

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

THE WORLD'S PROPHETIC WEEKLY



THE ROYAL BOUNTY--Page 6

IT PAYS TO BE A CHRISTIAN--Page 5

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GOD'S LAST MESSAGE TO MAN--Page 12

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SOBELMAN

The giant American clipper which has brought Auckland, New Zealand, within four days' flight of Los Angeles.



### GIFTS WE OWE TO GOD

WHILE it may be true that the whole theme of Christmas has been grossly exploited by big business and turned into an orgy of extravagance and excess, nevertheless there is still something about it that tugs at the heart-strings and makes one think of home, family, and fireside.

Strangely, too, the very mention of it makes everybody think about giving. People who have scarcely had a generous thought all through the year will well-nigh bankrupt themselves buying presents for their friends and relatives at Christmas time. And while much of this reckless purchasing may be foolish, for a few brief hours, at least, it brings them a taste of joy incomparable. For there is no happiness quite so exquisite as that which accompanies an act of warmhearted, sacrificial giving.

We cannot tell, of course, but we would not be surprised to learn that most, if not all, who read these lines today, have a list—in their minds, if not on paper—of happy little secrets of this sort which they hope to bring to glorious fruition in the next few weeks. Christians and pagans, Protestants and Catholics, quite irrespective of denominational barriers, are all busily planning similar gracious deeds. And to the extent that it all promotes "peace on earth, good will to men," and makes families more united, and neighbors more friendly, it cannot but be pleasing to the Prince of peace.

But in all our giving at this season of the year let us not forget our own personal obligations to God. To spend fifty dollars on presents for friends and relatives and then put ten cents in the church collection plate to support the ministry and advance the cause of Christianity reveals a grievous misunderstanding of values and responsibilities.

Nor is it only at Christmas time that such lack of good judgment is revealed. It happens all through the year, as almost any church deacon would promptly testify.

Watch any collection plate go by and note the proportion of nickels and dimes, many of them from people who have that very day spent twenty times the amount of their offering on gasoline alone.

A nickel for God! As a newspaper correspondent wrote the other day: "One is getting down low in the scale of finances when he contributes a nickel for anything. We wonder what people think, if they think at all, when they expect the church to exist on five cents a week. . . . Really, five cents is an insulting amount to contribute to any cause, let alone that of the church. Religion is the backbone of good government. We should do everything possible to promote it. Five cents a week is too small an amount to contribute for such a purpose."

Perhaps this writer has exaggerated the situation; perhaps, too, you would not think of putting only a nickel in a collection plate. Yet there is a challenge in his words. Are we giving what we should to assist and sustain the agencies

of goodness in this evil world? Are we proving the sincerity of our convictions by the extent of our contributions? Is the money we put in the weekly offering the true measure of our devotion to our Lord?

With all our giving at this Christmas season, therefore, let us spare a thought for the gifts we owe to God.



### THE FIRE SWEEPS ON

NOT content with having brought most of Europe to the verge of ruin and despair, the would-be conquerors of the world have now carried the war still farther afield. To the lengthening list of their infamies they have added the invasion of Greece, while as we write the air is full of rumors that Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey, and even Portugal are on the list for similar devilment in the near future.

So the raging fire of this holocaust sweeps on over nation after nation.

Commenting on the latest attempt at conquest, the Turkish Government

the flight of  
**TIME**

A SURVEY OF  
**WORLD  
EVENTS**

by the  
**EDITOR**

### OUR COVER PICTURE

This beautiful scene may be observed in every city and village all over the country at this happy season of the year. Yet while the spirit of giving is in our hearts let us not forget "the royal bounty" of God toward us, nor the gifts He expects at our hands.

newspaper, *Ulus*, of October 29, remarked: "No one can assure the citizens until the storm of fire is over that our roofs will not catch after it. We are passing through a test of fate which demands clean hearts, strong confidence, and complete co-operation until death. We recognize no limit of sacrifice."

These are noble sentiments, indeed, which might well be shared by all in this dark hour.

For the storm of fire is raging ever farther and farther afield, and who dare say where it will stop? Will it cease at the Dardanelles? Or will it blaze on into Turkey, into Irak, into Iran, into Afghanistan, and so on into India, to meet the inferno approaching from the Far East? What indeed is there to stop its wild, devastating onrush?

Already the fire is burning in Africa, creeping ever southward; and not a few are wondering when some sparks will leap the Atlantic to set the New World alight.

Incredible though it is, there are still people who say, "This is none of our affair." But it is, and it will be; for if this gigantic blaze rages on uncontrolled, it will leap all the oceans, as well as all the continents, and consume every precious thing we have.

Today half the world is on fire. Tomorrow all may be involved. And we must be ready for sudden developments—ready to meet swift emergencies with unwavering courage and Christian fortitude. As the Turkish newspaper said: "We are passing through a test of fate which demands clean hearts, strong con-

fidence, and complete co-operation until death."

Perhaps we are all destined to perceive new meaning in the words of the apostle Paul: "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." 1 Corinthians 3:13.

Standing as we are on the verge of the "time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time" (Daniel 12:1), with the hot, scorching breath of a world conflagration beating upon our faces, well may we take fresh hold upon the eternal verities of God which alone can make us strong to bear all that lies ahead.

Speaking of this very time, Jesus Himself said: "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:34-36.



NOT far from Omaha, Nebraska, is located that rather unusual and much advertised community known as "Boys' Town."

Founded some twenty years ago to provide help and training for homeless and unwanted boys, it has grown into an institution of considerable proportions, with numerous buildings of collegiate size and architecture, with accommodation for five hundred lads.

*Japanese bombs exploding upon Chungking, only one of innumerable air raids upon the capital of China.*



INTERNATIONAL

*Wreckage of one of the "Anderson" bomb shelters in the yard of a London home. The three children who were occupying it at the time the bomb exploded miraculously escaped injury.*

Certainly the gifts of the public must have been exceedingly generous not only to provide for the support and education of nearly five thousand boys during the past two decades, but also to erect these fine, modern, commodious structures and install the latest equipment for instruction in many trades.

"Boys' Town" is generally supposed to be operated on a strictly "nonsectarian" and "nonproselyting" basis and it is no doubt because of this widespread belief that so much money has been so gladly donated by people of all shades of belief.

It was with this thought in mind that we visited the community recently, and we confess that it was no small shock to us to discover that we had been entirely misinformed on this point.

As it happened, we had just read the words "nonsectarian and nonproselyting" on the register when a black-robed nun passed by; then another, and an-

*(Continued on page 7)*

INTERNATIONAL



# PATRIOTISM IS NOT ENOUGH

*Other Essentials to Salvation*

by G. G. LOWRY



**E**DITH CAVEL, the English nurse, serving with the troops in Belgium during World War I, allowed her sympathy and compassion for humanity to overshadow the observance of military law. For this cause she was arrested and, after a dramatic trial before a German court, was executed. Her last words, spoken to her chaplain a few moments before the end, were these:

"I have no fear or shrinking. I have seen death so often that it is not strange or fearful to me; but this I will say, standing as I do before God and eternity, I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness against anyone."

Patriotism is commendable in anyone. Especially is this true in times of national distress when the lives and liberties of people are threatened. Laudable as it is, however, patriotism alone will not, as stated by Edith Cavell in her last moments, be sufficient when we come to stand before God.

One can be loyal to his country and yet be far from what God wants him to be. He may be honored and decorated with all sorts of medals in recognition of his bravery, and yet his heart may be, in the words of Scripture, "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." No, patriotism is not enough to guarantee one's acceptance into the kingdom of God.

Man's heart must be changed, but it is impossible for him to change it himself. He must have help from without. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil," says Jeremiah the prophet. Jesus, speaking of the change that must come to man, declared that he must be born again.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus, to whom these words were spoken, said, "How can these things be?" Jesus was not speaking of a physical birth, but of a spiritual experience. What He meant was that people's hearts and minds must be cleansed from sin. They must stop thinking evil thoughts; they must cease speaking evil words, and speak those that are pure. They must cease doing

evil and learn to do well. But again we come to the same question, "How can these things be?" Here is the assurance: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Here, then, is help for the sinner. God not only invites him to come and talk it over with Him, but He makes the definite promise that He will cleanse him from his sins. God is prepared to do His part in helping us get rid of our sins, for He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." There are certain things, however, that we must do in order to have our sins taken from us.

## *Necessary Steps*

First of all, one must realize the fact that he is a sinner. He must come to the place where he is willing to admit that he has done that which is contrary to the will of God. Unless, prompted by the Holy Spirit, he sees and feels in his heart that he is a sinner, he cannot be helped. The first step in coming into the family of God is to recognize and admit that the heart is sinful.

After one has come to this position, he is then to feel sorry for his sins; he is to regret his past mistakes, repent and turn from them. "Repent ye therefore, and

be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." And again, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins," exclaimed Peter in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost.

The third step is to make confession of one's sins. It is not enough to recognize the fact that he is a sinner, and regret that he has sinned. He must also be ready to confess his sin. The promise is definitely given that if we sincerely confess our sins before God, He will forgive. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Having taken these steps, there is but one thing left for a man to do in order to come into the fullness of the blessing that comes with the forgiveness of sins, and that is to believe with all the heart that God has, for Jesus' sake, forgiven his sins, and has fully accepted him as His child. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. . . . For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

One does not have to wait until he has become good before he can take these steps. He can have this experience at any time or place. The provision has been made for all to come to God, and He is ready to do His part any moment a man wishes to turn to Him. No money is to be paid; no penance to be done. One does not need to punish or humiliate himself in any way. All he has to do in order to enter the family of God is to believe on Jesus Christ, confess his sins, turn away from them, and have faith to believe they are forgiven, and God does the rest.

No. Patriotism, bravery, education, refinement, industry, integrity of purpose,—beautiful and charming as these qualities are,—do not, and cannot, constitute a password into the presence of our Creator. But if one has the added experience of knowing that his sins are all confessed and forgiven, and that he is accepted of God, then with calm confidence he can face the future, saying within himself: "It is well with my soul."



**I**N OUR article last week, we emphasized the point that it pays in happiness, in peace, in hope, and in contentment of life to be a true Christian. We found that happiness of life is an experience that we cannot buy. It must come from something placed within us by the miracle-working God. When Jesus has been invited into the heart, when He is an abiding presence, then and only then can there be true and lasting happiness.

Now I want to emphasize the fact that Christianity pays not only in happiness and peace and contentment, but it pays physically. Almost invariably when I think of Christianity, true Christianity, and its reaction upon the physical as well as the spiritual and moral man, I think of Daniel and his companions—slaves in the kingdom of Babylon, and yet chosen for a high place.

The record says: "The king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. . . .

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. . . .

"The prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

"Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

"So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. . . . As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. . . . And the king com-

# It PAYS to Be a CHRISTIAN

by

J. L. TUCKER



Because Daniel and his three friends chose to follow principle, they were highly honored by Nebuchadnezzar.

muned with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm." Daniel 1:5-20.

This test came to Daniel and his companions at the very outset of their career, and it was a decisive test. These youth felt that they dared not risk the enervating effect of luxury and dissipation on their physical, mental, and spiritual development. Daniel and his companions had been faithfully instructed in the principles of the word of God. They had learned to sacrifice the earthly to the spiritual, to seek the highest good; and they reaped the reward. Their habits of temperance and their sense of responsibility as representatives of God called to noblest development the powers of body, mind, and soul. God honored the loyalty of these men to live simply and to lead temperate lives.

Compared with all the best of the nation, the Hebrew captives, both in physical strength and beauty, stood unrivaled. Unwavering in allegiance to God, un-

yielding in the mastery of himself, Daniel's noble dignity and courteous deference won for him the favor and love of those with whom he associated. Speedily he rose to the position of prime minister of the kingdom.

Throughout the reign of successive monarchs, the downfall of the nation, and the establishment of a rival kingdom, such were his wisdom and statesmanship, so perfect his tact and courtesy, and his genuine goodness of heart, combined with fidelity to principle, that even his enemies were forced to make the confession that they could find no fault with him; he was faithful in all things.

The Christian will not allow himself to establish wrong habits that will in any way mar, defile, or debase, for Christ is his example in all things. Whatsoever he eats, or whatsoever he drinks, or whatsoever he does, he will do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31); and that high ideal lived up to makes for health.

Not only does true Christianity keep us clean in mind and give us an abiding peace and contentment, but it gives us a hope of life beyond, the glories of which "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered

into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9. The Bible holds out a hope of life beyond that will measure with the life of God, where there will be nothing to mar, where we are promised there will be no hunger, no violence, no sin, no sorrow, no death. No wonder the patriarch Moses, as he caught a glimpse of the eternal reward of the Christian, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, refused to be the monarch of the world's greatest empire! No wonder he chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God" and to endure affliction for a while, for he had "respect unto the recompense of the reward." Hebrews 11:25, 26.

Paul, with every earthly advantage,—seemingly possessing every talent and capability requisite to success,—caught a vision of a far greater treasure. Said he: "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Philippians 3:8. He had truly found that, in the words of the song,

"It pays to serve Jesus, it pays every day,  
It pays every step of the way."



The  
**ROYAL  
 BOUNTY**

What God Gave Us  
 What We Should  
 Give to God

by  
**M. C. GUILD**

the record states that "King Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, *beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty.*" 1 Kings 10:13.

This present from the king's bounty must have been very valuable, for "King Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom." 1 Kings 10:23.

But what of the royal bounty of our kind heavenly Father? The God whom we serve is a great and bountiful Being. He takes delight in liberality toward His servants, and He deals generously with those He has made. He is well "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think," for—

Our "Father is rich in houses and lands,  
 He holdeth the wealth of the world in His  
 hands;  
 Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,  
 His coffers are full,—He has riches untold."

The Lord has provided bountifully of those things that are for our good, that are necessary for our life, and that are designed to make us happy. "The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord." Psalm 33:5.

Consider the air we breathe. It is so common that we scarcely give it a thought, yet we could live but a few minutes without it. It covers the earth to a height of sixty miles or more, and it is furnished in great abundance to both rich and poor. No one can get a corner on fresh air. It is good for us; it is healthful and invigorating. Yet after all the living creatures on earth have used all they can possibly take of it, there is an unlimited supply remaining. It is part of God's royal bounty.

Water is another essential to our life, and the Lord has provided an immense amount beyond what we can use. "Thou

visitest the earth, and waterest it: Thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water." Psalm 65:9. The Lord has given water in truly royal measure.

It is the Lord who gives us "rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." Acts 14:17.

Our God delights in making His creatures happy. He might have made the world without a single flower; but He has provided beautiful blossoms and flowers in great profusion.

He could have left out the birds; but how much poorer we should have been without their songs or without seeing their graceful forms and beautiful plumage! These are more of God's royal bounty to the children of men.

Consider the matter of our time. God could have made the week of seven perfectly good days. He could have decreed that we work continuously every day in the week all our lives; but how dreary and tiresome the days and the work would have become! Instead, He has given us the holy Sabbath at the end of each week, filled with blessing and joy, rest and refreshing.

#### Heaven's Royal Gifts

I have observed the Sabbath for more than fifty years, and have learned to look forward to it each week with great delight; and so have thousands of others.

How much the world has lost in failing to observe the Sabbath, which God has blessed and sanctified! Truly this is God's royal bounty in the matter of time.

Christ is God's royal gift to our sin-cursed earth. We might live here a few brief years in sin, without hope and without God in the world. But how dreary the prospect with no hope of life in the future!

Jesus came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly. John 10:10. When Christ was sent to this world, all heaven was poured out in that marvelous gift. He is a wonderful Saviour who delivers from sin; His grace is boundless and free. When we receive all that we can of Jesus and of His blessed gospel, there is a bountiful supply left for everyone else.

It is impossible to enumerate the many blessings that God bestows upon His earthborn children; but we can say with the psalmist: "My cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Psalm 23:5, 6.

The many rich blessings of the Lord not only fill our cup to the brim, but run over and follow us all our life long. Truly "the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee." Psalm 116:7.

THE queen of Sheba came from a far land to hear the wisdom of Solomon. She came to test the king with difficult questions concerning the name of the Lord. She was charmed with what she heard, and delighted with what she saw. After listening to the instruction given by Solomon, after viewing the wonders and splendors of his kingdom, she freely confessed that there remained no more spirit in her. She blessed the great God whom Solomon worshiped, and expressed her admiration for the king and his kingdom. She gave valuable presents to King Solomon of gold and spices and precious stones. Then, according to the custom of those times, she asked of Solomon a gift, and

"Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain."

Heavenly blessings without number are gently falling upon us day by day. The floodgates of heaven are opened, and God is ready and waiting to pour upon us still greater blessings than we have yet received. These many blessings are gifts from God's royal bounty, bestowed upon us without money and without price.

What ought we to render to the Lord for all His wonderful benefits? Shall we not yield ourselves to Him wholly, completely, and unreservedly? In doing so we may enjoy the sweet peace of heaven here below. How rich and full and peaceful our hearts and lives may be when fully dedicated to God! And we are earnestly invited to come to Him.

Will not those of us who are parents dedicate our children to Him and to His service? They will never be so dear to us as when wholly given up to Him.

Shall we not give our money to carry the saving gospel to the lost? Our giving can and should be a delight. Some who are wealthy are giving large sums for gospel work; this is as it should be. But we do not have to be rich in order to give with a generous hand. The poor widow had but two mites; but she gave cheerfully. She gave all, and God has multiplied her gift many times.

Shall we not keep all the Ten Commandments in a full and bountiful way, including the fourth precept which is so often trodden underfoot?

Keeping the commandments bountifully means that we shall be so imbued with love for God that we shall observe them gladly, and that we shall do all we can for God in loyal service. We shall then pray with David, "Make me to go in the path of Thy commandments; for therein do I delight." Psalm 119:35.

And we shall love our fellow men so that we shall not only refrain from breaking the precepts of the Decalogue, but we shall "do all the good we can, in all the ways we can, to all the people we can, just as long as we can."

With such motives, we shall attempt



great things for God; and expect great things from God. Then we can sincerely pray:

"Let goodness and mercy, my bountiful God,  
Still follow my steps till I meet Thee above."

## The Flight of Time

(Continued from page 3)

other, until we wondered if we had wandered into a convent by mistake.

From our guide we learned that there are twenty-five nuns on the estate, and a goodly number of Catholic "Brothers," and that the whole concern is definitely a Roman Catholic enterprise.

In reply to our question as to what provision is made for the religious training of boys from Protestant homes, and whether a Protestant pastor is called in to minister to them, our guide informed us that they were "instructed by one of the Brothers."

Now, all honor to anyone, Catholic or Protestant, who will undertake the truly Christian task of rescuing homeless boys and setting them on the path to good citizenship; but in this case a little more carefulness in advertising would reflect greater credit upon the promoters.

However undenominational this worthy enterprise may have been in its inception, the presence there of a small army of nuns and "Brothers" would surely seem to indicate that "nonsectarian" is now an unfortunate misnomer, to say the least.

## KEPT for JESUS

by MARTHA E. WARNER

Concluding Article in the Series  
"My Gift To God"

"Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee."

I AM glad that I heard the strains of the old hymn, "Take my life, and let it be," as they came out upon the air that morning a few weeks ago.

And I am also glad that I stopped my work and hunted up the almost forgotten words in the songbook, for I needed those words to show me that my feet had begun to slip.

I needed to be reminded that an up-and-down experience in Christian living is a poor testimonial as to what God is able and willing to do for us and with us if we let Him.

I needed to know that the secret of a Christian life is Christ living in us, overcoming all our temptations, sharing all our joys and sorrows, and supplying our every need.

I needed to know that the only way to live a victorious life is by renewing my

consecration to God, daily, hourly, moment by moment.

We may pray and we may preach, but in the words of another, "Prayer and preaching, without the exercise of living faith in God, will be in vain. But the touch of faith opens to us the divine treasure house of power and wisdom; and thus, through instruments of clay, God accomplishes the wonders of His grace."

We need faith, living faith; and we need prayer, earnest prayer, that we may be able to resist, to deny, to conquer self. If we are troubled with doubts and fears as to whether we will be able to hold our Christian experience to the end, let us turn to the word, which tells us that His grace is, yes, *is* sufficient for us. 2 Corinthians 12:9. And again in Philippians 4:13: "I can do *all* things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

As Mrs. E. G. White has said: "It is God who holds in His hands the destiny of souls. He will not always be mocked; He

will not always be trifled with. Already His judgments are in the land. Fierce and awful tempests leave destruction and death in their wake. The devouring fire lays low the desolate forest and the crowded city. Storm and shipwreck await those who journey upon the deep. Accident and calamity threaten all who travel upon the land. Hurricanes, earthquakes, sword, and famine follow in quick succession. Yet the hearts of men are hardened. They recognize not the warning voice of God. They will not flee to the only refuge from the gathering storm."

Oh, how thankful we should be that the door of mercy is still open and that God is still calling, "My son, give Me thine heart!"

Let us today consecrate our lives anew to God, and be filled with the blessed assurance that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

"Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee."

UNTIL recent years the Biblical account of the Deluge was ridiculed by skeptics and questioned by scientists. It was declared to be a physical and scientific impossibility. However, modern scientific investigation is gradually but surely silencing all criticism. The testimony of scientific facts from the realms of geology, archaeology, and paleontology is changing the attitude of scientists toward the Noachian Deluge. The minerals of earth, the stone inscriptions of ancient man, and the fossil remains of man and beast, are crying out of the earth against the many skeptical and unscientific theories that contradict the Bible.

According to the Mosaic record the Flood was brought on the earth because of the wickedness of the antediluvians. With this agree the traditions and archaeological records of the ancients. The Lord provided a way of escape and sent a final warning message forecasting the coming catastrophe with its terrible consequences and telling of the only means of salvation. This message was preached by Noah, Enoch, Methuselah, and others. Enoch was translated before the Deluge came, and Methuselah died probably in the very year of the Flood. This may be indicated by the fact that Methuselah means, "When he is dead it shall be sent, i. e., the Deluge." (The Companion Bible.) Methuselah was the son of the prophet Enoch, and his name was doubtless given under inspiration. For almost a thousand years his very name bore testimony of the coming disaster. Doubtless he helped build the ark and proclaim the message.

The wise men of Noah's day scoffed at the possibility of a flood. They reasoned that the fixed laws of nature could not be altered. As men do today, they forgot that the God of nature is above the laws of nature and can therefore alter them at His will. Denying the possibility of a universal deluge, the antediluvians scoffingly said, "For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the

creation." The apostle declares that they were willingly ignorant, as are also the scoffers "in the last days" who refuse to believe that the earth was ever deluged by water. The same inspired record says that the elements of destruction then were stored in the earth, and that the same earth is stored with fire for the final deluge of flames that will again destroy the earth because of its burden of wickedness. <sup>2</sup> Peter 3:4-14.

The construction and dimensions of the ark were divinely given and are recorded in Genesis 6:14-16. The science of modern ship-building has proved these to be the proper proportions for a ship of this size. Critics scoffed at the idea of a ship of this size being able to house the number of creatures indicated in the Biblical account. In an issue of *Science and Invention*, statistics were given in regard to the dimensions of the ark and its capacity to care for so many creatures. The floor space of the three stories aggregated 101,250 square feet, or a little more than two acres.

The figures given were based on the tabulation of Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace in his *Geographical Distribution of Animals*, which states that there are approximately 1,700 species of animals, 10,087 species of birds, 987 species of reptiles, and 100,000 of insects. Computing the floor room and food necessary for two each of these creatures on the basis of space allowed for such creatures transported on modern ships, it was found that the ark was easily capable of accom-

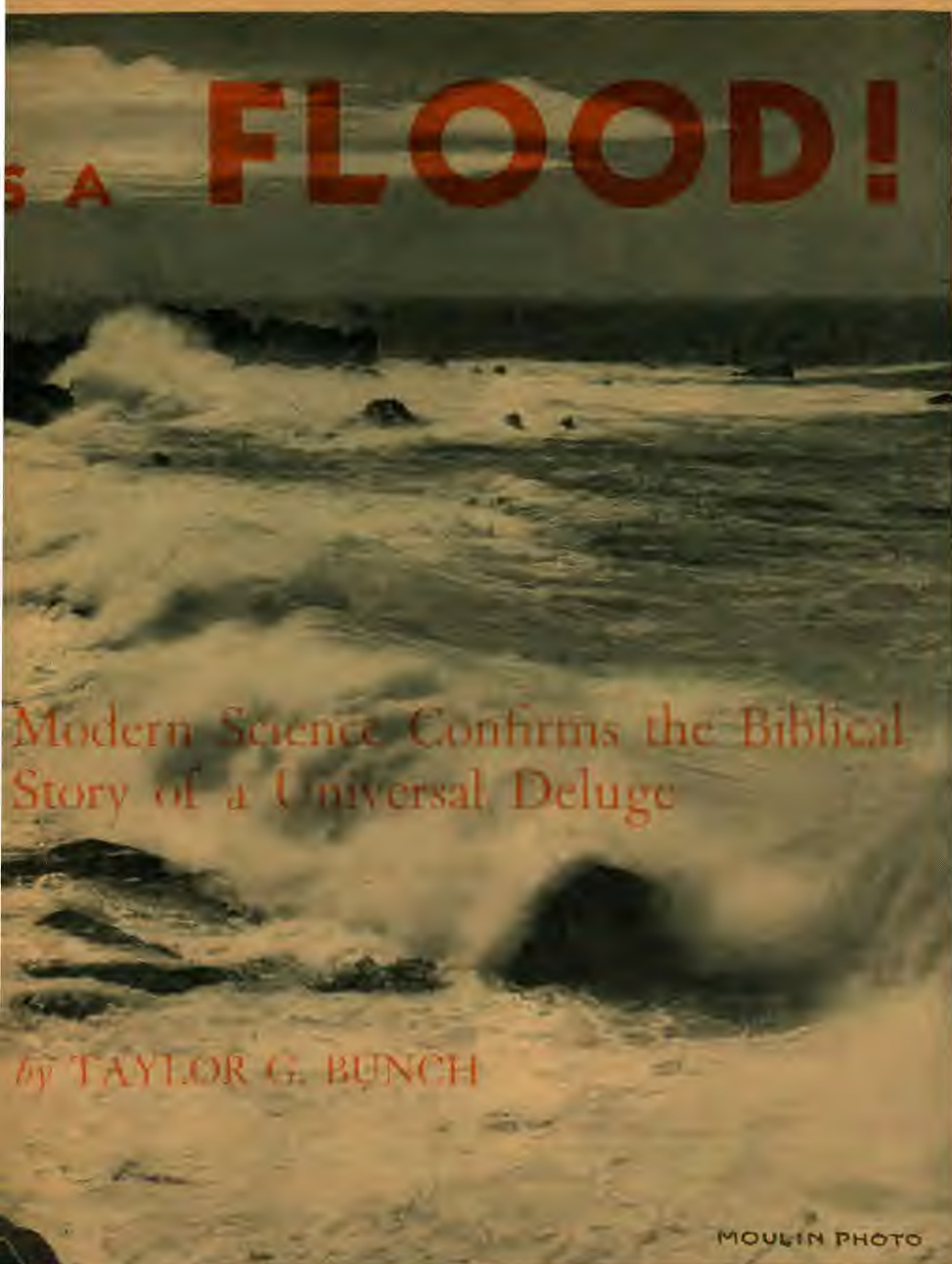


plishing the task for which it was built. The article concludes with the following statement: "It seems incredible, even after reading these figures, that a pair of each of the world's creatures could be housed in a vessel considerably smaller than the average transatlantic steamer. We have, however, the evidence of the measurements given in the book of Genesis and the testimony of mathematics to assure us that the ark may be more than a legend." Although some of the large modern ships are more than four times the size of the ark, they are built practically on the same scale, which has been demonstrated as the best for strength, durability, speed, and ability to ride the waves and resist storms.

The Biblical account of the Flood in the seventh chapter of Genesis indicates that it was accompanied by terrific storms with cloudbursts, earthquakes, volcanoes, and gigantic tidal waves that swept around the world with no land

**K**NOWING this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflown with water, perished: but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." <sup>2</sup> Peter 3:3-7.





# A FLOOD!

## Modern Science Confirms the Biblical Story of a Universal Deluge

by TAYLOR G. BUNCH

MOULIN PHOTO

or mountains to check them. The record speaks of the "floodgates" being opened, of the "fountains of the great deep" being broken up, and of the waves "going and returning." As the waters began to abate, the great tidal waves doubtless tore off the tops of protruding mountain peaks and buried man and beast and forest deep beneath the surface of the earth. The stored-up waters in the earth burst forth in great waterspouts, or geysers. Earthquakes and volcanoes acted their part in changing the entire surface of the earth.

The Deluge is the only satisfactory explanation of the present condition of the earth's surface. It explains the vast coal beds and oil fields, as well as the fossil remains of men, animals, birds, reptiles, plants, and trees buried beneath the surface of the earth in all parts of the world. The dead creatures and floating timber would naturally form vast drifts which would lodge against the protrud-

ing mountains and there be buried by the action of tidal wave, earthquake, and volcano. A universal flood does not seem so impossible when we realize that the earth's surface even today, when considered in relation to its diameter, is as smooth as the skin of an orange. It was doubtless less mountainous before the Flood.

### Testimony of Modern Science

Many scientists are today bearing positive testimony that there has been a universal deluge. In *Science and Invention*, October, 1920, an article appeared entitled, "Science Explains the Great Flood," in which was the following statement: "The Flood conditions which science now knows actually occurred in historic times." In a previous article we have given the testimony of the science of archaeology as indisputable evidence of the truthfulness of the Mosaic account. We shall briefly set forth evidence from

the science of geology, and also the unimpeachable testimony of paleontology, or that of the fossils.

Speaking of the geological evidence of a universal catastrophe found all over the earth's surface, Eduard Suess, celebrated Austrian geologist, said: "The earthquakes of the present day are certainly but faint reminiscences of those telluric movements to which the structure of almost every mountain range bears witness. Numerous examples of great mountain chains suggest by their structure the possibility, and in certain cases even the probability, of the occasional intervention in the course of great geologic processes of episodal disturbances, of such indescribable and overpowering violence, that the imagination refuses to follow the understanding and to complete the picture of which the outlines are furnished by the observation of fact."—*The Face of the Earth*, pages 17, 18.

### An Awful Storm

There are many evidences that the divisions of land and water were once far different than at present. "There is strong evidence that the arrangement of land on the globe has been very different. . . . The evidence, therefore, of the distribution of animals and plants proves the former existence of continents that have been dismembered and land routes that have foundered beneath the oceans."—J. F. Gregory, *Making of the Earth*, pages 114-127. Speaking of these changes as testified to by the condition of the earth's surface, McCabe, in his *A B C of Evolution*, page 50, says: "There were violent changes of land and water. Great continents . . . were tilted. Mountain chains arose, with mountain torrents."

Evidence is plentiful that at one time a temperate or semitropical climate prevailed all over the earth. This is proved by the fossil remains of both plant and animal life that are found buried in every land. Admiral Richard E. Byrd, in his report of the Antarctic Expedition in *The National Geographic Magazine* of August, 1930, page 189, said: "Coal beds and fossils previously found in Antarctica indicated that vegetation once flourished there." In his report of a later expedition Admiral Byrd said: "In the moraines they passed many hours picking over the fragments tumbled from the mountainside. Invariably these finds included plant fossils, leaf and stem impressions, coal, and fossilized wood. Here, at the most southern known mountain in the world, . . . scarcely two hundred miles from the South Pole, was found conclusive evidence that the climate in Antarctica was once temperate or even subtropical."—*Ibid.*, October,

(Continued on page 13)

DO GOOD PEOPLE  
Go to  
**HEAVEN**  
When  
**They DIE?**

by  
**F. C. CARRIER**



Jesus had said of one who lay in death:  
"Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go,  
that I may awake him out of sleep."

sleep, but we shall all be changed." 1  
Corinthians 15:13, 18, 51.

Jesus was once conversing with His disciples, when "He saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus *sleepeth*; but I go, that I may awake him out of *sleep*. Then said His disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, *Lazarus is dead.*" John 11:11-14. It is evident that our Saviour Himself called death a "sleep."

Let us go with Jesus to the home of Mary and Martha, sisters of Lazarus. "Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him: but Mary sat still in the house. Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. . . . Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again *in the resurrection at the last day.*" John 11:20-24. Martha understood the teaching of Jesus relative to man's condition in death, and she looked forward in hope to the great resurrection morning.

Patriarchs, prophets, and apostles all believed in the resurrection, and looked forward, by faith, to that day. Job said: "Thou shalt call, and I will answer Thee: Thou wilt have a desire to the work of Thine hands." "If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness." Job 14:15; 17:13.

Jesus makes clear the fact that there will be two resurrections—one for the righteous and one for the wicked. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the

graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29.

The apostle Paul informs us that the resurrection of the righteous takes place, not at death but at the second coming of Christ: "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." 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

Again Paul, speaking to the church, said: "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, *then* shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:51-55.

Perhaps someone will say, "The doctrine of inherent immortality is such a comfort! I can't give up the idea that my dead loved ones are in heaven." Let

(Continued on page 15)

SIGNS of the TIMES

IN OUR study last week we learned that death is exactly what the word implies—a complete cessation of life. "All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." Ecclesiastes 3:20.

However, I feel that some are saying: "In spite of this evidence, I still believe that a righteous man goes to heaven at death."

Let me call your attention to that remarkable sermon preached by the apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2. In the 29th verse Peter says: "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day."

David was a man after God's own heart. Acts 13:22. True, he made many errors in his life; but, because he repented in humility, God loved him. This being true, wouldn't you suppose that God would have taken him to heaven at death if popular theology is right? But notice the 34th verse: "*David is not ascended into the heavens.*"

The Bible likens death to a dreamless slumber, and calls it "sleep." "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are *asleep*, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." 1 Thessalonians 4:13. Again: "If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen." "Then they also which are *fallen asleep* in Christ are perished." "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all

# The TWO COVENANTS

*What Were They?  
How Do They Differ?  
Their Relation to God's Law  
An Old Problem Clarified*

by C. E. GRANT

AS THE Bible presents two laws, one changeless and eternal, the other provisional and temporary, so are there two outstanding covenants. They are generally called the old and the new covenants, the first and the second, or the covenant of grace and the covenant of bondage. The covenant of grace, or the new covenant, was first made with man in Eden when, after the fall, there was given a divine promise that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. To all mankind this covenant offered pardon and the necessary grace of God for future obedience through faith in Christ. It held before them the hope of eternal life on condition of fidelity to the law of God. It was through this covenant that the patriarchs hoped for salvation.

Let us consider the patriarch Abraham. This new covenant, or covenant of grace, was renewed to him in the promise, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Genesis 22:18. This promise pointed to Christ. That Abraham so understood it is evident from the record of Galatians 3:8, 16.

Here we find that the gospel was preached to Abraham and that Abraham recognized that the Seed which was to come was Christ. For this reason Abraham trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. It was this faith in Christ that was accounted unto him for righteousness.

That this covenant with Abraham maintained the authority of God's law is self-evident, for the Lord appeared unto Abraham and said, "I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect." Genesis 17:1. The testimony of God concerning His faithful servant was, "Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Genesis 26:5. And the Lord declared to him, "I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee." Genesis 17:7.

If this new covenant was made with Adam and renewed to Abraham and existed for two thousand years before the old covenant was made, why do we

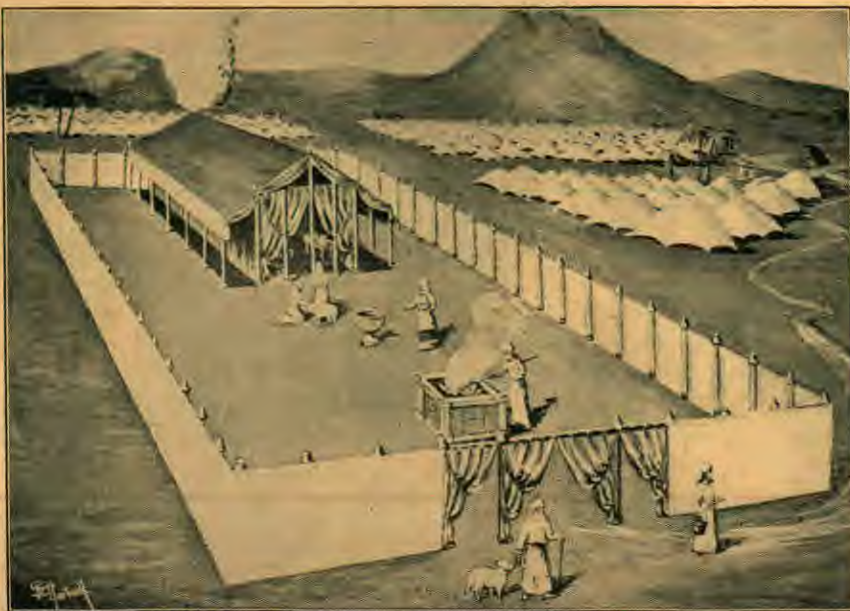
call it the new rather than the old covenant? For the simple reason that "where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead; otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth." Hebrews 9:16, 17. The testator of the new covenant was Christ, and for that reason the new covenant could not be ratified until the death of Christ. It had existed by the promise of God since the first intimation of redemption had been given; it had been accepted by faith; yet when ratified by Christ, it is called a new covenant.

Under this new covenant the law of God was not to be nailed to the cross, as some have supposed, but rather it was to be placed in our minds and written in our hearts. Hebrews 8:10. That this law which is to be written in our hearts under the new covenant is the same as was written on tables of stone, which was the Ten Commandment law, is evident from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, for in 2 Corinthians 3:3 we read, "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."

Now let us turn our attention to that other compact called in Scripture the "old" covenant. It was formed between God and Israel at Sinai and was ratified by the blood of a sacrifice. As we have seen, the Abrahamic, or new, covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ, and it is called the "second," or "new" covenant because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first or old covenant. That the new covenant was valid in the days of Abraham is further evident from the fact that it was then confirmed both by the promise and by the oath of God, the "two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie." Hebrews 6:18.

But we inquire: If the new covenant contained the promise of redemption, why was another covenant formed at

*(Continued on page 14)*



# GOD'S LAST MESSAGE to Man Sounding Now in All the Earth

by CARLYLE B. HAYNES



Each light represents a mission center of the Seventh-day Adventists, where is preached the full message of a soon-coming Redeemer.

FROM the beginning of human history until now God has been sending messages to men. He has a special message for the world in this time. It is the last gospel message ever to be delivered to this earth. It is a message that fits this time, that contains the only hope for a sorely distracted world.

And when this message is delivered, and men have heeded or rejected it, God will have nothing further to say to this world. He will then take steps to bring a complete end to rebellion and disobedience.

The time for pleading is about ended. The time for final action is almost here. God has made plain in His prophetic word the time, the occasion, and the content of His closing message of mercy and warning. There can be no question that this message is due today. Nor can there be question that it is actually being given now.

In the twelfth and thirteenth chapters of Revelation there is a prophecy of the last developments to take place in human history. These are brought to our attention under the symbols of a dragon, a leopard beast, a two-horned beast, an image to the beast, and the mark of the beast.

We have learned that the dragon is a symbol of pagan Rome; the leopard beast, of papal Rome; the two-horned beast, of the United States; the image of the beast, a union of apostate Protestantism with civil government in America; and the mark of the beast, the Sunday institution.

It is with reference to these developments that the last message of God to men is delivered. God would not have His people in the world remain in ignorance regarding the developments which this prophecy has outlined. He therefore sends into this world a message of truth which deals with these very things. He sends it to meet this very situation. It is called "the three-fold message." You will see why as you read Revelation 14:6-14.

There are five features of this message, found in verses 9-14, to which we direct special attention:

1. It sounds a warning against the worship of the beast, his image, and the reception of his mark.

2. It leads to obedience to the commandments of God.

3. At the time of its proclamation to the world this message constitutes and is summed up in the expression: "the faith of Jesus."

4. Its acceptance and the resulting persecution develop "the patience of the saints."

5. It is the last message to be given to the world before the second coming of Christ. This is made clear from the fact that as soon as this message is given, Jesus is seen coming in the clouds to reap the harvest of the earth. Revelation 14:14.

The prophecy of Revelation chapters 12 to 14 has been fulfilled almost to the end. Pagan Rome has done its work and disappeared. Papal Rome has fulfilled in the most exact detail the predictions of this prophecy in its attitude toward the truth and the people of God. The United States of America has arisen in exact accordance with the specifications of this prophecy. The prediction concerning a repudiation of the fundamental principles of liberty, both civil and religious, in the United States, is in process of fulfillment.

This threefold message, then, fits the present situation exactly. It is a message given for this particular time and to meet the special conditions which now prevail in the earth. It not only warns against false worship—the worship of the beast and his image; it tells how to avoid that worship.

This message not only tells men what they should not do; it tells them what they should do. It not only calls men to fight against the beast and his image; it tells them how to get the victory. It does this in the expression "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

This final message of the gospel of Christ will so fully prepare those who receive it to meet the Lord that it will be said of them that they are "without fault before the throne of God." Revelation 14:15.

It is evident, therefore, that the threefold message will contain all the truth of God, for it is the truth that sanctifies them—makes them without fault. John 17:17.

If, therefore, those who accept the threefold message become without fault before the throne, it will be because they are fully united with Jesus Christ and have the full and complete truth of the gospel.

This last church, the remnant church, which is developed by the acceptance of the threefold message, will be the full final fruitage of the Protestant Reformation.

To this remnant church will be revealed all the truth of the gospel, and it will preach to men the complete gospel, including those things which Satan had so successfully hidden under his great counterfeit system during the centuries of the Dark Ages.

Inasmuch as "the beast" through the early centuries of the Christian Era

changed the truth of God into a lie and substituted falsehood for truth and set up a system of counterfeits in place of the genuine truths of the gospel, this last threefold message will reverse all this and restore the original truth of the gospel.

Those who accept this threefold message will look to Christ as the only Mediator between God and man, as the only true Advocate with the Father. They will accept no other vicegerent of Jesus Christ on earth than the One of His own appointing, the Holy Spirit.

They will accept no other sacrifice for sins than that once offered on Calvary. And they will make it plain that this sacrifice is sufficient for the salvation of every believer without the idolatrous sacrifice of the mass.

They will confess to no human priest, but only to their High Priest above.

They will discard and repudiate the counterfeit sabbath and put in its rightful place the true Sabbath of the Lord, the seventh day.

And so they "will keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Thus the threefold message will sweep away all the errors of the Dark Ages and restore the truth of the gospel in its fullness.

This threefold message, thus presented to the world, will be in exact opposition to the papacy in every vital part. Consequently when it is preached to men it will constitute a great warning against the beast, his image, and the reception of his mark.

### *A Message Sorely Needed*

This message is now being sounded forth in all the earth. God has raised up a people, taught them the truth about the beast and his image and his mark, and sent them out to the ends of the earth to preach it. They are preaching it today—everywhere.

And the devil hates them, these people of the remnant church. "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17.

But victory is assured to all who remain loyal and true to God in this great conflict.

We may even now, by faith, hear the glad songs of the triumphant company on that "sea of glass mingled with fire," where stand those who have "gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name," in whose hands are "the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb." Revelation 15:2, 3.

## There Was a Flood

*(Continued from page 9)*

1935, page 456. This statement appeared under the subhead, "When a South Pole Suburb Was Semitropical."

After fifteen months in the arctic region, Captain Donald B. MacMillan reported the finding of coal deposits twenty-five feet thick only a few hundred miles from the North Pole. He also said: "On the tops of the hills, 1,200 feet above the sea, we found clam shells showing that at one time the hills were beneath the sea."

The following account appeared in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* of December 10, 1922: "In time long gone by the region about the North Pole had a warm climate and all of Greenland was covered with a luxuriant tropical vegetation. This is positively known because fossil remains of palms, breadfruit trees, and other plants properly belonging to warm latitudes have been dug up there in quantities. . . . Of the fact that the polar regions were anciently warm and verdure clad an interesting proof was afforded by a discovery which Greely, the explorer, chanced to make. Within eight degrees of the North Pole he found a fossil forest with stumps of trees still standing. . . . Dr. Adolph Hoel reports, as one profitable result of the recent Nor-

wegian expedition, the discovery of hitherto unknown coal deposits, of great extent and superior quality, near the eastern shore of Advent Bay, in Greenland. These deposits, of course, represent a profusion of plant life which existed through a great length of time in a former epoch.

"Not long ago two government geologists, David White and Charles Schuchert, paid a visit of exploration to west Greenland, where, far north of the Arctic Circle, they studied a fossil flora of palms, tree ferns, breadfruit trees, cinnamon trees, etc., belonging properly to the neighborhood of the equator. Where now an ice sheet over a mile thick covers mountain and valley, and mighty glaciers make their way to the sea and hatch icebergs, there was anciently a wilderness of tropical verdure. There were trees related to the giant sequoias of our own west coast. Climbing vines festooned the trunks of these monarchs of an ancient forest with draperies of foliage, while close to the ground grew curious dwarf trees resembling palms in miniature, in the midst of a tangled undergrowth. At the far more ancient period when Greenland was a tropical country the climate seems to have been much the same all over the world, and the same plants grew contemporaneously in Greenland and California, in Spitzbergen and Virginia."

This is in perfect agreement with the Biblical description of conditions that prevailed over the earth before the Deluge. The total absence of fossil remains of any kind of desert life, either plant or animal, also indicates a perfect state such as is recorded in the Biblical story.

In the next two articles further evidence of a universal flood, and the perfect state that preceded it, will be furnished from the discoveries of animal and plant fossils in all parts of the world.



## Coming Next Week

IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR FEATURES:

WILL CHRIST COME AGAIN? . . . . .	S. George Hyde
IS THE BIBLE INSPIRED? . . . . .	H. F. De'Ath
GOD'S LAW STANDS . . . . .	C. E. Grant
THE WORLD BEFORE THE FLOOD . . . . .	Taylor G. Bunch
WITNESSING FOR CHRIST IN WAR-TORN CHINA . . . . .	R. H. Hartwell
THE END OF THE WICKED . . . . .	F. C. Carrier
HOME EDUCATION . . . . .	Lois Snelling
THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES . . . . .	Carlyle B. Haynes
ARE WE TRAVELING A DEAD END ROAD? . . . . .	C. L. Paddock

# The Two Covenants

(Continued from page 11)

Sinai? In their bondage Israel had to a great extent lost the knowledge of God and of the principles of the new covenant. In delivering them from Egypt, God endeavored to reveal to them His power and His mercy, that they might be led to love and trust Him. He brought them down to the Red Sea, where, pursued by the Egyptians, escape seemed impossible, that they might realize their utter helplessness, their need of divine aid; and then He wrought deliverance for them. This made a profound impression upon them, but there were other lessons for them to learn.

Living in the midst of idolatry and corruption, as they had for years, they had no true conception of the holiness of God. They had no true conception of the sinfulness of their own hearts, nor of their utter inability to render obedience to God's law. They felt no great need of a Saviour. To counteract these tendencies in the children of Israel, God allowed them to enter into a covenant with Him at Sinai. In this covenant God said, "If ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then . . . ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." Exodus 19:5, 6.

The people, not realizing their own sinfulness and that without Christ it was impossible for them to keep His law, readily entered into covenant with God. God well knew that within a few days Israel would be bowing down to a graven image and that their covenant would be broken, and He wished this to be an object lesson, not only to Israel, but to all succeeding generations, that without Christ we can do nothing, that it is not within a man to direct his steps, that within ourselves there is no good thing, and that salvation is not by works but through faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The prophet Jeremiah says, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." Jeremiah 13:23. This is an impossibility, and it was to impress this fact upon Israel at Sinai that God allowed them to enter into the old covenant with Him. They could not change themselves. Of themselves they could do nothing; but they were not aware of this fact until God impressed it upon their minds by entering into a covenant which they soon learned they were unable to perform without Christ's dwelling in their hearts. This led them to turn to Christ, the Mediator of the new covenant, that covenant which had been made with Adam and had been passed down through Abraham, Isaac, and succeeding generations. Yes, the old covenant was only

used by God to lead the children of Israel back to Him whom they had forgotten during their Egyptian bondage—the Christ of the new covenant. As they realized their helplessness, they turned to Christ and "obtained a good report through faith." Hebrews 11:39.

There are those today who would have us believe that the law of God was the old covenant which, according to the eighth chapter of Hebrews, was faulty and decayed and ready to vanish away. They reason that the old covenant was made with our fathers in the day when He took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt (Hebrews 8:9), and they show that this old covenant was made at Sinai; and this we do not deny, for Galatians 4:22-24 says, "Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the Mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar."

Now having established the fact that the old covenant was made at Sinai, the advocates of this theory direct our attention to Deuteronomy 4:12, 13, where we read, "The Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. And He declared unto you His covenant, which He commanded you to perform, even Ten Commandments; and He wrote them upon two tables of stone."

Note that He says, "He declared unto you His covenant," but those who would have us believe that the Ten Commandments were the old covenant overlook the fact that the Ten Commandments are here called His covenant and not the old covenant. In Psalm 89:34 we read in regard to His commanded covenant, "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips." In Psalm 111:7, 8 we are told that "all His commandments are sure. They stand fast forever and ever, and are done

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in truth and uprightness." This could not be said of the old faulty covenant.

That the old covenant came into existence at Sinai will be questioned by no one, and that the law of God or His covenant was placed on tables of stone at Sinai no one will question; but that the law of God came into existence at Sinai will be questioned by every student of the Scriptures, and that the law of God was faulty cannot be harmonized with Psalm 19:7, which says, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." No law could be perfect and at the same time be faulty.

The law of God was in force for more than two thousand years before the old covenant was enacted, and for that reason cannot be the old covenant. See Romans 5:12.

Turn to the twenty-fourth chapter of Exodus and see just what the old covenant was. In the first two verses we find Moses and Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy elders called up into the mountain. Here God spoke to Moses, and in the third verse we read: "Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do." This was the old covenant—just a promise on the part of the people to do all that God asked of them. The following verses then say: "Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar. . . . And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord. . . . And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient."

Note here that Moses wrote all the words of the Lord and then read them to the people to show them he had not written anything but what he had told them the day before, and they again pledged their support. Then Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people,

and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words." Verse 8. What, then, was the old covenant? It was an agreement between God and Israel concerning something that was written in a book. But were not the Ten Commandments written in the book? And, if so, does that not constitute the old covenant? That which was written in the book was not the covenant. The covenant was only the agreement between God and Israel concerning that which was written in a book and not what was written in the book itself.

Note that after the old covenant had been ratified by the blood of animals, Moses went up into the mountain to receive the tables of stone which he had not as yet received, for the record continues: "The Lord said unto Moses, Come up to Me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them. . . . And Moses went up into the mount of God." Verses 12, 13. He was up in the mount forty days and forty nights, and he received the law on tables of stone. When he returned to camp he found that Israel had violated their covenant.

No, we cannot make synonyms of the law of God and the old covenant. The old covenant was faulty, but the law of God was perfect. The old covenant originated in the days of Moses, but the law of God goes back to Adam. The old covenant was to vanish away, but the law was to stand fast forever and ever. In the words of Christ, "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 16:17.

## Go to Heaven?

(Continued from page 10)

us examine that position. It is one I once held.

Jesus says: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13, 14.

According to these words, we must conclude that, in proportion, many more will be lost than saved. That being true, and supposing, for the sake of illustration, that men go to their reward at death, would not the majority of our dead friends and relatives be in a hell of torment today? If inherent immortality be true, the advocates of that teaching must be the most unhappy people on earth. Think of the unceasing torment of the eternally damned!

Let us look at it from another angle. We will say, for the sake of illustration,

that Mrs. B. dies and goes to heaven, where there is no sorrow, crying, or pain. She sees her dear daughter on this earth slip from the path of rectitude and fall into shame. Could she enjoy heaven? Would she not be heartbroken?

How thankful we ought to be that the Bible is so clear on this matter!

Jesus our Saviour, through His life, death, and resurrection, has "brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Timothy 1:10. When we yield to Him, we have His promise: "Thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." Luke 14:14. And John 6:40 says: "This is the will of Him that sent Me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may

have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

Glorious day! glad day! when Jesus shall come and cry: "Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust." Isaiah 26:19. Day of reunion! Day of rejoicing! This experience will be ours if we will make our calling and election sure by accepting Jesus as our personal Saviour now. May we, when our life's work is over, say as did the apostle Paul: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7, 8.

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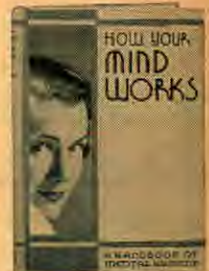
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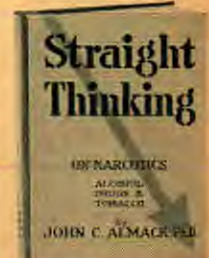


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