingratitude is a common failing. All through the years human beings have done as the children of Israel did on that memorable day; they grieve over what is past, fail to see the blessings they have, because they are thinking of the many they do not have, and are thankful and happy only when everything is pleasant and their plans are not thwarted. Others besides the

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HOW THANKSGIVING BEGAN IN AMERICA

GOVERNOR William Bradford of the Massachusetts colony was the founder of the Thanksgiving festival. As early as 1621 he called together the early settlers at Plymouth for the purpose of offering thanks to God for the preservation of their lives, food to sustain them, and clothing for their bodies. A man of strong religious convictions, Governor Bradford continued to call, periodically, seasons of thanksgiving. One of his earliest written manuscripts was entitled, ‘God's Merciful Dealings with us in the Wilderness.’ Abraham Lincoln's first American ancestor, Samuel Lincoln, had come to this very wilderness in 1637 and had settled not far from Plymouth. As a man of religious inclinations he undoubtedly participated in these early Thanksgiving festivals.”



Who RULES the NATIONS?

BY NO means the least of the many lessons we learn from a study of the Old Testament Scriptures is the fact that God has His eye and His hand on every nation. We discover that the world is never allowed to drift.

The Almighty may have a particular interest in one nation, but always with a view to helping the world in general, through that nation. At the same time, He uses all the nations to help or discipline, as He sees fit, the people of His particular choice. This was clearly His attitude in His dealing with Israel's ancient race.

Almost two hundred years before the event, Cyrus was named by the prophet Isaiah as the man who should break the yoke of Babylon and set free the captives of Judah. On the strength of the revelation of this plan to the prophet, Jehovah declared, "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things." Isaiah 45:7.

The word "evil" must here be understood as the opposite of peace; that is, strife or warfare. But does God create warfare? Only in the sense that He permits, controls, and uses it. If His law were perfectly obeyed by all men there could be no strife. It is the violation of His commandments that involves men and nations in warfare. Only in this general fundamental sense is God responsible for human conflicts. Such conflicts are the inevitable outcome of the transgression of those divine laws, the purpose of which is to guide men into paths of peace. The laws are His, but mankind is answerable to God for breaking them. And the penalty of broken laws is paid here and now as well as in the final reckoning.

Now it is clearly a divine principle that when men and nations get into trouble through breaking God's laws, the Almighty never leaves them wholly to themselves. Certainly He allows them to reap the consequences of their wrongdoing in order to discipline and teach them, but He also regulates, guides, and controls those consequences according to His own inscrutable will and purpose.

Because of sin we find Him allowing His chosen people to be carried off into captivity to the alien nation of Babylon. But even there He used the best and wisest of His children to make Himself known to the highest heathen authori-

Is God Still in Control?



by

HERMAN F. DEATH



ties, and worked with them to bring Nebuchadnezzar to the realization that He, the most high God, "ruleth in the kingdom of men."

When the period of discipline closed, according to a strictly prearranged plan revealed in advance to the prophet Jeremiah, Jehovah used Cyrus the Persian, His long-appointed instrument, to chastise the Babylonians for their degenerate ways, and so to bring His chastened and disciplined people back to their own land. Jeremiah 29:10; Isaiah 45:1-4.

The same principle and purpose is seen in His dealings with individuals. When Joseph became great in Egypt, he made himself known to his brethren, who had been driven thither by want of food through famine. Visibly alarmed, they prepared themselves for a terrible revenge by Joseph for the heartless jealousy that led them to sell him as a lad into slavery and to lie to their father Jacob concerning the boy's fate. But Joseph put all their fears to rest by saying, "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. . . . And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance." Genesis 45:5-7.

Was God, then, the author of the perfidy of Joseph's older brethren? No, but He used it as a means of sending Joseph to Egypt, where he could best work for his brothers' ultimate good. Already, no doubt, they had suffered sufficient physical and mental distress to teach



Caesar crosses the Rubicon—one of the decisive events of history. Nothing occurs in this world that the heavenly Governor does not foreknow.

them that the way of the transgressor is hard. So God was with Joseph, guiding, restraining, and controlling all the powers of evil that rose up against him, eventually bringing him safely and gloriously through his trials, and using him at last as the medium of His gracious pardon extended to Joseph's brethren.

And there in Egypt Jacob and his sons were blessed with peace and plenty through the influence of the very son who had been so cruelly betrayed, causing the father sorrow and the brothers bitter remorse.

The God of Israel is still the same, for He changes not, and neither slumbers nor sleeps. Notwithstanding the turmoil and strife of the world, He still overrules in the world's apparently hopelessly tangled affairs.

At one point in the Great War of 1914-18, before the American army had made its weight felt, only a "thin red line" lay between Germany and victory. *And she did not know it until it was too late.* Was that an accident? Or was Omnipotence carefully controlling the order of events? He rules and overrules in the kingdoms of men. His eye and His hand are upon the whole world to chastise and to save, to discipline and deliver, and the nation or the individual that works righteousness He upholds and uplifts accordingly.

"Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will."

OUR COVER PICTURE

This beautiful picture, by H. W. Lambert, is suggestive of the spirit of devotion to God that filled the hearts of the pioneers of America at the time of the first Thanksgiving on these shores.

CHRIST'S COMING NEAR

Are You Ready to Meet Him?

by B. R. SPEAR

ARE you ready for Christ's coming? He is coming soon, with all the holy angels. Then "all the tribes of the earth" shall mourn as they "shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24:30.

A scoffing world will weep and mourn when they see Him coming, because they have rejected the message of His return; and it will then be too late to get ready.

The front page of your newspaper, the ringing voice of the radio announcer, all will be unnecessary, because "every eye shall see Him." Revelation 1:7.

"What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matthew 24:3. The apostles asked this question because they were anxious to know the signs of their Master's return and the time. Jesus left no place for doubt when He answered their question; and there should be no doubt in our minds as the procession of events He outlined goes trooping by.

Jesus answered: There shall be "upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; . . . men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21:25, 26. The things which are now coming on the earth are tokens of His return; they are filling men's hearts with fear and trembling. Such events and conditions are not to cease, but to continue; not to decrease, but to increase.

Jesus continued His answer, declaring: "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matthew 24:7. Wars and rumors of wars are to be the usual order of the day, accompanied by the crash of nations and

interspersed with pestilences and great earthquakes. Today the newspapers are but echoing the words of Inspiration, thus announcing the fulfillment of the prophecy.

According to Christ's prediction, a rush of events of the greatest magnitude is to take place. They will sweep away the hopes, ambitions, and expectations of men to such a devastating degree that their hearts will fail for fear.

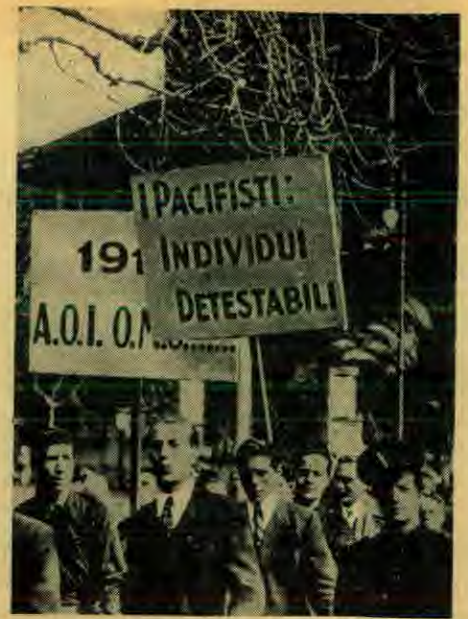
Take a map of Europe and check the rise and fall of nations in very recent times. You will discover at least twenty-two changes and more on the way.

The speed of events now is so terrific that we travel the track of a century in a single year, as David Lloyd George expressed it; and unwelcome events will continue to gallop across the horizon of time in an increasingly menacing fashion until Jesus comes.

Christ promised: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3. He did go. Now we know the time has come for His return. He does not come again for show or mere glory, or in retaliation. He comes for us His children. And He brings all the angels of God to celebrate the event. How wonderful, then, is His love for you, for me!

Because He loves you; because He died for you; because the world is against you; because there will be violence and famine in the land, and hope will well-nigh be crushed from the earth; because He is coming soon, He says: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me."

Are you troubled at heart regarding the future? Confess your sins to Christ and be washed in His blood; then you will find pardon and refuge in Him. He



INTERNATIONAL
"Pacifists Are Detestable" reads this sign carried in Italy. In every land hate is in the ascendancy.

loves you, and longs for your salvation. This is not the time to be growing worldly. It is almost unbelievable to think that anyone who knows this mighty message of Christ's soon return should be drifting back to the card table, the dance, the theater, or the wine cup.

The Bible says: "Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:5-11.

Centuries before the first advent, the prophet Amos wrote: "Prepare to meet thy God." The Bible ends with these words: "I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. . . . Surely I come quickly." And John answers: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Amos 4:12; Revelation 22:16-20.

Only a little while remains. "The morning cometh, and also the night." Isaiah 21:12. But the Lord loves you, and awaits your surrender to His will. "Look unto Me," He says, and "be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Isaiah 45:22. "Him that cometh to Me I will in nowise cast out," John 6:37. He is waiting for you. Give Him your answer now.

Are We VICTIMS of CIRCUMSTANCE?

Or Can We Choose
Our Way?

by MARENUS H. JENSEN



Bitter remorse was the lot of our first parents as they saw the outworking of their sin.

WHEN Lucifer, the "covering cherub," chose to rebel against God, it must be conceded that this highly intelligent being, this mighty leader in heaven, made a premeditated choice, one over which he, as a free moral agent, had complete and absolute control. He was not forced to rebel. He chose to do so.

This also was true of our first parents back in the Garden of Eden. They had been forewarned by God. Genesis 2:16, 17. They were aware of what they were doing. Their sin was willful disobedience to principles and standards previously laid down.

When God created Adam an intelligent, thinking, reasoning being, a free moral agent, this very act necessitated or demanded that there be some standard or law outlining and regulating man's relation to his Maker. These principles God has summed up in the first

four commandments of the Decalogue. Likewise, when God created another intelligent being and placed him here on this earth, that act also demanded that there be some standard or law which would regulate his relations with others. These principles or regulations God has summed up in the last six of the Ten Commandments, the Decalogue, commonly called the moral law of God.

But a law without a penalty is no more than a mere suggestion. God made the penalty for transgression of this law death. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4. "The wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23. Yet Adam, as king of this world, father of the human race, knowingly, willingly, presumptuously, disobeyed the principles of this law.

Adam and Eve were not helpless victims of circumstances. They were not forced to take that which did not belong to them. They did not do it in ignorance. They chose to do so. But with the birth of Cain a new situation arose. Here

was a being born of fallen, sinful parents by no choice on his part, born under the condemnation of the law. Would he be loyal to the ideals, principles, and standards of his Maker, or would he join the rebels? What would God do for Cain?

In the case of Adam's sin, God could have done one of three things: 1. He could have done nothing. He had told Adam plainly what the consequence of disobedience would be—death. Adam knowingly, deliberately, stepped out into open rebellion against God's expressed will. God could have said: I forewarned you what your fate would be; you can now suffer the consequence, and pay the penalty for your own transgression. This would have doomed the whole human family to ultimate annihilation.

2. God could have abolished the law. Then, of course, it would not be sin to steal, for Paul says plainly, "Where no law is, there is no transgression." Romans 4:15. In that event, no punishment could have been meted out to Adam. Irrespective of what he might have done, regardless of his deeds, he would have been an innocent man before the judgment bar of God. This act would have overthrown God's government, which is just what Satan was endeavoring to do.

3. God could permit someone else to pay the penalty for man's transgressions. In John 3:16 we learn that love prompted God to do this. We read that He "so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Since it was a divine law, a law from heaven, handed down by God, that was broken, a divine being, one who could represent heaven, must

(Continued on page 14)

LINCOLN PROCLAIMS THANKSGIVING

LINCOLN issued his first presidential proclamation for a day of "public prayer, humiliation, and fasting" to be observed in September, 1861. The following year a Sunday in April was set apart invoking divine guidance to "hasten the establishment of fraternal relations among all the countries of the world." It was in 1863, however, that two national fast days were proclaimed which paved the way for the establishment of the Thanksgiving festival as it is now observed.

A special day of prayer was proclaimed for Thursday, April 30, looking to "the pardon of our national sins and the restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former and happy condition of unity and peace." Another day, Thursday, August 6, was set apart in which the people were requested to offer thanks for the

Gettysburg victory and to call upon God "to subdue the anger which has produced and so long sustained a needless and cruel rebellion."



It was during this Thanksgiving season for Gettysburg and its victory that Mrs. Hale called to President Lincoln's attention the need of a Thanksgiving festival to be observed annually on an established day of the year. Lincoln complied with this request by issuing on October 3, 1863, the proclamation naming the last Thursday in November, 1863, as the first annual national Thanksgiving Day.—Louis A. Warren, Litt.D., in *Little-Known Facts About Thanksgiving*.

NEW HOME

for

NEW MEN

by J. C. STEVENS

"ALL THINGS NEW"—No. 7



*"Eye hath not seen . . .
the things which God
hath prepared for
them that love Him."*

THIS earth, at the beginning of the six days of creation week, was without form—a dark, watery, chaotic mass. Then God, working through His agencies, brought cosmos out of chaos. "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." Genesis 1:2, 3. The expression, "And God said," is repeated nine times in the first chapter of Genesis. In Hebrews 11:3 we read, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God."

In the original creation, as described in Genesis 1, we notice three agencies at work, namely, the Spirit, the water, and the word, the result of which was order and beauty out of a formless mass. "The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said." Here we have the Spirit, the water, and the word. What a change was produced!

The earth must have been very beautiful when it came forth from the hand of God, for five times the statement is made in Genesis 1, "God saw that it was good," while at the close of the sixth day the record is, "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was *very good*." Verse 31.

The pen is feeble when it attempts to describe its beauty. The earth was covered with a carpet of living green. There was not a dead spire of grass. The trees rose from the ground in all their stateliness and symmetry, covered with evergreen foliage, and some of them bearing all manner of precious fruit. There was not a falling leaf. The sur-

face of the earth was diversified with mountains, hills, and plains, interspersed with beautiful lakes and noble rivers. Graceful flowers and delicate shrubs of

every tint, hue, and perfume greeted the eye at every turn. There was not a fading flower. There were no thorns, briars, or thistles; there was no sorrow, sickness, pain, or death. All things were new.



IN TIME OF TROUBLE

by
MAY
COLE-
KUHN

Immortal God, in love behold
Distraught humanity;
Oh, hush the tumult and the strife;
Imbue us with that quiet life
That leads to heaven and Thee.

Far, far we've wandered from the way
Thy wounded feet have trod;
Oh, bring us to the path again,
Where love and hope transcend all pain,
And guide us up to God.

Thy mercy droppeth hour by hour
On weary hearts, and sad.
Thy love is greater than our grief,
For Thou canst bless and bring relief;
Thy strength can make us glad.

Our wayward feet are wont to stray
Where pleasant paths are laid;
Give us the grace to follow Thee,
O'er rugged trail and stormy sea,
Courageous, unafraid.

The original creation is, in the Scriptures, a type of the new birth, the creation of the new man in Christ. The apostle Paul, referring to the original darkness and the words of the Creator, "Let there be light," says, "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts." 2 Corinthians 4:6. And the Bible teaches that the same agencies work in the new birth as in the original creation, that is, the Spirit, the water, and the word. Christ, speaking to Nicodemus about the new birth, said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5. The apostle Peter says, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." 1 Peter 1:23. Here are the three agencies: the Spirit, the water, and the word.

Christ likened the word to a seed. Luke 8:11. He also said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. As a seed contains the germ of life, so the word contains the spirit and life of God. When an individual receives it as the word of God to him, the Holy Spirit imparts to him the life of the word, and a new man is spiritually created in the image

of God. 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Acts 20:32.

Through the preaching of the word in apostolic times, heathen who had been steeped in the grossest of sins were transformed into sanctified men and women. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Colossians 3:5-10. In Reformation days, spiritual revolutions resulted from the preaching of the word. The historian, speaking of the Reformation among the French Huguenots, relates: "The Bible ruled over the rejoicing French. Of the wonderful power of this wide reform, it is impossible to speak without enthusiasm. . . . Men shrunk from vice and clung to virtue. The gross habits of the Middle Ages were thrown aside; the taverns and theaters were deserted, . . . in every village prayer meetings were held, and the Bible was studied by throngs of eager students. . . . Coarse plays and dances, extravagance in dress and license in living, almost wholly passed away; . . . for the moment evil passions of men were charmed into repose, . . . the very countenances of the people were changed; the coarse lines of sensuality had been swept away, and from every face shone only benevolence and truth."

In our time, the preaching of the word is accomplishing the same results. Missionaries have gone, for example, to the cannibal islands of the South Seas, and many of the people of these islands have been turned to Christianity. Thousands of men and women in darkest Africa today, through the preaching of the word, are being made new, turning from the vilest sins to righteous living. The word, used by the Holy Spirit, does make men new.

Now, once more the earth, through the curse of sin, is to be brought to the condition it was in at the beginning before God gave birth to light. Once more, it is to be "without form, and void." Jeremiah 4:23-27; Isaiah 24:1-6. But after this there will be a new creation, and the new earth will come forth. The earth will be restored to its Edenic beauty, to be the new man's new home for eternity. Matthew 5:5; Psalm 37:9, 10. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . . 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 He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:1-5. Once more, and for the last time, old things pass away, and all things become new. And remember that the new birth is the only way to the new earth. Then all the redeemed will have a new name, the new name for the new man. Revelation 2:17. Shall we not determine to be made new men, and enter that new home, and have the new name?

MY HEART for GOD

Tenth in the Series,
"MY GIFT TO GOD"

by MARTHA E. WARNER

"Take my heart,—it is Thine own,—
It shall be Thy royal throne."



ONCE upon a time, my heart behaved badly. It was the day I visited The Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, and took a trip through the wonderland of science, finally arriving in the Hall of Medicine, Surgery, and Dentistry.

Here I saw many old and obsolete surgical instruments used long years ago. They were so crude, so queer-looking, that I wondered how a surgeon could perform an operation, and still save the life of his patient.

As I wandered from one exhibit to another, I came to a chair which held my attention because of the bowls of water attached to its arms.

The attendant told me, if I would sit down in the chair, put my forefingers in the bowls of water, and watch the instrument on my left, I could see it record the action of my heart.

So I did. And my heart behaved badly. Would it, I wondered, behave any better today, if I could see the record of its action that is being kept in heaven? Would the revelation so frighten and discourage me that I would consider my case hopeless?

Well, there was only one way to find out, and that was to apply to my heart God's stethoscope, the word of God. So with the help of the concordance I searched the Scriptures and, frankly, the findings amazed me, so much so that I wrote them all down side by side in two columns somewhat after the fashion of the table given below.

And there is more, much more, but this was enough to let me know as I studied the column listed under "My Side" that my heart had indeed behaved very badly. And I also knew that before my heart could ever become a royal throne for the Lord, there would have to be a thorough house cleaning. An impossible task in my own strength!

But when I looked at "God's Side" and noted all the wonderful changes He could and would make in my heart if I would yield to Him, my heart was filled with thankfulness; I decided to relinquish my hold on the old life and let God have His way with me.

Today the Lord is pleading, "My son, give Me thine heart." Let us answer:

"Take my heart,—it is Thine own,—
It shall be Thy royal throne."

MY SIDE

The human heart is:

Desperately wicked . Jer. 17:9
Deceitful Jer. 17:9
Evil Heb. 3:12
Despiteful Ezek. 25:15
Deceived Isa. 44:20
Weak Ezek. 16:30
Hard Ezek. 3:7
Stout Isa. 10:12
Double Ps. 12:2
Haughty Prov. 18:12
Proud Prov. 21:4
Rebellious Jer. 5:23
Impenitent Rom. 2:5
Perverse Prov. 12:8
Foolish Rom. 1:21
Stony Ezek. 11:19

GOD'S SIDE

But God can and will make it:

Good Luke 8:15
Honest Luke 8:15
Clean Ps. 51:10
Glad Ps. 16:9
Understanding . . . 1 Kings 3:9
Fixed Ps. 112:7
Soft Job 23:16
Established Ps. 112:8
Honest Luke 8:15
Tender Eph. 4:32
Pure Matt. 5:8
True Heb. 10:22
Contrite Ps. 51:17
Perfect 1 Chron. 29:9
Wise Prov. 11:29
New Ezek. 18:31



How Did the

WORLDS BEGIN?

*Old Theories Abandoned in the Light of
Modern Discoveries*

by TAYLOR G. BUNCH



THE chief field of controversy between Christians and skeptics has been over the beginning of things. How did life and matter have their origin, and when? There can be but two methods of accounting for the existence of things animate and inanimate, namely, creation or evolution. All who study the question must make their decision between belief in a direct creation through the power of a Creator, or the theory of natural development known as evolution. Also it must be the Bible and creation, or evolution and atheism. "Evolution is atheism," according to a report of the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism.

Speaking of the incompatibility of the Bible and evolution, one writer has said: "One cannot, by any gigantic feat of intellectual contortion, believe in Genesis and evolution at the same time. And yet this first book of the Bible is called mythical and allegorical in spite of the fact that it contradicts no known scientific fact, but instead is in accord with all we know of the beginning of things. If this be true, and it is, even on the authority of its enemies, why should it be thrown into the discard? Genesis is historically and scientifically accurate in every particular."—Arthur M. Brown, M. D., F. R. C. S., *Sunday School Times*, June 18, 1932. The many efforts that have been made to harmonize the Genesis record with the evolutionary hypothesis have been absurd, to say the least.

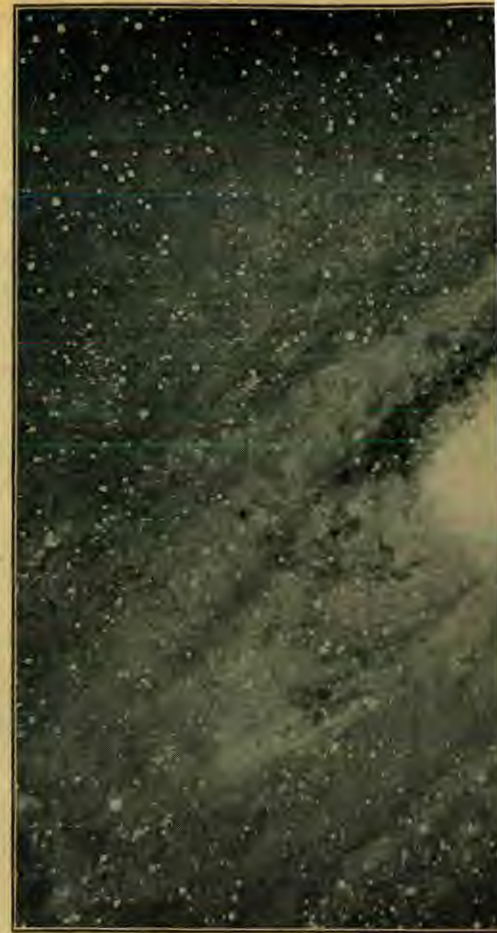
Geology is the branch of science that especially deals with the origin, age, history, and structure of the earth as ascertained by the study of the rocks and other materials that compose its surface. This science also investigates the changes that have taken place in the surface or crust of the earth, and inquires into their causes. "Science" is defined as "knowledge gained and verified by exact observation and correct thinking." Because of the antiquity of the origin of the earth

and all that is in it, verification on a scientific basis becomes exceedingly difficult if not impossible. For this reason incorrect thinking and reasoning in the field of geology abounds. In no other branch of science are there more theories, suppositions, and speculations.

The hypothesis of evolution has never been demonstrated by indisputable facts or verified by scientific observations, therefore it is still only a theory. Prof. Robert Millikan, famous American scientist of the California Institute of Technology, said: "The regrettable feature of this whole discussion is that certain scientists are trying to prove the theory of evolution, which no scientist can do."

The various theories regarding the origin of the earth and its sister planets of the solar system are based on the evolutionary hypothesis demanding many millions of years to bring them to their present state. The estimates of their age run all the way from 25,000,000 to 10,000,000,000 years. The vast difference in these estimates demonstrates that they can only be conjectures and are not the result of careful scientific deductions. In the realm of true science different scientists arrive at the same conclusions oftentimes by different methods. It is always a false premise to form a theory and then endeavor to make facts prove it. The facts should always first be assembled, and then belief should be based on the discoveries made.

Regarding this false method, one of the most famous of modern scientists said: "The human mind cannot rest without hypotheses of some kind. The collection of facts is always followed by the formulation of laws, and to reach a rational theory about things is in fact the aim of Science. In early days it was the fashion, a fashion singularly illustrated by the methods of Greek inquiry, to first formulate a law and then to bring the facts within it. In modern times it has been found more fruitful



CREATION



to arrange our facts first and then to see what law underlies them. The former process is considered obsolete in most sciences, not so in Geology. With many geologists, a wide-reaching *a priori* theory is first accepted on the metaphysical grounds of its simplicity and plausibility. This is made a shibboleth to test every man's scientific capacity by, and then all the facts are expected to fit into it, and if they will not fit by a natural process they are forced to do so by paradoxes and subtleties. . . . Such a theory is the scholastic one of Uniformity."—Henry H. Howorth, *The Mammoth and the Flood*, Preface, page 11.

Various theories regarding the origin and development of our solar system have been devised. Among these are "the nebular hypothesis," which teaches that nebulae are composed of star dust; that they are solar systems in the making, and therefore our solar system had its origin in such a mass of star dust which, through the process of evolution, resolved itself into the sun, planets, and satellites. "The meteorite hypothesis" is another attempt to prove evolution by the theory that the heavenly bodies have been formed or built up by large numbers of meteors being attracted to each



EVOLUTION?

* * * * *

other by the law of gravitation, and because of their high temperature and the force of the impact were welded together and gradually cooled. When we consider the meteors that reach the earth, the building up of a planet by this process would require a vast amount of time; but then time means nothing to an evolutionist.

"The wandering star theory" is the latest attempt to account for the origin of our solar system on the basis of evolution. According to this hypothesis a star came too close to our sun and exerted a tidal influence on that gaseous mass which caused it to shoot off two series of four bolts each, the first series forming Neptune, Uranus, Saturn, and Jupiter, and the second, Mars, Earth, Venus, and Mercury. These bodies, it is claimed, were whirled about the sun by the rival attractions of the sun and the rival star and have continued their revolutions ever since.

These false theories have not been able to stand the test of scientific investigation and are therefore being abandoned. The discoveries of the following facts by the science of astronomy have made these theories untenable: What was once supposed to be masses of nebula, or star dust,

and therefore solar systems in the making, are now known to be groups of innumerable individual stars at vast distances, which are designated as galaxies or island universes. Also the sun is almost a perfect sphere; if it ever had been composed of less solid materials than at present, its rotations would have appreciably flattened it at the poles and bulged it at the equator. This is true of the earth and all other celestial bodies. From this conclusion there is no escape. Moreover, while Jupiter is the largest of the planets and one of the farthest from the sun, yet its rotation is faster than that of the sun. What law of nature could account for this increase of speed after being thrown off from the central body?

Astronomical science has found that the planets all rotate in the same direction as the sun from west to east, and if they had been thrown off from a central revolving body they would rotate in the opposite direction. Also the satellites do not revolve around their planets in the same direction or at the same speed. The ninth satellite of Saturn, the eighth of Jupiter, and one of Neptune's, revolve in opposite directions. The satellites of Uranus revolve in orbits practically at right angles with that of the planet's, and the inner satellite of Mars goes around the planet three times while Mars rotates once. These and many other scientific facts have brought modern scientists to a questioning attitude toward theories of the origin of our solar system. Prof. George E. Hale of Mount Wilson Observatory said regarding Laplace's nebular hypothesis: "It can hardly be denied that Laplace's idea of the development of the solar system must be reconstructed or abandoned," and Sir James Jeans, noted British astronomer, has concluded that "the time for arriving at conclusions in cosmogony is not yet come." More recently this scientist astonished his fellow scientists by saying: "We must conclude that the universe of stars is still quite young, in spite of looking so old; its many appearances of great age must all be deceptive."—*Nature Supplement*, October 24, 1931, page 703.

Another well-known scientist comes to the following logical conclusion in regard to these theories of the origin of the earth and the solar system to which it belongs: "Here again we enter into the region of pure speculation, here we advance to the very frontiers of the known world, and can only conjecture. The origin of such nebula is unknown. . . . Whether the starting point is a nebula, or a swarm of meteorites, or a mass of planetesimals, or all three, we may leave to the future."—Joseph McCabe, *The Principles of Evolution*, pages 162, 172.

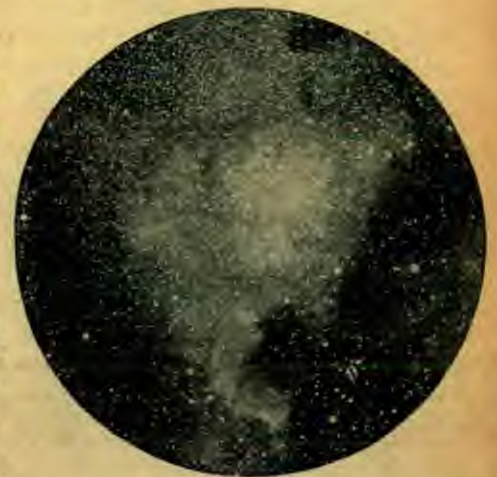
There is no better-established scientific fact than that something does not natu-

rally come out of nothing. As all life must come from pre-existing life, all matter must come from pre-existing matter. No theory is of any value that does not explain the origin of the matter from which the earth and its companion planets were made. Until the original matter is explained, the questions remain as unsolved as ever. There is nothing gained by chasing the original matter to another part of the universe. The question still persists, "Where did that matter come from?"

As all other theories are being exploded by the discoveries of modern science, there is nothing left but belief in a direct creation. Thus far no scientific discoveries have in the least contradicted the Biblical account of the beginning of things. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3. In His creative work the Creator was not dependent on pre-existing matter or pre-existing life. He was not indebted to the well-known law that "it takes matter to produce matter, and life to produce life." God made all things out of nothing. Of course this cannot be proved on the basis of science. It must be accepted by faith, and faith is taking God at His word, and His word is far more dependable than the guesses of man.

Man can only conjecture regarding what happened so long ago. The ever-existing Creator has given us His own record of what happened, and it is also the only explanation that has not been exploded by the findings of modern science. The wise will therefore cling to the creation theory and consider it true till it has been proved false. Of this possibility, however, we need not fear, because "the word of God . . . liveth and abideth forever." It is "true from the beginning."

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A SONG *and a* LIGHT

Two Friends Discuss an Important Question

by LENORE E. HOWE



MARIAN, standing on the front porch with hand extended toward the doorbell, paused and listened as strains from within the house caught her ear:

"Not one single jot or tittle—
Hear the Great Teacher say—
From My Father's Ten Commandments,
Ever shall pass away."

The words rang out clear, sweet, and strong upon the fresh morning air. The visitor, with hand still extended, continued to listen.

"Blessed are they, blessed are they,
Blessed are they that do;
Blessed are they, blessed are they:
Can it be said of *you*?"

With startling emphasis the question fell upon the ear of the listener, and involuntarily she asked herself, "Can it be said of *me*?"

Through the window she saw the singer lay down her dustcloth and seat herself at the piano. Striking a few chords, she sang:

"They shall gain the golden city,
Dwell on the earth made new,
Who have kept the Ten Commandments,
Owning the Saviour too."

"Then the Ten Commandments and the Saviour belong together! I cannot believe it," Marian said to herself.

After a brief interlude, the singer continued:

"They shall drink of life's pure river,
Sorrow and sighing o'er;
Eat of life's fair tree forever,
Never to hunger more."

"Sorrow and sighing o'er.' How good! How beautiful!" breathed the listener. "No more war! No more fear! Peace and quiet forevermore."

"Would *you* be among the number Jesus will honor then?
Faith in Him alone can save you,
Heeding the Precepts Ten."

"Faith in Him alone can save you, heeding the Precepts Ten," Marian repeated softly.

"Lucile believes and practices those words; but I believe that faith alone is sufficient. However, it would be a most terrible

thing to be mistaken in so vital a matter. I will ask Lucile for the reasons for her faith," she resolved as she rang the bell.

In a moment her friend was at the door and, drawing Marian within, exclaimed: "I am so glad to see you, Marian! I was just thinking about you. You remember the old adage, 'Think about the angels, and they appear.'"

"I stood outside and listened to your song, Lucile. You sang it beautifully, and it touched my heart; but I believe that the Ten Commandments were done away when Christ came, and that He gave just two commandments—love to God and love to man; so I could not agree with the sentiment, at least not with all of it."

"I cannot blame you, Marian, for I believed as you do until two years ago. At that time I attended a series of wonderful lectures, in which nearly all points of Bible truth were studied. Once a week those attending the meetings were allowed to ask questions upon the subjects previously studied. Since then the Bible has been a new book to me, and its truths stand out in a clear and beautiful way I had never thought possible."

"I must confess, Lucile, that I have never studied the Bible like that. As you know, I have been listening to sermons nearly every Sunday for the last twenty years; but I have never obtained the joy and comfort out of religion that you seem to get, and that I really long for. What I desire is a faith founded absolutely upon the word of God."

To a people who had forgotten love, Jesus explained that the core of divine law is love to God and man.



"I am so glad, Marian, for Christ says in John 7:17: 'If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself.' But why not study for a little while the words of the song which you question, Marian?"

"Nothing would please me better, Lucile; but how about the dusting?" she asked, glancing at the abandoned dustcloth.

"It can wait. I hope never to be too busy to study the word of God. Where shall we begin?" she asked as she handed her friend a Bible.

"Begin at the beginning; but where shall I begin? You will have to tell me where to read."

"Not one single jot or tittle—
Hear the Great Teacher say—
From My Father's Ten Commandments
Ever shall pass away."

"Please stop right there, Lucile, for if Christ ever said those words, they must be in the Bible."

"Certainly they are. You will find them in Matthew 5:17, 18."

After quite a bit of searching, Marian found the place and read: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

"Jot," said Lucile, "is synonymous with *yodh*, meaning the smallest Hebrew letter, and 'tittle' refers to little ornamental flourishes and distinguishing points and corners of the Hebrew characters; and as Christ said that not even that much of the law should pass from it till heaven and earth pass, those who believe Him should be keeping every one of its precepts."

"Yes, that looks plain," replied Marian; "but what about those two commandments—love to God and love to man? I am sure I have heard about Jesus' giving a new commandment."

"It is true, Marian, that love to God and love to man are the

two great principles of God's government. Christ spoke of them as the two great commandments; but if we love God with all our hearts, we shall demonstrate that fact by keeping the first four commandments, which clearly outline our duty to Him. And it is equally true that if we love our neighbor as ourselves, we shall keep the last six, which define our duty to our neighbor. Please read Matthew 22:34-40."

"But when the Pharisees had heard that He had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked Him a question, tempting Him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

"There it is, Lucile. I was sure that Christ gave just those two commandments. I have heard it many times at church."

"But wait, Marian, you have not finished. Read the very next verse."

"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' I never saw that verse before! 'Hang all the law.' Of course that means the rest of the commandments."

"You are right, Marian, and the only safe thing for us to do is to leave them right where Christ hung them, for they are there, and will always remain there."

"They shall gain the golden city,
Dwell on the earth made new,
Who have kept the Ten Commandments,
Owning the Saviour too."

"Now, Marian, please read Revelation 22:14."

"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

"The city is the New Jerusalem, which is to be the capital of the renewed earth. In this city are the many mansions which Christ is preparing for all those who are loyal to His government."

"I am especially interested in the last stanza of your song, Lucile. Please read that, and tell me where to find the proof."

"Would you be among the number
Jesus will honor then?
Faith in Him alone can save you,
Heeding the Precepts Ten."

"I am sure you will answer in the affirmative to the first two lines, Marian; but the truth of the last two is of vital and eternal importance to every soul that lives:

"Faith in Him alone can save you,
Heeding the Precepts Ten."

(Continued on page 18)

for NOVEMBER 19, 1940



Though the Jews despised those of any other race, Jesus was drawn to the Roman officer who displayed great faith.

THERE were two occasions when "Jesus marveled." The circumstances are interesting and present some practical lessons for us all. In one instance a Roman officer came to Him in behalf of his servant who was sick. Jesus immediately said, "I will come and heal him." With deep humility and reverence for Christ, this Gentile believer said, "Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." Matthew 8:7, 8.

Was it any wonder that the simple faith of that Roman soldier thrilled the heart of Jesus? "When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." "And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour."

How different was the attitude of this Roman from that of the Jews who professed to be the chosen people of God! Day after day Jesus toiled for them, teaching the good news and healing their sick. Yet again and again they came to Him demanding a sign in proof that He came from God. They accused Him of breaking the Sabbath, of blasphemy, of being possessed with demons, of casting out devils through the prince of devils. They challenged His authority to teach, and tried in every possible way to entrap and condemn Him.

In His word to the centurion, Jesus stated the principle on which God offers

When JESUS MARVELED

by MEADE MACGUIRE

to work for each one of us personally, "As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee." It does not mean our belief in a theory, but our confidence in a Person. What He does for you and for me is in accordance with our belief in Him. How many of us are like God's professed people of old! We assent to the doctrines of God's word, but know little of what it means to exercise real faith. That word makes it plain that faith is not an opinion; it is a transaction, it is "the hand by which the soul takes hold upon the divine offers of grace and mercy."

On another occasion Jesus had returned to His home town. No doubt He was acquainted with all the villagers, and longed to impart to them the glorious light of heaven, to heal both their physical and their spiritual maladies. The attitude of those people who knew Him so well seems amazing. On the Sabbath He taught in the synagogue. It must have been a wonderful lesson, for even those conceited, self-righteous people were astonished, and said, "Whence hath this Man this wisdom, and these mighty works?" "And they were offended in Him." Instead of joyfully responding to the precious light, their hearts were filled with envy and jealousy toward one who had grown up in their own humble surroundings, and yet possessed such superior knowledge and wisdom.

"And He could there do no mighty work, save that He laid His hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And He *marveled* because of their unbelief." Mark 6:5, 6. What a sad testimony, that the Saviour of the world marveled at the unbelief of those who claimed to be the people of God! May it not be that some of us today cause our Master to marvel at our unbelief in view of all the light we have had?

"If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

The UNITED STATES in PROPHECY

*Its History
Foretold*

by CARLYLE B. HAYNES



*Liberty Bell,
revered as the
symbol of
America's
freedom.*

HERBERT

THE two-horned beast of Revelation 13:11 is a symbol of the United States of America. All its specifications have been met in detail in the record of this nation. It came at the time foretold. It arose in the way outlined. It possessed the character foreseen.

The outstanding factor in that character is summed up in the expression "land of liberty." This was a marked characteristic of the prophecy. It is a marked characteristic of the fulfillment in the history of this nation. Civil and religious liberty are principles which have been built into the very foundation of this country. They have been the features of greatest prominence throughout its history. But they are in danger today. And the prophecy makes plain that they will eventually be repudiated.

That is sorrowful news; but it is true, as we shall see.

First let us survey the establishment and development of these principles in the history of the United States.

The Declaration of Independence sets forth two great new principles as the basis of governmental existence which had not been acknowledged elsewhere in the world prior to the establishment of the American government.

Senator Charles Sumner states them in this way:

"The words that 'governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed' are sacred words, full of life-giving energy. Not simply national independence was here proclaimed, but also the primal rights of all mankind. Then and there appeared the angel of human liberation, speaking and acting at once with heaven-born strength, breaking bolts, unloosing bonds, and opening

prison doors; always ranging on its mighty errand, wherever there are any, no matter of what country or race, who struggle for rights denied, . . . especially visiting all who are downtrodden, whispering that there is none so poor as to be beneath its beneficent reach; none so lofty as to be above its restraining power; while before it despotism and oligarchy fall on their faces, like the image of Dagon, and the people everywhere begin to govern themselves.

"The Declaration of Independence is the twofold promise; first, that all are equal in rights, and secondly, that just government stands only on the consent of the governed, being the two great political commandments on which hang all laws and political constitutions. Keep them in your hearts. This is the great and only final settlement of all existing questions. To this sublime consecration of the republic let us aspire."

That the power of government derives "from the people governed" was something new on earth. But there is another principle set forth in this great Declaration which is also new and of very great importance.

Anciently, and now more recently, the principle upon which most nations were, and are, governed, is the principle that "might makes right."

No matter how tyrannical or despotic or cruel or criminal the thing is which a nation does, if it has sufficient arbitrary power and force to do it, the possession of this power always proves to some minds the rightfulness of the thing done.

It was also held by some in olden times, and is held by some today as well, that if the majority of the people approved some policy, it must be right. This is the old doctrine of "*vox populi*,

vox Dei"—the voice of the people is the voice of God.

The Declaration of Independence discards and repudiates both these theories. Its last paragraph declares that the United Colonies as free and independent states "have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do."

Here a new doctrine is set forth. Before this it had been held that sovereignty was unlimited and illimitable. Now *right* is set forth as superior to all earthly power.

Let Senator Sumner analyze this principle for us. In his *Works* he says:

"But the great Declaration, not content with announcing certain rights as unalienable, and therefore beyond the control of any government, still further restrains the sovereignty, which it asserts by simply declaring that the United States have full power to do all acts and things which independent States may of *right* do. Here is a well defined limitation upon the popular sovereignty. . . . Mark, now, the difference: All existing governments at that time, even the local governments of the colonies, stood on power without limitation. Here was a new government which, taking its place among the nations, announced that it stood only on *right*, and claimed no sovereignty inconsistent with *right*."

Certainly "the supreme Judge of the world" led in the establishment of such a system of government. Indeed, the hand of Providence has been signally displayed in the development of these principles in the United States.

Here is carried out more fully than anywhere else in the world the great Bible principles of the separation of church and state, and freedom of conscience and religion. Here it is supremely true that "the powers that be are ordained of God." Romans 13:1, 2.

It is to be expected, as in all past history, that the great enemy of liberty, the great antagonist of the principles of soul freedom, the devil, will do his utmost to overthrow these principles as they are exemplified in America. He will raise up his own agencies for this purpose. He is doing it today.

Government by the consent of the governed is in grave jeopardy in America. With ever-increasing rapidity the law-making bodies of the United States are being hurried forward on the path which leads to a union of church and state.

One by one, as new laws are enacted, the inherent and dearly bought rights and liberties of the people, liberty of conscience, freedom of religion and worship, the right to profess and practice the religion of one's choice, are being encroached upon. Legislation prompted by bigotry and intolerance is multiplying.

Laws are being proposed, framed, passed, and enforced which deprive citizens of rights which constitutional guarantees formerly made sure to them. Great religious organizations have their paid lobbyists today, who seek to influence legislation in the interests of religion and religious observances. The time was when the Protestant churches pointed the finger of criticism at Catholicism for being in politics. Today Protestantism too is in politics. It has its agents seeking to obtain from civil power legislation favorable to itself.

It is one of the essential principles of true Americanism that church and state should be kept separate. Both are divinely ordained, but ordained to do different things, and to act in different spheres. When they are united it is evidence that both are corrupted.

Mighty religious forces today are seek-

ing governmental power. They are combining their strength, uniting their organizations to bring pressure upon Congress and state legislatures to obtain the enactment of religious laws. These laws would coerce the consciences of men, compel their obedience to religious observances, restrict their freedom of choice, deprive them of their religious liberty, and destroy their individual initiative.

We are now witnessing a gigantic attempt to overthrow the essential liberties of America. The forms that this will take, the success it will have, and the final destiny of America, have all been fully outlined in advance in this prophecy we are studying. We shall continue its analysis next week.



The Declaration of Independence announced that the new government stood only on right.

ever attain fully. "Thank God for everything"—a command that even Christians find hard to obey. And yet the rewards for the grateful heart are unlimited, too. In this as in other commands of our heavenly Father, the reward is *in* keeping the commandment as well as *for* keeping it. "In every experience there is character value, though not always cash value."

And from the fountain of the grateful heart will spring rivulets of other virtues—contentment, happiness, love of others, and obedience to God.

"Thank God for everything—such is His will for you in Christ Jesus."

A Song and a Light

(Continued from page 11)

"Now I am going to give you proof for the truth of this statement, from the New Testament. Please read Romans 3:31."

"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."

"Then the law of God is really established in the hearts and practice of all those who have a saving faith in Christ. Here God, through the great apostle to the Gentiles, says that faith in Christ, instead of doing away with the law, settles, fixes firmly, or establishes it. Now from the same book, read verse 13 of the second chapter."

"Not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified."

"It is an easy thing for those who have given little or no thought to the matter of obedience to the law of the great King of the universe to go on carelessly, and even some who have studied the subject flatter themselves that, in some way or other, God will let them slip through. Such deceive themselves, only later to have a terrible awakening. Please read James 1:22."

Thanks for Everything

(Continued from page 2)

children of Israel need to be commanded to rejoice and give thanks even when the natural inclination is to mourn.

Paul was well acquainted with these propensities of human nature. He, too, commanded all to be thankful as a part of their Christian life and duty. In brief but forceful words, he said: "Thank God for everything—such is His will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Moffatt. And again: "Giving thanks always for all things unto God." Ephesians 5:20.

This unlimited gratitude must, plainly, include not only the pleasant experiences of life, but sickness, sorrow, trouble, and all human ills. Are these to be occasions for thanksgiving? Paul says "Yes."

To show that Paul's eventful life was a hard one, it is hardly necessary to list all the trying experiences through which he passed. He was stoned, beaten, slandered, imprisoned, shipwrecked, and yet his was a grateful heart through it all. Even on his trip to Rome, with the prospect of death before him, "he thanked God, and took courage."

And it is not difficult to discover the reason for Paul's unusual achievement in perennial gratitude. He knew, definitely and irrevocably, that God was molding every circumstance for his good, and this constant faith in the ultimate outcome of every experience enabled him to be thankful "always for all things."

Unlimited gratitude!—a goal that few



Coming NEXT WEEK

IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR FEATURES:

DOES IT PAY TO BE A CHRISTIAN?	J. L. Tucker
THANKSGIVING EVERY DAY	Inez Brasier
IS DEATH A DOOR TO A LARGER LIFE?	F. C. Carrier
MY LOVE FOR GOD	Martha E. Warner
THE RETREAT FROM EVOLUTION	T. G. Bunch
WHEN GOD CALLS	G. G. Lowty
WAS THERE A LAW BEFORE SINAI?	C. E. Grant
RELIGIOUS CRISIS AHEAD	C. B. Haynes
WHY THIS SUFFERING?	N. P. Neilsen

Asleep

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." "Deceiving your own selves." It looks, Lucile, as if that is what I have been doing all these years."

"You are only one among many, my dear. According to the words of Christ in Matthew 7:21-23, many will continue to deceive themselves until their probation is ended. 'Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.' That will is plainly stated in the Ten Commandments. 'Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.'"

"Oh, isn't that terrible! Those poor people come right up to heaven's gate fully expecting to go in, and are shut out! Why, Lucile, I cannot understand it."

"But, Marian, iniquity is sin. The Bible defines sin as 'transgression of the law.' God could not let them in. He has promised that 'affliction shall not rise up the second time.' Nahum 1:9. Our heavenly Father counts obedience as true worship, and only those who are obedient and loyal to His government, as expressed in His law, the Ten Commandments, can ever enter His kingdom. But He will not condemn anyone until that one has had an opportunity to know what God requires. His commandment-keeping people are carrying His last message of mercy to all the world. All heaven is working with intense activity to save those who wish to be saved. On the cross, Christ bore the sins of the world. He bore your sins; He bore my sins. By this infinite sacrifice, He earned the right to represent all those who receive Him as their Saviour in the great court of heaven which is now in session. For them He pleads. For them He presents His blood and His righteousness. Justice is satisfied and 'Pardon' is written

He sees when their footsteps falter,
When their hearts grow weak and faint;
He marks when their strength is failing,
And listens to each complaint.
He bids them rest for a season,
For the pathway has grown too steep;
And, folded in fair green pastures,
He giveth His loved ones sleep.

He giveth it, oh so gently!
As a mother will hush to rest
The babe that she softly pillows
So tenderly on her breast.
Forgotten are trials and sorrows
That so often made them weep,
For with many a soothing promise,
He giveth His loved ones sleep.

All dread of the distant future,
All fears that oppressed today,
Like mists that clear in the sunlight
Have noiselessly passed away.
Nor call, nor clamor can rouse them
From slumbers so pure and sweet;
For only His voice can reach them,
Who giveth His loved ones sleep.

Weep not that their toils are over,
Weep not that their race is run;
God grant we may rest as calmly
When our work, like theirs is done!
Till then, we would yield with gladness
Our treasures to Him to keep,
And rejoice in the sweet assurance,
He giveth His loved ones sleep.
—Selected.



against their names. Their cases are settled for time and for eternity. While the people mentioned in our text had professedly been working for Christ, in reality they had been working against Him, refusing to keep His commandments, perhaps even teaching others to despise them; thus they had become, as Christ called them, workers of iniquity. They must have had an opportunity to know the truth, or He would not have condemned them. They had evidently deceived themselves.

"God is now testing and proving the people of this earth. Those who prove true and loyal will receive the reward of eternal life, and dwell forever in a beautiful land, free from sin, suffering, and death; from war, famine, and pestilence. There, united with their loved ones, they will pass an eternity of bliss. But I must have you read the texts in Isaiah 32:17, 18."

"The work of righteousness shall be

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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."

"Thank you so much, Lucile. I seem to be seeing a great light, and I am glad! I have decided to know God's truth, and to do it. I shall remember the words of the text, 'In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.' Matt. 15:9."

Victims of Circumstance

(Continued from page 5)

pay the penalty. Since it was broken by the human family, they too must be represented in the case. And since it required life, one in possession of that price must pay it. It must also be paid by one who had not transgressed, else he would only be paying the penalty for his own sins.

Thus Christ, both human and divine, the Sinless One, the giver of life, paid the penalty for man's transgression of God's law, accepted the wages of sin, death. He died in man's stead. Thus He saved the law, and freed the sinner. Herein we have the plan of redemption. It was for this twofold purpose that Christ died on Calvary's cross.

And so today Christ through His representative, the Holy Spirit, comes to me, a sinner, and says: "What is your choice? Whom do you choose to serve? Do you choose to be loyal to your Maker, to the ideals, principles, and standards of heaven? or do you choose to join the rebel forces?"

I might respond by saying: "Oh, there is no hope for me. There is that original sin resting upon me."

But Christ replies: "No, I took care of that sin on Calvary's cross. That is not held against you. What is your choice?"

Then I might say: "But I was born of sinful parents. My father died a sinner."

Once more He assures me: "I will not hold you accountable for that. What is your personal choice in this matter?"

Again I object: "But, Lord, I have been a vile sinner all the days of my life."

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To this He replies: "Yes, I know it. I have a complete record of your life—every thought, deed, and word. But if you will only confess your sins and ask for forgiveness, I will forgive your sins, cleanse you from all unrighteousness, and present you with a page as clean and white as I presented to your father Adam back in the garden of Eden. It was for this that I died. I will not hold the past against you. What is your choice *now*?"

Again I protest: "Lord, I am afraid I cannot hold out. So perhaps I had better not leave the ranks of the rebel. I might fall."

Once more comes His loving answer, "I remember that you are but dust, and that the devil 'as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.' So, if you are overtaken in sin, if you will but come to me, repentant, I will forgive that sin also. I will cleanse your page. What is your choice?"

But still I may quibble: "Lord, I know not what to do."

To this He answers, "It is for this reason that I have sent the Holy Spirit into the world. He will 'guide you into all truth.' I have given you the Bible as a divine guide, the organized church as a helper. All heaven stands ready to guide you in the right path if you choose to go that way."

Let me ask—what more could Heaven do?

Cain was not doomed to eternal destruction because of the sin of his father Adam. He determined his own eternal destiny. As with Adam, so with me, God has pointed out the two roads, and the ultimate end of each. He has placed me on absolute equality with all the other beings, as far as my ultimate destiny is concerned. I am still a free moral agent. I have the power of choice. I can choose to be loyal to my Maker; or I can choose to join the ranks of the rebel. My eternal destiny depends upon my personal choice.

And, dear reader, you and I, by our own choice, are in one of these groups today. If we are saved in Christ's coming kingdom, it will be because we have chosen to be saved. If we are lost, it will be because we ourselves have made that choice. It is unfortunate that we must go through so many disappointments in this brief life because of the rebellion; but we are not helpless victims of circumstances as far as our eternal destiny is concerned. The choice is ours. We determine under whose banner we will march—the black banner of rebel Lucifer or the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel.

We, as individuals today, by our own choice, are numbered in the ranks of the rebel, or we are numbered in the royal army, loyal to our King. What is your choice?

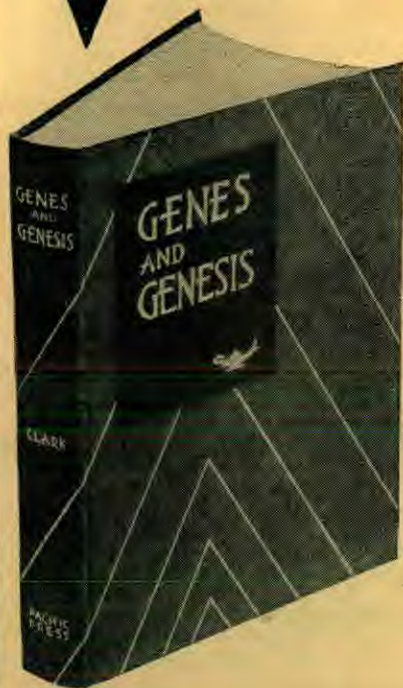
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