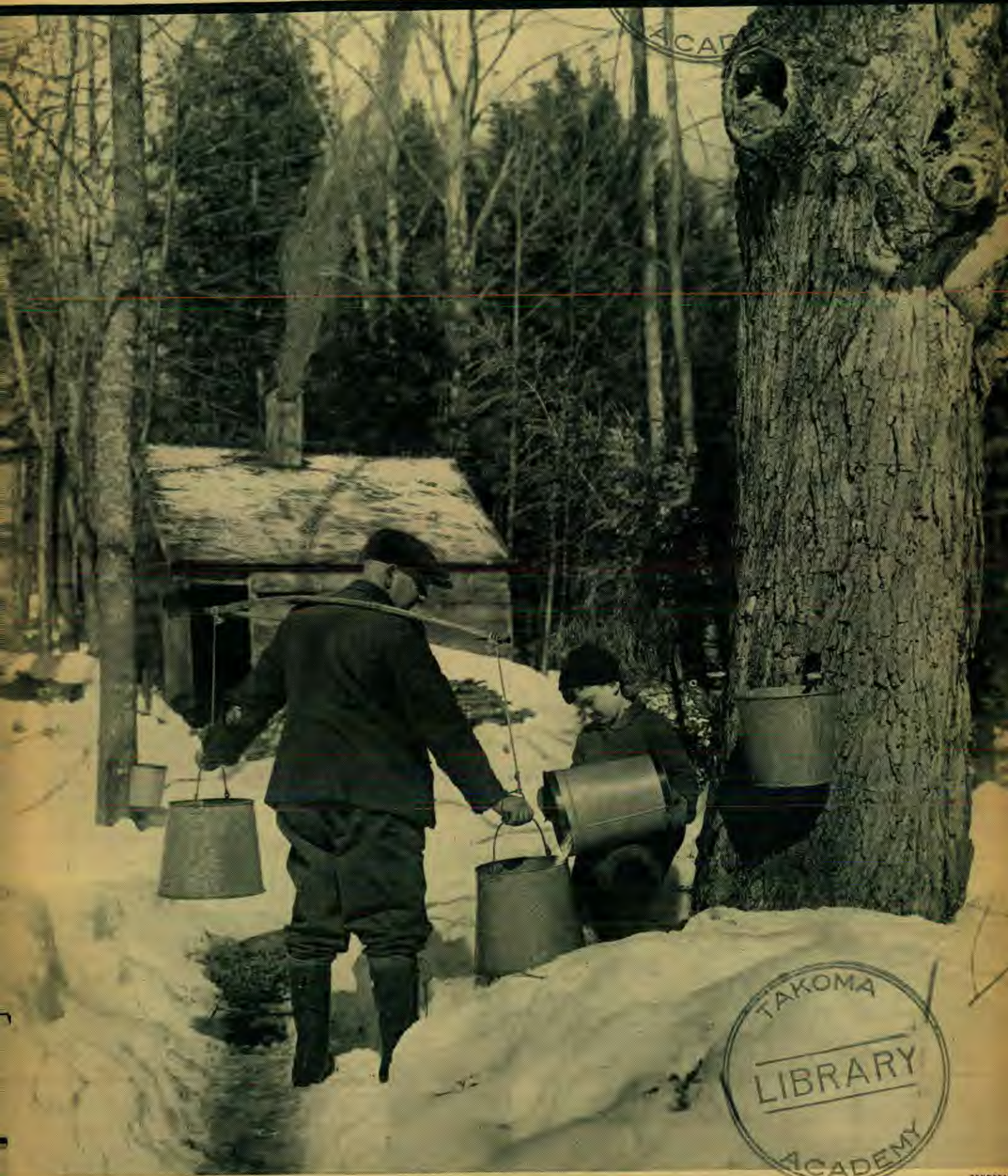


# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

THE WORLD'S PROPHETIC WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1874



TAKOMA  
LIBRARY

ACADEMY

TAKOMA  
LIBRARY  
ACADEMY





PIERCE



## BACK TO BETHLEHEM

*The stable in Bethlehem, birthplace of Christ and Christianity.*

world, moving mysteriously upon high and low, rich and poor, wherever the gospel has been preached.

All the din of battling empires cannot drown those heavenly cadences that have echoed down the ages: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." All the terrors of the powers of darkness cannot quench the imperishable words: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11-14.

It is time that we listened to them again.

**A**CROSS all the barriers raised by warring governments the thoughts of Christian people in every land are returning today to Bethlehem. Through blockade and counterblockade, through prison walls and barbed-wire fences, they speed to that lowly stable where God made rendezvous with men.

Once more on Christmas Eve the old, old story is tugging at the heartstrings. Its divine magnetism is felt in all the

# the flight of TIME

A SURVEY OF  
**WORLD  
EVENTS**

by the  
**EDITOR**

Through all these dreadful months of conflict and confusion we have been forgetting Bethlehem. The headlines have been taken by Berlin and Rome, Moscow and Tokyo, London and Washington. Newspapers have held before us Warsaw and Prague, Helsinki and Oslo, Bucharest and Budapest, Athens and Ankara; yet all the time, had we stopped to think, none was so important as Bethlehem. Indeed when all the world's capitals have been forgotten, Bethlehem will be remembered with undying affection by unnumbered multitudes, and spoken of with tender joy and gratitude through all God's vast domain.

For it was in Bethlehem that God offered humanity Heaven's richest gift, that supreme miracle of all time, Emmanuel, "God with us." Here it was that He presented His solution for all human strife and in a glorious way opened the most alluring possibilities for universal brotherhood and peace. To this blessed spot He brought the "Desire of all nations," the Leader for whom all men had been blindly groping, the very Man who

## SO LONG AGO

by EDITH SMITH CASEBEER

It was so long ago that Jesus came  
And angels sang His birth o'er lighted plain;  
And Mary watched, the one who loved Him so—  
It was so long, so very long ago.

It was so long ago the wise men knew  
The star that led them their long journey through;  
Then with their gifts they bowed before Him low—  
It was so long, so very long ago.

It was so long ago, and yet bells chime  
The story of His birth each Christmas time.  
It seems so sweet, so new, that story old.  
And new the gift of peace to earth, when told.

O Jesus, from Thy place of infinite light,  
Come back to us again this Christmas night,  
Make new the gift of Thy dear presence, Lord,  
Make new the tender promise of Thy word!

Make new the truth that Thou wilt come again,  
Not as a babe, but as a king to reign!  
Though old as everlasting hills Thy truth may be  
Make new, O Christ, our love and faith in Thee!







Girls of the American Ambulance Corps of Great Britain making a rescue from a London bomb crater. Their 260 mobile surgical units are always ready for action.

could have saved the world from all its sorrows.

Here too prophecy was marvelously fulfilled. Upon this little hamlet the thoughts of seers and sages had been focused for centuries, demonstrating that the birth of the Christ child was no sudden afterthought, no rash adventure, but part of a long-premeditated plan. Hundreds of years before it happened, the prophet Micah wrote: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity." Micah 5:2, margin.

"Out of thee shall He come." Even so He came, and Bethlehem was honored with the presence of Him who had been "from of old, from the days of eternity."

And He came at the time appointed. Galatians 4:4. The great prophecy of the seventy weeks, which was to reach to "Messiah the Prince" (Daniel 9:25), met its detailed fulfillment in Him. As He began to preach, He said significantly, "The time is fulfilled." Mark 1:15.

Bethlehem, therefore, was not an end, nor even a beginning. It was but one necessary phase in a mighty plan that spanned the ages, one vital part of an infinite purpose, vast as the universe, wide as eternity. It was God's most strategic move in His battle with evil, His supreme effort to redeem a lost race and make an end of sin.

Alas, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." John 1:11. That has been the trouble all down the

years. The plan was excellent. None better could have been devised. All the wisdom of God was concentrated upon it. From Bethlehem "peace" and "good will" could have radiated to the very ends of the earth. But all too many would have none of it. They were prepared to pay lip service to God's ideals but never ready to pay the price involved in living them out in their lives. They wanted leadership, but not this sort of leadership. They wanted victory over their foes, but not over themselves. They wanted God to serve them, without themselves having to serve God. They were willing enough to take the loaves and fishes so long as this did not involve obedience to unwelcome commands. They wanted the rewards without the sacrifices of consecration. All in all they failed hopelessly to understand the mind of God.

And so the plan appeared to fail. Instead of nineteen centuries of increasing

good will among the nations, the world has seen nineteen centuries of cruelty and carnage beyond description. Surely the angels who sang above Bethlehem on the evening of Christ's birth must have bowed their heads in sorrow times without number as they have witnessed the horrible barbarities of "man's inhumanity to man." Again and again they must have wondered at the incomprehensible human blindness and stupidity which chose this unending sequence of savagery and suffering to the blessed prospect God's mercy had provided.

Today the folly of man's rejection of the divine plan is more apparent than ever. It has led him into the most fearful excesses of wickedness and caused him to drink the most bitter dregs of suffering. Yet the memory of Bethlehem remains, a blessed reminder of God's infinite love and compassion for the human race, an everlasting testimony to what He was, and is, prepared to do for all who will reciprocate His love.

Bethlehem tells us, as nothing else can, that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Indeed, every essential of the Christian gospel was enshrined in that humble manger with that Babe that had come from God.

And as our minds turn thither again this Christmas Eve, they find new hope for a hopeless world. Truly the Babe is no longer there. Long since, after giving His own life to prove His love, He ascended into heaven and "sat on the right hand of God." There He awaits that long-expected day when He will return to this earth to consummate the eternal purpose.

(Continued on page 5)

Queen Elizabeth talking with women and children who have suffered in recent air raids on London.



#### OUR COVER PICTURE

Gathering sap for maple sugar in New Hampshire—a scene that reminds us that though winter comes, "spring is not far behind."





KEYSTONE

No mother can ever live so long that she outlives her usefulness.

NOT LONG ago a man in middle life came to our door asking for "the minister." When informed that he was out of town, the man seemed disappointed and anxious. When questioned as to his business, he replied: "I have lost my mother; and, as this place used to be her home, and as my father lies here, we have come to lay her beside him."

My heart rose in sympathy, and I said, "You have met with a great loss."

"Well, yes," he replied, with hesitancy, "a mother is a great loss in general; but our mother had outlived her usefulness. She was in her second childhood, and her mind had grown as weak as her body, so that she was no comfort to herself, and was a burden to everybody. There were seven of us, sons and daughters; and we agreed to keep her among us a year about. But I have had more than my share of her; for she was too feeble to be moved when my time was out, and that was more than three months before her death. But then she was a good mother in her day, and toiled very hard to bring us up."

Without looking at the face of the heartless man, I directed him to the house of a neighboring pastor, and returned to my nursery. I gazed on the merry little faces that smiled or grew sad in imitation of mine,—those little ones to whose ear no word is half so sweet as "mother,"—and I wondered if that day could ever come when they would say of me, "She has outlived her usefulness. . . . She is no comfort to herself, and a burden to everybody else."

When the bell tolled for the mother's burial, I went to the sanctuary to pay my token of respect to the aged stranger; for I felt that I could give her memory a tear, even though her own children had none to shed.

# "She Outlived Her Usefulness"

*A Story From the Past With a Lesson for Today*

(Reprinted by Special Request)

"She was no comfort to herself, and a burden to everybody." These cruel words rang in my ears as I saw the coffin borne up the aisle.

The bell tolled long and loud, until its iron tongue had chronicled the years of the toil-worn mother. One—two—three—four—five: How clearly and almost merrily each stroke told of her once-peaceful slumber in her mother's bosom, and of her seat at nightfall on her weary father's knee! Six—seven—eight—nine—ten—rang out the tale of her play upon the greensward, in the meadow, and beside the brook. Eleven—twelve—thirteen—fourteen—fifteen—spoke more gravely of school days and little household joys and cares. Sixteen—seventeen—eighteen—sounded out the enraptured visions of maidenhood and the dream of early love. Nineteen—brought before us the happy bride. Twenty—spoke of the young mother, whose heart was full to bursting with the new strong love God had awakened in her bosom.

And then stroke after stroke told of her early womanhood—of the loves, and cares, and hopes, and fears, and toils, through which she passed during those long years, till fifty rang out harsh and loud. From that to sixty each stroke told of the warmhearted mother and grandmother, living over again her joys and sorrows in those of her children and her children's children.

Every family of all the group wanted grandmother then, and the only strife was who should secure the prize. But hark, the bell tolls on! Seventy—seventy-one—two—three—four. She begins to grow feeble, requires some care, is not always perfectly patient or satisfied. She goes from one child's house to another, so that no place seems like home. She murmurs in plaintive tones that, after all her toil and weariness, it is hard she

cannot be allowed a home to die in; that she must be sent, rather than invited, from house to house. Eighty—eighty-one—two—three—four. Ah! she is a second child. Now "she has outlived her usefulness; she has now ceased to be a comfort to herself or anybody." That means she has ceased to be profitable to her earth-craving and money-grasping children.

Now sounds out, reverberating through our lovely forest, and echoing back from our "hill of the dead," eighty-nine! There she lies now in the coffin, cold and still. She makes no trouble now, demands no love, no soft words, no tender little offices. A look of patient endurance—we fancied, also, an expression of grief for unrequited love—sat on her marble features. Her children were there, clad in weeds of woe, and in irony we remembered the man's words, "She was a good mother in her day."

When the bell ceased tolling, the strange minister rose in the pulpit. His form was very erect, and his voice strong; but his hair was silvery white. He read several passages of Scripture expressive of God's compassion to feeble man, and especially of His tenderness when gray hairs are on him and his strength fails. He then made some touching remarks on human frailty and dependence on God, urging all present to make their peace with their Creator while in health, that they might claim His promises when heart and flesh shall fail them.

"Then," he said, "the eternal God shall be thy refuge, and beneath thee shall be the everlasting arms." Leaning over the desk, and gazing intently on the confined form before him, he then said, reverently: "From a little child I have honored the aged; but never till gray hairs covered my own head did I



## A MOTHER'S PRAYER

by LOIS EVANS-HANSEN

When all the good-night sleepy things are said,

And small tired eyelids fold like curtains down,

There are so many things I would recall—  
The hurried words and quick, impatient frown;

And in my heart I make a solemn vow,  
Tomorrow will be a better day.

Tomorrow I will do the things I should,  
Tomorrow I will find the time to play;  
I'll take the time to kiss those April tears.

I'll run to see the pretty butterfly;  
Tomorrow I will lay aside my work  
To tell them stories of the days gone by.  
But oh! dear Lord, tomorrow never comes.  
For all the things I wish to do and say,  
Please send Your help through all the passing hours  
To make each far tomorrow a sweet today.



know truly how much love and sympathy this class have a right to demand of their fellow creatures. Now I feel it. Our mother," he added, most tenderly, "who now lies in death before us, was a stranger to me, as are all of these, her descendants. All I know of her is what her son has told me today—that she was brought to this town from afar, sixty-nine years ago, a happy bride; that here she has passed most of her life, toiling as only mothers ever have strength to toil, until she had reared a large family of sons and daughters; that she left home here, clad in the weeds of widowhood, to dwell among her children, till health and strength left her. God forbid that conscience should accuse any of you of ingratitude or murmuring on account of the care she has been to you of late.

"When you go back to your homes, be careful of your example before your own children, for the fruit of your own doing you will surely reap from them when you yourselves totter on the brink of the grave. I entreat you as a friend, as one who has himself entered the evening of life, that you may never say in the presence of your families or of Heaven, 'Our mother had outlived her usefulness. She was a burden to us.' Never, never! A mother can never live so long as that! No; when she can no longer labor for her children, nor yet care for herself, she can fall like a precious weight on their bosoms, and call forth by her helplessness all the noble, generous feelings of their hearts."

Adieu, then, poor toilworn mother. There are no more days of pain for thee. —Selected.

## The Flight of Time

(Continued from page 3)

Bethlehem indeed belongs not only to the past; it is a mighty inspiration for the future. The very fact that Christ came there, and in such a fashion, demands that He shall come again with all the majesty which is His right. This earth which witnessed His humiliation must behold His glory.

And it will. A hundred promises and prophecies confirm the fact. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God." 1 Thessalonians 4:16. "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him." Revelation 1:7. "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isaiah 40:5.

Here indeed are good tidings of great joy for all people. Here is the message this war-scarred world so greatly needs today. Here is the word of comfort for

all who mourn, the word of courage for all who suffer. Christ is coming! The Babe of Bethlehem is returning as King of kings and Lord of lords. "In His days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth." Psalm 72:7. "And God shall wipe away all tears; . . . and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor

crying, neither shall there be any more pain." Revelation 21:4.

Yes, "peace on earth, good will toward men," everywhere, always.

This is the blessed hope that has cheered and sustained the children of God through all the long, sad years of human history. May it be in our hearts today.



KEYSTONE



## The Christmas Spirit

by

GRENVILLE  
KLEISER

THOMAS CARLYLE was six years old when an aged man came to the house to beg. The boy Thomas was alone in the big house.

His heart was touched by the old man's appeal, so he went to his own little penny bank and gave the entire contents.

In looking back upon that act when he had become a famous writer, Carlyle said, "I never knew anything that gave me so much pleasure."

The Christmas spirit and sense of service should be a perennial expression of love in the heart.

If the spirit of good cheer and unselfishness of Christmas time were generally manifested throughout the year it would transform mankind.

Love is still the greatest thing in the world. Divine love is the remedy for the world's wants, wars, and woes. It is the handservant of faith, mercy, and good deeds.

Acquire the giving habit. Give intelligently, freely, liberally. Give money, books, counsel, sympathy, and inspiration. Give something every day. Cultivate the giving habit as you do the saving habit. Give out of the fullness of your heart, with no expectation of return or gratitude.

There is no greater joy in life than to render happiness to others by means of

intelligent giving. It is the spirit of the supreme Giver, the Christ who gave His life that men might know the way to the Father.

As we sow we shall reap. Unselfish service, hardship, self-denial—these are tests of a man's real character.

Gratitude means a contented spirit, a kind and loving disposition. It means charity and humility and a generous appreciation of others.

We are told that he is greatest who serves, who submits to the guidance of truth, to the will of God.

Few persons attain this high standard. The desire to be publicly prominent, to amass a fortune, to exalt self, is common to mankind.

Selfish self-seeking is an ugly trait, fraught with disappointment and ultimate disillusionment.

The supreme example of selflessness, of true humility, is Christ, of whom Phillips Brooks said: "I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of men upon the earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life."

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."



# DID GOD CHANGE HIS LAW?

*Was It "Nailed  
to the Cross"?*



C. E. GRANT

**T**HERE are religionists today who, through some process of illogical reasoning, have concluded that the law of God was only a temporary arrangement for the Jews of Palestine and that it was abrogated at the cross.

It is the purpose of this article to point out that the law of God, according to the Inspired Scriptures, is as enduring as God Himself; that it is a revelation of His character; the foundation of His throne, and the great rule in the judgment.

That the Ten Commandments are a revelation of His character is evident from the fact that the very same expressions that are used to portray to us the character of God are also used by the prophets in their utterances in regard to the law. Paul, in Romans 7:7, says: "Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." The law which says, "Thou shalt not covet," is the Ten Commandment law of God, and in Romans 7:12, 14 Paul says this law is holy, just, good, and spiritual. These expressions are the same as those used throughout the Bible in speaking of the great God of the universe. Let us read Leviticus 19:2: "I the Lord your God am holy." In Acts 3:14 we read: "Ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you." And again in Mark 10:18 we hear Jesus saying: "Why callest thou Me good? there is none good but one, that is, God." The psalmist David says, "The righteous Lord loveth righteousness." He also says, "All Thy commandments are righteousness." Psalms 11:7; 119:172. Yes, all His commandments are righteousness, and His righteousness

shall endure forever. Righteousness, or His commandments, is the habitation of His throne. Psalm 97:2.

When the great God of heaven chose to dwell among His people as He led them out from the land of Egypt, He said, "Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." Exodus 25:8. This sanctuary was composed of two apartments known as the holy and most holy places. Within the most holy place was the ark, and this ark contained the Ten Commandment law of God. According to verse 21, the mercy seat was to be placed "above upon the ark," and, in verse 22, we read, "There I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat."

---

## HOPE ON

by MAY COLE KUHN

Hope on, O heart bowed down with care:  
God hears thy faltering, troubled prayer;  
He feels the grief, the sharp, wild pain,  
The turmoil in that driven brain.  
He weighs the burden thou must bear,  
And in thine hours of deep despair  
He comes, their tragedy to share,  
And whispers low, "Take heart again,  
Hope on!"

He braves the perils thou must dare,  
Loosens the shackles thou dost wear;  
And speaks when strength and courage wane,  
"Fear not; thy toil is not in vain:  
The journey's end is sure and fair—  
Hope on!"

---



This was patterned after the sanctuary that existed and still exists in heaven today. Hebrews 8:5.

That this sanctuary, with the ark and law of God, is still in heaven is made clear by John when he says, "The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament." "And there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne." Revelation 11:19; 16:17. According to these scriptures, the throne of God is in the temple in heaven, and the law within the ark is the foundation of His throne. So those who are blasting at the law of God are blasting at the foundation of the throne of God—a hopeless task. Thrones of men may weaken, totter, and fall, but the throne of God, never. "All His commandments are sure. They stand fast forever and ever." Psalm 111:7, 8.

In Deuteronomy 4:13 we read: "He declared unto you His covenant, which He commanded you to perform, even Ten Commandments; and He wrote them upon two tables of stone." Here we see the commandments called His covenant; and later, speaking of His covenant, He says, "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips." Psalm 89:34. God is not a God who changes, for we read, "I am the Lord, I change not." Malachi 3:6.

The law of God was engraved upon "two tables of stone written with the finger of God," and this itself suggests



durability; but the wise man, speaking of that which God has done, says, "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it." This is the reason why Christ could say, "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. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-19. When God brought the children of Israel up out of Egypt He said: "Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations." Deuteronomy 7:9. The idea of the text is not that at the end of a thousand generations the commandments would cease, but it suggests a period of time far beyond the comprehension of man.

Certain it is that those who would have the commandments nailed to the cross at the time of Christ have some difficulty when they read in Matthew 1:17 that the generations from Abraham to David were but fourteen, and from David to the carrying away into Babylon were but fourteen, and from the carrying away into Babylon to Christ were but fourteen, or in all from Abraham to Christ only forty-two genera-

tions. In Luke 3:34-38 we learn that there were but twenty generations from Adam to Abraham. There were sixty-two generations from creation to Christ, and a less number since His time.

Did Christ nail the law to the cross? No, a thousand times no! He demonstrated, by allowing Himself to be nailed to the cross, that it was not possible to nail the law to the cross. Sin is the transgression of the law, and Christ came to die for our sin. This would not have been necessary if the law could have been removed; for Paul says, "Sin is not imputed when there is no law." Romans 5:13. Could the law have been abolished, and sin been disposed of in this way, Christ need not have come and died for our sins. The gift of Christ, therefore, more than all else, proves the immutability of the law of God. Christ had to come and die, and satisfy the claims of the law, or the world would have perished. In the words of that great Baptist preacher, Charles Spurgeon: "Our Lord Jesus Christ gave a greater vindication of the law by dying because it had been broken than all the lost can ever give by their miseries."

There have been many great church leaders who have upheld the claims of the law of God. Spurgeon left us that outstanding work, *The Perpetuity of the Law of God*. D. L. Moody, the great evangelist, said: "Now men may cavil as much as they like about other parts of the Bible, but I have never met an honest man that found fault with the Ten Commandments." Again, "The people must be made to understand that the Ten Commandments are still binding, and that there is a penalty attached to their violation." That the position held by these two great leaders is maintained by the Baptists today is evident from the fact that Pendleton's *Baptist Manual* says, "It is the eternal unchangeable rule of God's moral government."

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, was outspoken in his pronouncements concerning the law of God. He said: "The ritual or ceremonial law, delivered by Moses to the children of Israel, containing all the injunctions and ordinances which related to the old sacrifices and service of the temple, our Lord indeed did come to destroy, to dissolve, and utterly abolish. To this bear all the apostles witness. . . . This 'handwriting of ordinances' our Lord did blot out, take away, and nail to His cross. [Colossians 2:14.] But the moral law contained in the Ten Commandments, and enforced by the prophets, He did not take away. It was not the design of His coming to revoke any part of this. This is a law which never can be broken, which 'stands fast as the faithful witness in heaven.'"

(Continued on page 15)



## In the Midst of the Years

by EUGENE ROWELL

"O Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy." Habakkuk 3:2.

AMID the closing days of this passing year, as in the ruined nave of a shell-wrecked church, my thoughts try with deepened concern to distinguish between that which is transitory and that which abides, between that which is temporal and that which is eternal, and between that which shall perish and that which shall endure.

That which is passing away seems now to have little significance. My soul turns rather to those things that are everlasting and shall not fail or be destroyed.

How few, yet how fundamental, these eternal verities are. The love of God, His upholding power, His living word. All that has not changed even since I can remember is rooted deep in these.

But how numerous and how secondary are the things that are passing with the years! As I take note of them, I am surprised at how little of true happiness they have brought into my life.

My young ambitions and plans for worldly greatness are gone like the April mornings when I dreamed them long ago. Yet today the difference between what I thought to be and what I am with respect to that which men call success, disturbs me not at all. My own sense of well-being, and the meaning of my life to the few on earth who have known or cared, depends on my relation to those things which are, with God, the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The friends I have known that have

been to me a source of enjoyment and of good have been those whose lives were rich in the things of God. These friends, though many have been called to rest, are with me in memory unchanged, inspiring and strengthening me in every good purpose, as of old. And the good books I have read, when I come again upon them, I read with the same joy, the same uplift of soul, with which I first felt their beauty and power.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three," wrote the apostle Paul, with a clear appreciation of values; and surely we can have no loftier aspiration, can make no higher resolve, than to seek throughout the coming new year eternal wisdom rather than the knowledge that shall vanish away, and to have more deeply enshrined in our hearts enduring faith, unfading hope, and a full, abiding charity for all.



THE Scriptures constitute the foundation of all true science, and in them may be found, by the diligent searcher, every branch of modern knowledge. But above all else their purpose is to reveal to mankind the science of salvation from sin, which is the science of all sciences. The science of Christian character building is as much deeper, broader, higher, and more important than any human science as the heavens are higher than the earth.

While on earth among men, Christ could have revealed knowledge that would have amazed and confounded the wisest of men, and placed in the background all previous discoveries and disclosures. He could have unlocked mysteries that for millenniums have baffled the world's greatest thinkers, many of which are not yet solved. But the Son of God refused to turn aside from His supreme mission to things of lesser importance. He came into the world to teach the science of salvation that gives the more abundant life, with the promise of the restoration of the perfect state that was lost through transgression.

God's plans and purposes are eternal and unchangeable because He Himself is eternal and unchangeable. His plans are as perfect and permanent as His character. It is never necessary for the Lord to experiment, because "His understanding is infinite." His vision is not narrow and restricted by human limitations, but it comprehends all eternity. Mistakes with the Lord are impossible because He sees "the end from the beginning." A full knowledge of the consequences of every word and act makes the Lord exempt from the failures that characterize the life of man. Only that which is bound up with God's purpose and that which expresses His character can long endure. Divine principles of truth and righteousness are the only steadfast things our world knows. The wise man said: "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it, that men may fear before Him." Ecclesiastes 3:14.

All the plans and purposes of man are temporary and imperfect and must be constantly revised or abandoned because of his restricted vision. We are short-sighted and narrow-minded and cannot see the future, and, therefore, our lives are filled with mistakes and experiments. We are constantly building and tearing down and rebuilding, starting something that we do not or cannot finish. How different our

# The Greatest of

*Not Chemistry or Physics*

*Not Geology or Psychology*

*Not Anatomy or Astronomy*

*But - the Science of Salvation*

by TAYLOR G. BUNCH

lives would be if we could see more from God's viewpoint and comprehend more clearly His eternal purpose! We see as from the bottom of a well, or a deep canyon, compared with the vista of the Lord from the height of heaven. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts," declares the Lord in Isaiah 55:9. For this reason His dealings with the earth and man are from the viewpoint of their eternal and not their temporary welfare.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish," said Solomon. Proverbs 29:18.



## PRAY TELL, O MAN!

by W. EARLINGTON WHITNEY

Ah, man, so great, renowned and wise,  
Pray tell! who hung the azure skies?  
Who built the caverns of the sea  
And guards the waters' boundary?  
What mason's hand built mountains high,  
Whose survey does the sun go by?  
Who lights the stars at eventide?  
Who tells the moon to change her stride?  
And now, O man! in wisdom's throes,  
How gets the perfume in the rose?

While we cannot expect to see all that God sees and fully know His plans and purposes, it is our privilege to enjoy far greater revelations than we have ever known or anticipated. While we must live and work in the valleys, we need ever and anon to climb to the mountain peaks for vision. From a great height we get the true perspective of earthly things and are better able to estimate relative values. We need to learn to look at the things of time in the light of eternity so as to estimate their true value and put them to their noblest use.

"The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand." "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure: . . . I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." Isaiah 14:24; 46:10, 11. We are told that "every purpose of the Lord shall be performed." The Lord will never permit the revolt of a mere created being to ruin His plans or change His purpose. If we can learn what God's original plans were, we can know what His eternal purpose is. What was originally planned for man will eventually be fulfilled.

A tremendous effort has been made to make void God's purpose for this earth and man. The leader of this revolt was once the mighty Lucifer. Isaiah 14:12-20. But his efforts will fail because the divine plan is unalterable. "For the Lord of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it?"



# All the SCIENCES



An X-ray machine in the Huntington Memorial Hospital, Boston, which, it is claimed, is four times as powerful in the treatment of cancer as would be all the known radium in the world.

INTERNATIONAL

and His hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?" Isaiah 14:27. The original purpose of God will eventually be carried into execution as if man had never fallen. Where the "prince of this world" established his rebel throne, there "the Prince of Peace" set up His cross in order that the dominion of this world might again come under His sovereignty.

God's eternal purpose included a beautiful world inhabited by perfect beings made in His own image. "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else." Isaiah 45:18. In Ecclesiastes 7:29 we are told that the Lord "hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." But the original purpose will eventually be carried out regardless

of man's sin or Satan's efforts to frustrate it. The Creator made no mistake when He made the earth, even though He foresaw that it would come under the curse of sin; or when He created man, even though He knew that he would fall before the temptations of the enemy. He sees the end from the beginning and can therefore make no mistake. His purpose will ultimately be fulfilled.

### *Age-Embracing Plan*

In Ephesians 1:9-11; 3:9-12 we are told that God has an eternal purpose that embraces the earth and all who accept the plan of redemption. Therefore if we love the Lord supremely and are called "according to His purpose," then "all things work together" for our good. Romans 8:28. "God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern

the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 225.

We can be assured that some day all the perplexing experiences of life will become clear, so that where we have been able to see nothing except confusion and disappointment, broken purposes and thwarted plans, will be seen a grand, overruling, victorious purpose, a divine and glorious harmony. "And this is in harmony with God's merciful purpose for the government of the world when the times are ripe for it—the purpose which He has cherished in His own mind of restoring the whole creation to find its one head in Christ; yes, things in heaven and things on earth, to find their one head in Him." Ephesians 1:10, Weymouth.

This knowledge was the secret of Christ's trust and calmness. He knew that nothing could befall Him but that which infinite love permitted for His own good and the blessing of the world. The same privilege is ours. We may know that Christ is our defense against every attack of the enemy, and that nothing can touch us except by our Lord's permission. In 1 John 5:18 we are told that the Christian is safe because "He who is God's Child keeps him, and the evil one cannot touch him." (Weymouth.)

"In the darkest days of her long conflict with evil, the church of God has been given revelations of the eternal purpose of Jehovah. His people have been permitted to look beyond the trials of the present to the triumphs of the future, when, the warfare having been accomplished, the redeemed will enter into possession of the Promised Land. These visions of future glory, scenes pictured by the hand of God, should be dear to His church today, when the controversy of the ages is rapidly closing, and the promised blessings are soon to be realized in all their fullness."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 722.

This is the science of Christianity, the science of all sciences. It is far more important for us to know these things than to have the combined wisdom of the world in regard to things material and temporal. To know the age of rocks will avail us nothing unless we learn to know the Rock of Ages. To know about the creation of things material will do us no lasting good unless we know the creative power of God in things spiritual, within our own hearts and lives. A profound knowledge of fossil remains is worse than useless if at the same time our characters become fossilized in evil. To learn of the writings of ancient man on clay tablets and stone walls will accomplish nothing permanent unless the law and word of the

(Continued on page 11)





WILL GOD

## Punish the Wicked?

*Tragic Future of Those Who Hate Goodness  
and Refuse Salvation*

A BIBLE STUDY BY

F. C. CARRIER

THE Bible clearly teaches that final rewards and punishments will be meted out, not at death, but after the "two resurrections" take place.

Jesus says there will be two resurrections, one for the righteous and one for the unrighteous: "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.

Paul tells us that the resurrection of the righteous will take place when Jesus comes: "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.

There is no doubt that the resurrected righteous will go to heaven, for Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have

told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And 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 14:1-3. And John the revelator wrote: "I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them. . . . And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Revelation 20:4.

When Jesus comes the wicked will flee from His glory. "The heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:14-17.

But they shall not escape, for Paul says: "Then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His com-

ing." 2 Thessalonians 2:8. And again: "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thessalonians 1: 7, 8. But is this the final end of the sinner? No, for we read in Revelation 20:5: "The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished."

### *Desolation of the Earth*

When the Saviour comes the mountains and islands will be "moved out of their places." The cities will be destroyed by a great earthquake. Isaiah says: "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. . . . The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word. . . . The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited." Isaiah 24: 1-22.

"The slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." Jeremiah 25:33. Then Satan shall be chained upon this old earth for a thousand years, for we read in Revelation 20:1-3: "I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

Let us review briefly: Jesus comes, the graves are opened, the righteous dead are resurrected, the righteous living are translated; together they go to heaven with Christ for a thousand years. The wicked are stricken dead by the glory of His appearing. The earth is desolated. Satan is chained by a chain of circumstances upon this earth for a thousand years.



Some people tell us that everybody is going to have a second chance during the millennium; but how can they? The righteous will be in heaven and the wicked will be dead upon the earth.

At the end of the thousand years two great events will take place: The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, will come down "from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband," and the wicked dead will be raised to receive their final punishment. Revelation 21:2; 20:5.

At this time Satan is loosed from his chain of circumstances in that he again has living beings to tempt: "When the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." Revelation 20:7-9.

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." Verse 14. "The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8. This is the complete obliteration of sin and sinners. "Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." "And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 4:1, 3. After this, God will make a new earth wherein the righteous will dwell forever: "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. . . . Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:7-13.

Will everyone receive the same punishment? someone asks. No, there will be degrees of punishment, each sinner being punished according to the deeds he

has done. However, it will all come at last to an "end;" and in the new earth there will never again be sin or sinners. "He [the Lord] will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9.

## Greatest of the Sciences

(Continued from page 9)

living God are written upon the fleshy tables of the heart and lived out in our daily lives. A knowledge of the movements and structure of the stars may be interesting and even thrilling, but far more so will be the privilege of visiting "the land that is very far off" and being able to "see the King in His beauty." To



## GIFTS We May Bring

by INEZ BRASIER

"WHEN Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east." "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshiped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:1, 11.

The wise men gave of their choicest treasures, and the fragrance of their gifts has wafted down through the centuries since the star shone over the Bethlehem hills.

To us have been committed treasures of rarest value also—treasures of time and love and influence. Have we hoarded them for ourselves, only to see them become tarnished and useless in our selfish grasp? or have we given freely and generously of all the store?

"When the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart, like sweet fragrance it cannot be hidden. Its holy influence will be felt by all with whom we come in contact. The spirit of Christ in the heart is like a spring in the desert, flowing to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish, eager to drink of the water of life.

"Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked, for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. It will lead to love, tenderness, and sympathy toward all the creatures of our heavenly Father's care."

Let us break the alabaster jar of love entrusted to us for use, that its perfume may

reach other lives, enriching them. "The little attentions, the small acts of love and self-sacrifice, that flow out from the life as quietly as the fragrance from a flower—these constitute no small share of the blessings and happiness of life."

"A kindly word and a tender tone— Only to God is their value known. They can lift from the dust the abject head; They turn a foe to a friend instead. The heart close bound with passion and pride, Will fling at their knock its portals wide; And the hate that blights, and the scorn that sears, Will melt in the fountain of childlike tears. Speak kindly, then, and some soul in pain May hear and waken to smile again."

The influence of this love cannot be measured. Like rays of morning sunshine searching the dark places in hidden valleys, it will touch hearts longing for a better way. Our influence, too, "is a responsibility from which we cannot free ourselves. Our words, our acts, our dress, our deportment, even the expression of the countenance, has an influence. Upon the impression thus made there hang results for good or evil which no man can measure." "It is God's purpose that each shall feel himself necessary to others' welfare, and seek to promote their happiness."

Do our lives reflect His love? Are the beauty and sweetness of our blessed Master shining through us every hour of the day? The love of God in the heart will have an influence that cannot be resisted. It will draw others to Him. It will ever widen in blessing throughout the unending ages of eternity.



# SATAN to Be INTERNED!

**T**HE EVIL personality who has been conspiring against the peace of the world is soon to be checked in his course and placed where he can do no more harm.

The principalities and powers and "rulers of the darkness of this world" which have been bent on world destruction and ruin are shortly to find their plans blasted forever.

The source of all the wretchedness and misery on earth, the chief conspirator against the peace of the world, is soon to be interned for an entire millennium.

And his *agents provocateurs*, the demons who have carried out his orders, will share his concentration camp with him.

This is not merely wishful thinking. It is the plain teaching of the word of God.

The god of this world is to be brought to justice and bound for a thousand years. This is the millennium; and there are a great many wrong conceptions about it.

This thousand-year period is not one of glory and peace on earth. It is not an age of progress. It is not the golden age so many anticipate. It does not come about as a result of the conversion of the world. It marks the arresting of World Enemy No. 1 and the placing of him where he can do no more harm.

It is the binding of Satan. He is bound in some place or condition termed "the bottomless pit." It is a place which effectually stops his work of deception. We read about it in Revelation 20:1-5.

The fact that Satan is to be bound during the millennium confuses some people. They conclude from this that the millennium is bound to be a very happy time, a period of peace among the nations.

They believe that then there will be no opposition to the gospel, and therefore all men will be converted. They think that, with the chief warmonger out of the way, armies will be disbanded, navies dismantled, and nations will learn war no more.

Such conceptions have been taught so long that they have come to be widely believed. But they are wrong. They have no foundation in the Bible. Nowhere does the Bible teach that the world is to be converted.

The conditions regarding the last days of the world are plainly portrayed in our Lord's parable of the wheat and the tares. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Here it is declared that both the right-

## *His Career of Crime to Be Cut Short in a Concentration Camp*

by CARLYLE B. HAYNES



MOULIN

*It is the earth in a waste, desolate, solitary condition that is referred to as "the bottomless pit" in which Satan is bound.*

eous and the wicked will "grow together" until the "harvest," which is "the end of the world."

At the end of the world, instead of the wicked being converted they are to be cast into a lake of fire.

This world is not destined to grow better and better. Instead, it will grow "worse and worse." 2 Timothy 3:13.

Jesus gave particular attention to describing the character of the days just before His second coming. They will be like those just before the Flood. Luke 17:26-30. What those days were like will be seen from Genesis 6:5.

The order of events opening, during, and closing the millennium is plainly set forth in the teachings of the Bible.

No one need be in ignorance of them.

The millennium will begin with the second coming of Christ. At this time there will be four classes of people on the earth. They will be:

*The righteous dead*—those who have followed God through the ages and have passed into their graves to await the coming of the Lifegiver.

*The righteous living*—those who have not died but are living on earth at the time of the Lord's return.

*The wicked dead*—the enemies of God through the ages, who have gone into death unrepentant, and there await the resurrection of the wicked and their final punishment.

*The wicked living*—the enemies of



God who are alive at the time of the coming of the Lord.

Search now, and see how plainly God has declared what will become of each of these four classes.

At the second coming of Christ the *righteous dead* will be raised.

At the same time the *righteous living* will be translated without seeing death.

Both of these classes will be taken to heaven. 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

This reunited company of God's people will not remain in the air where they meet the Lord, as some mistakenly claim, but will be taken with the Lord to heaven.

This is most positively stated. John 14:2, 3.

The same truth is taught in the Saviour's prayer for His people. John 17:2, 3.

It is plain, therefore, that when the *righteous dead* are raised at the second coming of Christ and the *righteous living* are translated, they will be removed from the earth and taken to heaven.

There they will enter and possess those mansions which Christ has been preparing for them. And there in heaven they will "live and reign with Christ a thousand years." Revelation 20:4.

Plainly the *righteous* are not on the earth during the millennium. They are in heaven.

The *wicked dead* are not disturbed at the second coming of Christ. They are left unmolested in their graves. Their sleep is not broken at this time. Revelation 20:5.

There will be, then, two resurrections—a resurrection of the *righteous* at the second coming of Christ, and a resurrection of the *wicked* a thousand years later.

The millennium opens with the resurrection of the *righteous* and closes with the resurrection of the *wicked*.

The millennium is a thousand-year period between two resurrections.

The *living wicked* will be slain at the second coming of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:8. They will continue in death until the second resurrection at the close of the millennium.

Thus at the second coming of Christ the *righteous dead* will be raised, and the *righteous living* will be translated, and these two classes, united, will be removed from the earth and taken to heaven to live and reign with Christ for the thousand years of the millennium. The *wicked dead* will be left in their graves, and the *wicked living* will be brought to death. And unitedly these two classes will remain in the prison house of death until the close of the millennium.

It is therefore plain that at the second coming of Christ this earth will be entirely emptied of its inhabitants.

All the *wicked* will be dead upon the

earth. All the *righteous* will be in heaven. There will not be a man left on earth.

It is the earth in this waste, desolate, solitary condition that is referred to as "the bottomless pit" into which Satan is cast and bound.

The term means any place of darkness, desolation, and death. And when the earth during the millennium is in chaos and ruin, it will become the "bottomless pit" of Satan's captivity.

A concentration camp twenty-five thousand miles in circumference!

Here in this desolate earth, with its cities broken down, its whole expanse a great wilderness, without any of the human race left, Satan will be compelled to stay for one thousand years.

That is the length of his sentence.

He will be bound with a great chain. This must not be understood as a literal chain. No literal chain would ever bind

him. It is rather a chain of circumstances which effectually prevents him from carrying on his ordinary occupations.

He cannot deceive the *righteous*. They are in heaven.

He cannot deceive the *wicked*. They are all dead, and so beyond his reach.

By the very circumstances of his position he is bound, and must of necessity remain bound, until some change is brought about either in the condition of the *righteous* or of the *wicked* which will once more put them within his reach.

That change takes place at the close of the millennium when, as a result of the "second resurrection," the *wicked dead* are raised, Satan is thereby "loosed," and the final judgment upon all who have rebelled against God's government is executed. Revelation 20:7-9.

## Joe Flashlines

by W. L. EMMERSON

**CROWD-MINDEDNESS** "Nowadays," said Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo in New York recently, "most individuals reserve their views until they have sent up a cluster of test balloons to discover which way the wind of the majority voice is blowing. Before we express our beliefs, we must first scan the latest returns of a Gallup poll to ascertain whether or not we are in step with our fellow men. We are dazzled by the glamour of crowd-mindedness."

**BALKAN MELTING POT** "Seventy million people of no less than nineteen races and nationalities live in the 400,000 square miles between Prague and Athens," writes Mr. Stoyan Pribichevick in his recent book, *Living Space*. "There are descendants of alien colonists and refugees, remnants of various conquerors, vestiges of extinct ethnic stocks, and curious racial mixtures which furnish topics for perpetual discussion among ethnologists. The largest of all these groups, the Rumanians, number only 14.5 million. Through this racial network run the threads of five separate religions—Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Moslem, and Israelite."

**TWO HUNDRED CROSSINGS** Pan American Airways recently celebrated their two-hundredth transatlantic crossing since the service opened in May, 1939. During these flights the planes have covered 750,000 miles and carried 2,600 passengers and the equivalent of more than 12,000,000 letters across the ocean. During the past four months, as a result of the European conflict, the passenger traffic westward has been particularly heavy.

**ONE IN SIX** According to *The Official Catholic Year Book*, edited in the United States by Fr. Kilian Hennrich at the end of 1939, there are 398,227,000 Catholics among the world's population of 2,122,688,000.

**AMERICAN BIRTH RATE FALLING** In a recent speech in the House of Representatives, Mr. Rabaut of Michigan pointed out that the United States birth rate had fallen from 25.1 per thousand in 1915 to 17.6 in 1938. "It is our Number 1 problem," he concluded. "The absent child of today is the missing but necessary adult of tomorrow."

**BASIS OF PEACE** "We shall never be fertile soil for world peace," declared Rev. Ernest R. Palen of New York, "until as individuals we have plowed out of our lives petty grievances, family differences, neighborly arguments, the anger and the dislike and the hate of individuals that breeds murder in our hearts."

**SINISTER IDOLS** "The present state of the world," declared Cardinal Hinsley in a recent broadcast to the United States, "proves once and for all that the idols of wealth, prosperity, progress, and science are sinister, because they have been made the be-all and end-all of life. Their gifts have been bombs, tanks, torpedoes—blessings from Hades."

**A WONDERFUL YEAR** "In a year of almost unparalleled stress and difficulty, the British and Foreign Bible Society circulated 11,763,666 volumes of Scripture, this figure being made up of 1,004,521 Bibles, 1,560,131 New Testaments, and 9,199,014 portions," writes Rev. John A. Patten, in his 136th Annual Report. He emphasizes the striking fact that copies distributed in Europe amounted to 2,238,000,—an increase of 612,000 over the previous year,—and that the greatest increase of all was in Germany.



# Women Who Loved the LORD

by MAY LACEY WHITE

AMONG the most ardent followers of our Lord and Saviour when He came and dwelt among us were certain women of Palestine, women of various types and from different stations of society.

We read of Mary Magdalene, out of whom Christ had cast seven devils; of Joanna, the wife of King Herod's trusty steward; of Susanna; and of others who accompanied the Saviour with His disciples as He visited many cities and villages preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. Luke 8:1-3.

Luke tells us that these women "ministered unto Him of their substance," supplying Him and His company with their daily needs. The Lord evidently accepted this kindness bestowed upon Him and His disciples, and was endeared to them as they to Him by this service.

The loving act of Mary Magdalene in the home of the Pharisee as she wept tears of repentance on the feet of Jesus, and wiped them with her long, flowing hair, was graciously received, and Christ offered no rebuke when she repeatedly kissed His feet as He was seated at the supper table. On the contrary, when Simon, whose guest He was, wondered in his heart why Jesus should allow this woman who had been a notable sinner to touch Him, Christ said, knowing his thoughts: "Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest Me no water for My feet: but she hath washed My feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest Me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss My feet." Luke 7:44, 45.

As she broke the alabaster box containing the precious ointment and poured it over Him, He appreciated the costly gift; and it must have brought joy to His heart to know that one whom He had rescued from the depths of sin should bestow upon Him this token of the deep love and gratitude that filled her soul.

When the disciples indignantly repudiated this act, Jesus said, "She hath wrought a good work upon Me. . . . For in that she hath poured this ointment on My body, she did it for My burial. Verily, I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her." Matthew 26:10-13.

We are told that our Saviour while on earth was often lonely. He longed for human sympathy and love, and, when this was given, how much He must have appreciated it!

We know He enjoyed visiting the quiet home at Bethany where lived Lazarus with his two sisters, Martha and Mary, who all dearly loved Him and were very happy when He came to be their guest. We can imagine how Martha joyously planned and prepared the meal when He would visit

them; how, like any good housewife, she would think of the dishes He liked best, and with what a thrill she must have prepared them for Him! We learn from the gentle rebuke He gave her during one of His visits that she sometimes prepared too many things in her eagerness to do her best for Him. During these visits, her sister, Mary, loved to sit at His feet and drink in His words of admonition and instruction.

Then there was His mother, who we are sure loved Him more than she did anyone else in the world. In that humble home of Nazareth He had grown up and lived thirty years by her side, and her heart was wrapped up in her wonderful Son as she ministered to His daily necessities. We might be envious of His love for her were it not for these words of His: "Whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother." Matthew 12:50.

There were many women whose names we do not know who must have loved Him supremely as they received from Him special blessings.

We think of the widow of Nain, whose only son Jesus raised from the dead as He entered the city and met the funeral train. What overwhelming gratitude she must have felt for the One who had restored her son to her!

What love for Him must have been kindled in the heart of the Syrophenician woman who pleaded so persistently for her daughter's healing, and was at last rewarded for her faith by the granting of her request!

The poor woman who had been sick so long and had spent all her living upon physicians who failed to help her surely felt deep gratitude and love for Him as her touch of faith brought instantaneous healing.

The little daughter of Jairus must have been everlastingly grateful to her Saviour for the renewed gift of life.

Special recipients of His miraculous power, such as Peter's wife's mother, who

was healed immediately from a severe fever by the touch of Christ, and the poor bent creature who for eighteen long years had not been able to straighten herself until His kind touch caused her to be loosed from her infirmity, must also have felt a deep love for Him who had given them health and healing.

The woman who was taken in sin and was about to be stoned when Jesus intervened in her behalf no doubt felt a well of gratitude and love spring up in her heart for her Deliverer, who had saved her from her enemies and told her to "go, and sin no more." John 8:11.

And we think of those mothers who brought their little ones to be blessed by Him. How love for Him was awakened as they watched Him take their children in His arms and bless them and speak kindly to them! Never could this scene be obliterated from their memories, or their grateful love grow cold.

On the road to Calvary, when faint and weary trying to carry the heavy cross, many were the women in the company that followed Him weeping tears of sympathy. Christ's attention was attracted when He heard their mournful wailing. Although full of suffering Himself, He was not indifferent to their grief. "He looked upon these women with tender compassion. . . . He did not despise their sympathy, but it awakened in His heart a deeper sympathy for them. 'Daughters of Jerusalem,' He said, 'weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.'" Jesus knew that in the coming destruction of Jerusalem many of these very women would perish with their children.

Women lingered by the tomb long after the others had gone, and they were the first to come with spices to embalm His body early Sunday morning. The news of a risen Saviour was thus given by the angels first to a woman who had preceded the others—the same woman who had been forgiven so much and who loved Him so dearly. She also was the first to see the risen Lord, and, with Joanna and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and other women, told these things to the apostles.

As we contemplate the happenings of those far-off days, and as we look back upon our own lives and realize that some of us also have received special help and healing from the Saviour of the world, let us who are women today learn a lesson from these devoted and noble friends of Jesus. May we also render to Him our hearts' deepest devotion, and ever keep close to Him as did some of these women of long ago. May we also minister to Him of our substance by helping His cause and His representatives in the earth until He comes again to take us to be with Him in His heavenly home.

## NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

IT HAS been our custom for many years to print fifty issues of the *Signs of the Times* annually. This year being a leap year, the number is fifty-one, but there will be no paper next week. The first issue of the new volume will be dated January 7, 1941.

---

---

## FILL IN — MAIL TODAY

Date.....

Circulation Dept., PACIFIC PRESS  
Mountain View, California

PLEASE send the *Signs of the Times* for one year to the following address. I enclose \$1.50 (\$2.00 in Canada and foreign).

Name.....

Address.....

.....  
.....



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

EDITOR . . . ARTHUR S. MAXWELL

RATES in U. S. A.: Single copy, one year . . . \$1.50  
Clubs of five or more to one address, each . . . 1.25  
To Canada and other countries taking extra postage:  
Single copy, one year . . . \$2.00  
Clubs of five or more to one address, each . . . 1.50

Please make all checks and money orders payable to "Signs of the Times," Mountain View, California.  
In requesting change of address, please give both old and new address.

No papers are sent except on paid subscriptions, so persons receiving the "Signs of the Times" without having subscribed may feel perfectly free to accept it.  
J. R. FERREN, Circulation Manager.

## Did God Change?

(Continued from page 7)

That the Methodist Church still believes in the binding claims of this law is evident from the fact that their book of discipline written by their book editor, F. M. Thomas, says, "Those who teach that we need not obey the moral law are not to be heard."

On this subject the great French Reformer, John Calvin, said: "We must not imagine that the coming of Christ has freed us from the authority of the law; for it is the eternal rule of a devout and holy life, and must, therefore, be as unchangeable as the justice of God, which it embraced, is constant and uniform."

That the great Methodist commentator, Dr. Adam Clarke, believed the law of God to be binding on all generations is evident from his comments on Romans 7:13. He wrote: "Thus it appears that man cannot have a true notion of sin but by means of the law of God. . . . And let it be observed, that the law did not answer this end merely among the Jews, in the days of the apostle; it is just as necessary to the Gentiles to the present hour."

The great Presbyterian commentator, Dr. Albert Barnes, commenting on Matthew 5:19 said: "We learn hence: 1. That all the law of God is binding on Christians. Compare James 2:10. 2. That all the commands of God should be preached, in their proper place, by Christian ministers. 3. That they who pretend that there are any laws of God so small that they need not obey them, are unworthy of His kingdom. And 4. That true piety has respect to all the commandments of God."

These great Reformers and commentators are to be commended for their loyalty to the law of God. God's richest blessing will rest upon all who are thus loyal to His government.

God grant that we shall stand by those eternal principles which shall rule the universe throughout all ages.



# A NEW YEAR GIFT



## Health

### AND HAPPINESS of COURSE

INDEED a thousand blessings will accompany this beautiful, helpful, and inspiring gift as it goes to your loved ones and friends throughout 1941. A gift, not of a day, but from New Year's dawn to Old Year's close. Twelve gifts in one for only \$1.50, or to four or more names and addresses for only \$1.25 each. (These prices are in the United States; add 50 cents to each to Canada; \$1.00 to a foreign country.) Health is published monthly. Its information and medical counsel are absolutely reliable. During 1941 vital help will be given on —

- **Prevention of Disease:** Care—by physicians and specialists who tell what to do.
- **Methods of Body Building.**
- **Correct Diets,** tested for balance and nutrition; menus, recipes, suggestions for serving.
- **Home Nursing;** how to proceed at home when loved ones are ill.
- **Hydrotherapy** and other simple natural treatments; hot and cold water, artificial light, treatments that aid in throwing off poisons and in giving tone and vigor.
- **Personal Hygiene** and care to keep well and strong in view of the physical and nervous strain of present-day living.
- **Child Health,** right habits; stories for the children.
- **Co-operation** of the parents at home with the teachers at school in keeping the children healthy and happy.

With the "Questions and Answers Service," the "Health in the Headlines," and other special features, the ministry of Health in the home is well rounded out and made so complete and beneficial that the value of a subscription simply cannot be measured, as compared with other presents. Truly, Health is an ideal gift.

You may have a gift card sent, and it will be signed as from you in just the way you indicate. Remember, four subscriptions go to any addresses in the United States for \$5.00. You may begin with the beautiful January issue, with its four-color holly wreath cover.

### SEND THEM HEALTH

Order now of our nearest agency, or

**HEALTH, Mountain View, California**







# Day-Dawn

D. A. R. AUFRANC

**H**USHED was the night and dark the hearts of men, as long ago the earth in slumber lay; the shepherds and the Wise Men of the East alone looked for the dawning of the day. But on that night there rose from out the east a star whose radiant light and beauty rare shed beams of hope and love on lost mankind, and with hosannas filled the midnight air. ★ The darkest night is not without its star, the hopeless hours are oft before the dawn; the travail and the pangs of life's long years must come before eternal hope is born. Long has man struggled on toward the dawn, and searched with tear-stained eyes for break of day; long has creation travailed, prayed, and yearned for earth's dark night of sin to pass away. ★ But now the sound of battle and of strife will soon from east to west be made to cease, and nations all in silent awe behold the coming of the mighty Prince of Peace. No more the cruel thorns upon His brow, nor drops of blood from dark Gethsemane; no more the cruel cross in anguish borne along the lonely road to Calvary. ★ The night of sorrow now is almost o'er, the weeping and the shadows flee away. Haste on! Haste on! Eternal cloudless morn, and usher in earth's everlasting day.