

Signs of the Times



HAROLD W. LAMBERT

TOWARD DARKNESS OF DAWN (See Pages 2, 3)

Toward DARKNESS OR DAWN

By

Taylor G. Bunch

THIS is the all-important question which we face to-day. Is there light ahead? Are the dark storm clouds on the horizon harbingers of greater darkness, or do they have silver linings that herald a brighter day?

These are not new questions. "The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will inquire, inquire ye: return, come." Isaiah 21:11, 12. Watchmen guarded the ancient walled cities. Standing in the watchtowers, they sounded the trumpet in warning against approaching danger. It was also their duty to tell the time to those who inquired. By studying the stars by night and the position of the sun by day, they knew the time.

In Ezekiel 33:2-7 the Lord likens



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It is with difficulty that the voice of Jesus may be heard above the roar of guns and the explosion of bombs. Nevertheless, He is the Prince of Peace, and were His voice heeded, every conflict would meet its end.

His ministers to watchmen on the walls of Zion whose duty it is to sound the gospel trumpet in warning of dangers from without or from within. If they fail and souls are lost, the Lord declares that He will require their blood at the hands of the watchmen. On the other hand, if the watchmen faithfully give the warning and it is unheeded, they are free of all responsibility for the consequences of the rejection of the message.

It is also the duty of God's watchmen to announce the time of the night of sin to all who seek information, and

to-day multitudes are inquiring as to the meaning of present-day events and conditions, and whether or not there is light ahead. "A voice calls out of Seir to me, 'How far has the night gone, watchman? How far has the night gone, watchman?' The watchman answers, 'Morning comes, morning—and night; would you know more, come back to me again,'" is the James Moffatt's translation. "Morning comes and follows night," is the Fenton rendering.

Dumah means "silence," and is symbolic of the darkness out of which

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come the voices of distressed and perplexed humanity, pathetically appealing for information concerning the time of the night of sin and the prospects of dawn.

We live in the night of sin, which has been long and dark. For millenniums the "prince of darkness" has ruled with despotic control. Since he usurped the dominion and throne of Adam, darkness has covered "the earth, and gross darkness the people." So dense was the moral and spiritual darkness of the Middle Ages that they are known in history as the "Dark Ages" and "the midnight of the world." But this "midnight" is now far in the past. What are the prospects of the break of day?

Another Dark Age

A recent writer said that "the world is bewildered" and "reels and totters in the dark." A British statesman, in an address to the graduating class of an Eastern university, declared that "there is little light ahead except when flash on flash writes a great interrogation on the murky background." A well-known writer said that "a black cloud hangs over" the world and that unless something can be done soon "the Dark Ages will come back to last, no one knows how long."

A noted English church leader said, "In spite of all hopes of progress, are these [present-day conditions] not signs of a return to the Dark Ages?" Another churchman declared that "a lowering of human values and a debasing of moral standards are taking place across the world on a vast scale and with increasing momentum," and "of late the darkness has grown deeper, causing a fear to stalk among men that modern civilization is trembling on the brink of ruin."

When the first world war broke, Sir Edward Grey said, "The lamps are going out all over Europe." These flickering torches of human civilization and progress were only partially relighted when the second world war snuffed them out again, and they have never been rekindled.

The Light of Scripture

But what do the Scriptures say regarding the future? God's prophets never guess. They know and speak with certainty and authority. Just before the dawn of day the darkness seems to grow more intense. That is also true of the night of sin. It comes to an end with a new dark age predictive of eternal day.

Bible prophecy pictures a brief period of intense darkness just before the end of the reign of sin. The prophet Isaiah describes a time when men and women "shall roam through the

land, hard pressed and hungry, hunger driving them to rage, till they curse their King and God; they shall gaze up to heaven, and look round upon earth, only to see distress and darkness, anguish and utter gloom." Isaiah 8:21, 22, Moffatt's translation.

What a graphic picture of present conditions in war-torn Europe and Asia! It is said that Europe alone has 12,000,000 refugees, 10,000,000 of them being in Germany. They have been driven from their homes and are living under conditions that are indescribable. Clothed in rags and facing starvation, these men and women become a prey to communistic propaganda which curses and seeks to destroy all existing forms of government and also curses and blasphemes God and denies the claims of the Christian religion. Communism always leads to atheism in belief and practice.

"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy: for He shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land." Zephaniah 1:14-18.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:1-5. "Grievous times will set in," and "There are hard times coming," are other translations. Who can read this without knowing it is a description of our own time and generation?

But how will this night of sin end? What will end this darkness and usher in the dawn? Will this event be the predicted "end of the world"? What time of the night of sin is it according to the great clock of Bible prophecy? As one of God's watchmen, I can an-

swer with assurance that "the morning cometh, and also the night." A glorious dawn is about to break for the righteous, "the children of light," and an eternal night of darkness and oblivion for the workers of lawlessness and iniquity.

The Prince of Peace is about to come and take upon His shoulders the government of this world, and "of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end." His coming will bring an end to the long, cruel night of sin. It will bring the end of the world, or the ages. When Jesus predicted the utter destruction of Jerusalem and of the temple, the disciples asked Him the question, "Tell us when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" The answer of Jesus is found in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. This is known as Christ's great prophecy.

Jesus predicted wars and rumours of war accompanied by famines, pestilences and earthquakes "in divers places." He foretold the increase of lawlessness, the darkness and persecutions of the Middle Ages, and conditions similar to those which prevailed in the days of Noah. He foretold signs in the sun, moon and stars and on the earth "distress of nations, with perplexity" because of the restless and stormy waves of the sea of humanity. Hearts would fail for fear because of an uncertain future. "Then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (See Luke 21:25-28.) The outlook is very dark, but the uplook is bright.

Jesus also said: "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another. . . . Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:31-34. These are samples of scores of predictions of the end of the world, not by an atomic explosion, but by the return of Christ.

The Hope of All Ages

When Jesus announced to His disciples that He was leaving them and that they could not accompany Him, it almost broke their hearts. Jesus comforted them with the promise that has been precious to His followers in all future ages: "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.

His second advent is just as certain as the first, and all who believe in the first should believe in the second. Just as surely as He came once, He will come again.

When D. L. Moody was asked the secret of his success in untiring efforts to save souls, with tears in his eyes he said, "The secret of my work has been my looking for the coming of Jesus Christ." Dr. R. J. Torrey declared that there had been four epochs in his Christian experience, the fourth being "when I came to see the truth concerning the second coming of Christ. The latter truth transformed my whole life; it broke the power of the world and its ambitions over me, and filled my life with the most radiant optimism even under the most discouraging circumstances."

The recent World Council of Churches meeting in Amsterdam in August, 1948, and composed of delegates from 135 denominations from forty different countries, declared that the church to-day should be "waiting for the consummation when Christ shall come again in the fulness of His glory and power." They also spoke of "the goal for which the churches in all lands must work, to the glory of the one God and Father of all, and looking for the day of God and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

No church leader should therefore apologize for proclaiming the second coming of the Prince of Peace as the only hope for a troubled world. Indeed the time has fully come to re-emphasize this great doctrine which has been so long neglected. The message of the apostle Paul, who was an ardent believer in our Lord's return, in his epistle to the church of Rome makes a statement that is up to date now:

"Live thus, realizing the situation, that it is now high time to rouse yourselves from sleep; for our salvation is now nearer than when we first became believers. The night is far advanced: day is about to dawn. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness, and put on the armour of light." Romans 13:11, 12, Weymouth's translation.

Reader, if you truly love Him with all your heart, mind and soul, you will long for His return. Only those who "look for Him" and "love His appearing" will be ready to meet Him when He comes. To them it is the most glorious event of all the ages.

The MEANING of REPENTANCE

By Dallas Youngs

NOTE TO READER: After you have carefully read and studied Pastor Flynn's Bible lesson, turn to page 18 and see if you can answer the questions of the Bible Quiz. This is your Bible comprehension test.

I AM glad to see all of you again—glad that you can be here to study the important subject of repentance," said Pastor Flynn as he took his accustomed place in the Saunders' living room. The Ryans, Hoovers and Goldsteins were already there, and Pastor Flynn reflected that he appreciated their promptness.

"I took the liberty of inviting a girl from the office to-night," said Mrs. Saunders. "I intended to call you about it, but somehow I forgot. Miss Joyce Clement is red-headed and Catholic. I am sure she will prove an important addition to our group."

"I'm glad I decided to come. I can't hide the fact that I am red-headed, and I hope that I am a good Catholic, but I do want to be open-minded. That is why I made up my mind to attend these meetings," said Miss Clement, smiling a greeting to Pastor Flynn.

"We welcome you, Joyce," said Pastor Flynn heartily.

"We surely do," laughed Mr. Ryan. "That gives the Catholics a majority here."

"Now," said Pastor Flynn, after he had prayed a short prayer, "when we have studied about repentance, if we have time, perhaps we can study a bit about confession and forgiveness."

"I know I'm going to be interested in that," said Mrs. Ryan. "I've been trying for a long time to find something in the Bible about repentance, and I haven't been able to find anything."

"I am going to read a part of one of Jesus' parables, which is found in Matthew 21:28," stated the pastor. "This gives us the true definition of repentance: 'What think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to-day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will

not; but afterward he repented, and went.'

"Repentance, as we see here, may be defined as simply 'changing one's mind.' The son declared that he would not work in the vineyard, but later he repented (changed his mind), and went to work. It is no different with the sinner who has spent his life in the service of Satan. As soon as he sees the folly of his ways, he repents (changes his mind) and goes over to the service of Christ.

"We may say, then, that repentance is simply a change of mind; however, there are two kinds of repentance—the genuine and the false. I might show that by an illustration from Hall-ock: 'A gentleman once asked a Sunday school what was meant by the word "repentance." A little boy raised his hand. "Well, what is it, my lad?" "Being sorry for your sins," was the answer. A little girl on the back seat raised her hand. "Well, my little girl, what do you think?" asked the gentleman. "I think," said the child, "it's being sorry enough to quit.'"

"And the little girl was right. The young man of Jesus' parable demonstrated the quality of his repentance by going to work."

"I don't see how the definition could be made any plainer," said Mrs. Hoover, "but the thing I don't understand is, What do we have to repent of? We haven't promised to work in a vineyard or anywhere."

"I shall answer that with two or three quotations from the Bible," said Pastor Flynn, smiling. "To begin, I am going to read the Bible definition of sin, which is found in 1 John 3:4: 'Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.' Sin, therefore, is the breaking of any one of the ten commandments. That is to say, lying,

stealing, swearing, idolatry and so on are sin. According to Romans 3:23, 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.' Verse 10 says, 'There is none righteous, no, not one.'

"Because of the transgression of our first parents, we are all born in sin. Then, as if that were not bad enough, we all have cultivated sin. One sin leads to another until we are held in abject slavery to the monster. A Mohammedan on a pilgrimage to Mecca loaded himself down with several hundred pounds of iron chains. The reason? Well, during his lifetime he had committed a great many sins—and now he wanted to chain himself so that he could not sin any more. This poor man was suffering under the conviction of sin, but the chains of iron would not keep him from sinning, nor remove a single sin of the past. He must, if he would obtain freedom, repent and obtain forgiveness. Jesus said that He came to call 'sinners to repentance.' Luke 5:32."

"There is no question in my mind about the matter of sin," said Mr. Saunders. "I know everybody has sinned sometime, but the thing that troubles me is this: When a person recognizes the fact that he is a sinner, how is he going to feel sorry enough for his sins to repent of them?"

When the prodigal "came to himself" (changed his mind), and returned home, he received a warm welcome from his father.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO



"That is an excellent question," said Pastor Flynn. "It is certain that the sinner cannot repent at any time that he may choose. The answer to that is found in John 16:8: 'When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.' The Spirit of God comes into the heart quietly and unostentatiously with His 'still small voice,' convinces the sinner of his wrong acts, and leads him to repent."

"When Peter was preaching his great sermon on the day of Pentecost, with the Spirit of God there to convict the people of their sins, he said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' Acts 2:38."

"The repentance of the prodigal son provides an example of godly sorrow. Said the prodigal: 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.' Luke 15:18, 19."

"Judas was a different type. He was sorry for the disastrous results of his sin and went and hanged himself; but the prodigal son saw the enormity of sin in the sight of God. He got a true perspective of himself in his fallen, degraded condition, and realized whence he had fallen. Contrite and humble in heart, he asked not the place of a son, but only the status of a servant."

"Romans 2:4 tells us that the 'goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.'"

"Do you believe in deathbed repentance?" asked Mr. Hoover, thinking this to be a question that would likely embarrass Pastor Flynn.

"I believe in the possibility of it," said the pastor, "but I think it is a very dangerous proposition. I thought that question might be raised, so I brought along a statement on it from A. Maclaren:

"Do not try a deathbed repentance, my brother. I have stood by many a deathbed, and few indeed have there been where I could have believed that the man was in a condition physically (to say nothing of anything else) clearly to see and grasp the message of the gospel. I know that God's mercy is boundless. I know that a man, going—swept down that great Niagara—if, before his little skiff tilts over into the awful rapids, he can make one great bound with all his strength, and reach the solid ground—I know he may be saved. It is an awful risk to run. A moment's miscalculation, and skiff and voyager alike are whelming in the green chaos below, and come up man-

gled into nothing, far away down yonder over the white, turbulent foam. "One was saved upon the cross," as the old divines used to tell us, "that none might despair, and only one, that none might presume."'"

"You have told us about the necessity of repentance," said Mrs. Saunders. "Is confession the next step in Christian experience, or does forgiveness come next?"

"Confession is next," replied Pastor Flynn. "After we are convinced of our sins and become sorry for them we must acknowledge them. 'He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.' Proverbs 28:13. 'And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.' Matthew 6:12."

"Confession of sins is good for the soul. The truth of it is, there is no other way to obtain relief from them. Maltbie Babcock says: 'Unless we realize our sins enough to call them by name, it is hardly worth while to say anything about them at all. When we pray for forgiveness, let us say, "my temper," or "untruthfulness," or "pride," "my selfishness, my cowardice, indolence, jealousy, revenge, impurity." To recognize our sins, we must look them in the face and call them by their right names, however hard. Honesty in confession calls for definiteness in confession.'"

"Is there any direct promise in the Bible that we will be forgiven in case we do confess our sins?" inquired Miss Clement.

"Indeed there is," responded Pastor Flynn. "It is found in 1 John 1:9: 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' This is an absolute promise of forgiveness, from the Lord Himself, based upon the condition of the sinner's confession. But that is not quite enough in all cases. We must do as we are told in Ezekiel 33:15: 'If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.'

"Restitution is the proof of repentance," continued Pastor Flynn. "The story is told of two infidels who lived neighbours to each other. It came to pass that one of them was converted, and afterward he went to his neighbour with the confession that a number of years ago six of this neighbour's sheep had come into his pasture and that he had changed the markings on them and kept them. But now that he was converted he wanted to settle for the sheep, that he might have a clear conscience. The infidel was astonished and told the Christian to keep the sheep and forget it, but the newly converted man would not have

it so. Finally, when the amount was named, the Christian gave him double. The happy ending is that the converted infidel at last had the joy of leading his neighbour to Christ."

"That is very clear to me now," said Miss Clement, speaking again, "and if you won't think I'm asking too many questions I should like to ask another one that has been troubling me for a long time. How can I know that my sins are forgiven? Isn't it true that some people have gone so far into sin that they cannot be forgiven? I know that when I confess to the priest, I don't feel any different. I don't feel that my sins are forgiven."

"It is true that a person may commit the unforgivable sin," said Pastor Flynn. "But if he does he won't have any anxiety about it. Suppose we read and accept by faith some of God's promises of forgiveness."

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

"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.*" Isaiah 1:18.

"I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Isaiah 43: 25.

"Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." Acts 5:31.

"God's promise is that when we confess our sins we will be forgiven, and there are no sins that are so deep-dyed that God cannot forgive them. Even though they are as 'crimson' and 'scarlet' they will be cleansed by the blood of Jesus. It is with us as it was with a certain benevolent doctor's patients. It had been the doctor's custom that when a patient was poor and unable to pay, he would draw a line through the debt and write the word 'Forgiven.' When the doctor died, his wife looked through the books and saw the vast amount that had been forgiven and thought that she would like to have all of that, so she took the doctor's debtors into court.

"The judge asked her how she knew these people owed her money. She replied, 'It is in the doctor's books in his own handwriting.' The judge asked if he might see the book, and when he saw that the doctor had written the magic word 'Forgiven' opposite the

accounts that his widow was trying to collect he threw the case out of court saying, 'This court will never give you a verdict against the people your husband has forgiven.'

"The devil can never obtain a verdict against sinners whom God has forgiven. When we repent of our sins and confess them, God writes the word 'Forgiven' opposite our sin record, and there is no power that can change it.

"I believe that with this thought, if you have no other questions, we shall bring our study to a close, and we shall look forward to seeing all of you again next Wednesday evening," said Pastor Flynn.

"We'll be here all right," said Mrs. Ryan. "Why, I've learned more out of the Bible in these three studies than I learned in all my years of going to church."

"I can say the same thing," chimed in Mrs. Saunders. "It's very kind of you to spend your time with us."

"I am sure we enjoy it as much as you do," said Mrs. Flynn smilingly. "Good night."

Now that you have read and studied the lesson on The Meaning of Repentance, turn to page 18 and fill in the answers to Pastor Flynn's Bible Quiz.

GOD'S WAY

Incomprehensible Goodness and Mercy

AT THE royal marriage of Princess Elizabeth with Lieutenant Mountbatten, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in accordance with the book of Common Prayer, invoked upon the union the blessing of the "God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob." This invocation implied recognition that Jehovah, God of ancient Israel, is also God of the modern Christian church. In short, that the God of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is the one indivisible Lord of heaven and earth, whose character is fully set forth in the Sacred Word.

The Bible record of God's dealings with man from the very beginning, brings out in wonderful and comprehensive relief His infinitely exalted and perfectly blended character of holiness, justice, mercy and love.

His Justice and Mercy

The penalty of death passed upon the parents of our race when they dis-

obeyed their Maker's law, revealed the inflexible justice of His holy character. Yet, as soon as man sinned God's infinite mercy began to operate. Divine justice demanded the immediate execution of the penalty. But divine compassion delayed it that the sinners might be given opportunity to repent and so be reconciled to an offended God. In Adam's case, the period of grace was well nigh a thousand years. (Genesis 5:5.)

Nevertheless, death eventually overtook them both, and has been the common lot of the human family ever since. The seeds of decay, sown through disobedience in Eden, have never been eradicated from Adam's posterity. "Wherefore, as by one man

sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12.

Sin, Suffering and Grace

The death sentence which fell on all men through the sin of Adam and Eve, though in the nature of things inevitable, was not punishment. No one is punished for the sin of another, although he may suffer as a result. Such is the nature of sin. It causes suffering to God and to man, which fact should act as a strong deterrent. But the individual who yields to temptation is alone responsible before God. "The soul that sinneth, it [not another] shall die." Ezekiel 18:20.

Divine forgiveness, however, is always available to the truly repentant. Yet neither the penitent himself, nor those involved in or affected by his sin, escape thereby the suffering which sin always produces.

Of this fact, every penitent sinner in

By

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ancient Israel was vividly reminded, as he brought his living sacrifice to the altar, and slew it by his own hand.

It is the *continuity* of sin that God punishes. No one is bound to follow an evil example. He yields of his own free will, and is therefore solely answerable for his own sin. We can never rightly blame others for the wrong we ourselves do. Nor does God blame the innocent for the evil brought upon them by another's sin. The sins of the fathers are visited upon "the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me," that is, those who persist in a known evil course.

On the other hand, God will show "mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments." Exodus 20:5, 6.

So, at every turn, the manifold mercy of God follows hard upon, and consistently with, His justice. Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound, even to the thousandth generation of those who seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. As the saintly Doctor Watts wrote:

"Here the whole Deity is known,
Nor dares the creature guess
Which of the glories brighter shone,
The justice or the grace."

Divine Mercy in Death

The matchless mercy of God is seen not only in His postponement of the death penalty passed upon our first parents, and in His longsuffering attitude toward the whole sinful race, but also in the very nature of death itself.

Normally, death comes to the human being when he or she becomes old and feeble, when even life itself has become burdensome, so that release is welcomed. Tired and worn out with long years of toil and trouble, the aged and infirm readily "fall asleep."

How merciful, then, is death, both in fact and in the method of approach. Just as a sound and healthy sleeper knows nothing of what is happening around him, so, happily, the dead are undisturbed by the sights and sounds of a tumultuous and swiftly moving world. For them the travail of birth, the cry of the child, the laughter of little ones, seasons of festivity, the tragedy of broken homes and wrecked lives, are all completely blotted out. They are where "the wicked cease from troubling; and . . . the weary be at rest." Job 3:17. For them life has ceased altogether. Their rest is complete, their peace undisturbed. All the powers of body and mind have ceased to function. They are as though they had not been. (Compare Psalm 146:4 with Obadiah 16.)

This is the overwhelming testimony of Scripture. The notion of man's natural or inherent immortality is but a pagan myth, insidiously introduced into the church by the enemy of souls who, in the beginning, denied the reality of the death that God decreed must fall upon the disobedient. "Yea," he sneered, "hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? . . . Ye shall not surely die. . . . Your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:1-5. And ever since that blasphemy was uttered by the evil one, poets and writers of all ages have eulogized the great illusion that death is not what it seems and is, but merely the momentary transition from this life to another and fuller existence. That is the supreme lie of the ages, Satan's studied reflection on the character of God, from which has sprung every kind of falsehood concerning the relations between the dead and the living.

Merciful and Gracious to the End

The rest of the dead, those who have been judged unworthy of eternal life, remain in the grave until a thousand years have passed over a desolated earth. Then they come forth again in

living flesh to receive their just recompense for the deeds done in the body. And whatever be the measure of their punishment, it will end in eternal death for all. (See Revelation 20.)

Here again, even in final judgment, the unutterable mercy of God is shown toward those who have deliberately fought against Him and His Son, Jesus Christ. The life which has been misused is mercifully withdrawn, never again to return. Thus is prevented any further accumulation of the miserable wages of sin, which issue in death.

Happily for the living, divine mercy still pleads. And in view of those awful scenes, which close forever the history of this sin-cursed world, that ancient and pathetically yearning appeal of the everlasting Father of all to a sinful people, echoes down the ages with vastly enlarged meaning and greatly increased emphasis to this latter-day world:

"Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." Ezekiel 18:31, 32.

The Father's great compassion for the human family was expressed in the kindly acts of His Son in healing the sick.





WORLD AS WE SEE IT!

**A Prophetic Interpretation
of Current Events!**

A Law Against War

A NEWSPAPER columnist not long ago wrote that the only way to obtain peace was to make an international law against war. We, together with millions of others, want peace, but that it may be obtained by international law we doubt. If such a law were brought into existence, what assurance does one nation have that other nations will abide by it? What nation of earth's family of nations will be given police powers over the world?

History reveals that the earth has in the past enjoyed intervals of peace. One such period was at the time of the first advent of Christ. Rome had conquered the world and subdued all opposition. However, peace at the price of force has been costly and fleeting. In the case of Rome it was not long after the crucifixion of Christ that the barbarians were attacking from the north.

While we have no confidence that a law can be made

that will outlaw war, still there is a law, a universal law, which if adopted by the nations would certainly accomplish that desired end. We have reference to the law of love. This law as set forth in Romans 13: 9, 10, if put into practice, would scrap battleships, prohibit the manufacture of all kinds of destructive weapons and do away with all phases of armed service.

"For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, *Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*"

It seems unnecessary to point out the fact that when a man loves his neighbour as himself he is at peace with his neighbour. His love for his neighbour will allow him to do his neighbour no injury. Likewise, when this principle becomes operative in the case of nations, one nation will not plot the destruction of another nation.

By this time, no doubt, our readers are saying, "This Utopian condition will never prevail on earth," and with that we concur until the time when Christ establishes His universal kingdom of glory. The law of love will be the basic law of that kingdom, and all who become members of that excellent realm must have some practical experience with that governing principle that begets peace.

England's Most Haunted House

OUR attention was directed to England's Most Haunted House by an article appearing in the December, 1948, issue of the *Coronet*. We believe in "haunted houses," but we don't believe in them in just the same way that most people do. Most people believe that a house is haunted by the returning spirits of those who formerly lived in the place, or by the ghost of someone who was murdered in the house. We are fully prepared to accept the fact that some houses are the scenes of apparitions and psychic demonstrations, but we are not prepared to accept the theory that these demonstrations are caused by the returning spirits of the dead.

According to Mr. Henry Lee, author of the aforementioned article, the haunted Borley Rectory is con-



ceded by investigators to be the real thing. In this case explanations of the demonstrations cannot be found in the wind moving the limb of a tree against the side of the house. One of the many apparitions that haunt Borley Rectory is described by Mr. Lee as follows:

"The lights materialized into an old-fashioned black coach and team, which lumbered rapidly toward him across the road and right into the yard. The apparition was so vivid that Cooper saw the straining horses and two top-hatted coachmen on the box. Moonlight flickered on the harness, and the head lamps gleamed."

This has been going on for seventy-five years. On one occasion a clergyman heard a woman's voice saying, "Don't, Carlos, don't!" Carlos was the nickname of a former resident of the Rectory. But these things constituted but a small part of the demonstrations all of which appeared to be inexplicable. "There were the sounds, too, of church music, footsteps, raps, taps, crashings, bumps, thuds and rustlings galore. Many of these occurred while professional investigators were in the house, with all entrances and windows sealed against trickery.

"At times, Borley was a bedlam of flying pebbles and slates, smashing candlesticks, levitating bars of soap. Mrs. L. A. Foyster, semi-invalid wife of the last rector, was hit on the head by flying metal and thrice thrown from her bed. Her husband was pelted with stones, and a water jug fell on his head as he slept. Curious writings and pencil marks appeared on the walls, right under the noses of investigators. . . .

"Captain Gregson, last tenant of the manse — 'Within a day or two of our taking possession of the Rectory, we lost our dog in a strange way. He was a black cocker, the most sane and shrewd dog possible. I took him out one night to get water from the courtyard pump. I distinctly heard footsteps at the far end of the courtyard, as though something were treading over the wooden trap door leading to the cellars. My dog stopped dead and positively went mad. He shrieked and tore away, still shrieking, and we have not seen or heard of him since. I searched the yard, but no one was there.'

"Shortly afterwards, the Captain purchased another spaniel. In the courtyard, the second dog displayed the same wild alarm and vanished forever."

We are unable to accept the proposition that these psychic demonstrations are due to the returning spirits of the dead because of the fact that the Bible gives us to understand that the dead are incapable of returning in any manner or in any degree to their former habitations. God's Word assures us that the dead know not anything:

"For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun. . . . Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge,



H. A. ROBERTS

nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10.

Since the dead are unconscious, since there is no knowledge or wisdom in the grave, and since their memory is departed, what then is the explanation of the psychic demonstrations? The explanation is this: We have inhabiting the atmosphere of this earth beings that are unseen, unknown and unrecognized by most people. However, the Bible leaves us in no doubt as to the identity of these beings. The following quotations give us an understanding of these supernatural beings of the atmosphere:

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:7-9.

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." 2 Peter 2:4. "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitations, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Jude 6.

Following the war in heaven the Devil and one third of the angels were cast out into this earth where they have been ever since. It was they who led Adam and Eve into disobedience. It is they who incite war and crime. It is they who stir up lust and passion, and it is they who impersonate our dead friends in the spiritualistic seances and who are responsible for the psychic phenomena manifest around such places as England's Most Haunted House.

By

R. E. Finney, Jr.

A LOOK INTO

I HATE to say it, but it seems quite likely to me that Germany will win the war, overrun Europe—and if she does, the American continent also. I hope that I may not live long enough to see my children live under the Nazi regime."

The distinguished features of the white-haired doctor of philosophy were grave as he exchanged with me the morning's news. Probably many of you who are younger cannot remember the real seriousness of the dark days of the war. At the time my mentor was speaking, Germany had already overrun France, and England had trembled on the brink of catastrophe. Now the fury of the Nazi onslaught had been turned upon Russia and seemed to be sweeping everything before it. Truly the outlook seemed dark for the democratic countries of the world.

As the doctor and I concluded our exchange of views on world affairs and turned to the classwork for the day, I thought of an old prophecy of the Bible, written some twenty-five hundred years ago. Strange as it may seem—and there may be many who do not believe me—as I thought of this prophecy I felt assured in my own mind that Germany would not be successful in her attempt to conquer the continent.

In our last study together we were talking about the lawlessness of men and their lawlessness to-day, in particular. The question of the cause of this lawlessness was the closing thought of the study, you may remember. Well, I have not forgotten that, for the prophecy that I have mentioned, which assured me that Europe would not become a one-state continent, also tells us something about the rising tide of lawlessness.

The prophecy I refer to is in the book of Daniel. To understand it properly we shall first need to consider the second chapter of the book and a bit of prophecy contained in it. I like to call this prophecy the A-B-C's of Bible prophecy, because it is easy to understand, and it forms the basis for the understanding of other more involved prophecies.

If you will read the whole chapter you will find that it contains the story of a dream that Nebuchadnezzar, king

of Babylon, had. At the time this occurred the Jews had been conquered by the Babylonians and most of the upper classes had been carried captive to Babylon. Among the captives was a young man by the name of Daniel who had so distinguished himself in certain tests given the captives that he now was one of the court wise men.

Well, when this dream occurred, it impressed the king mightily. What was his annoyance, then, in the morning to find that he had forgotten even what it had been about. Summoning his court wise men, he demanded that they relate the dream to him and tell him what it meant. Now, dream interpreting was a common occupation with some of these worthies who claimed to have communication with the supernatural, but to tell a man *what* he had dreamed was quite another thing. They failed utterly to give the king the information that he wanted, and the result was that—in the peremptory fashion of the times—they were all condemned to death, and that very soon.

It seems that Daniel was not in court when this matter first came up, and his first knowledge of it was his notification of impending execution. When he learned this he immediately asked for time in which to attempt to do something about the situation. In this crisis he did not depend upon his own wisdom; he and his close friends among the Hebrews sought wisdom from God, and because they had been true to Him in the trying position in which they had been placed, God, as always, helped them.

Thus it happens that we next discover Daniel standing before the king, claiming that he can make the dream and the interpretation plain to him. "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay." Daniel 2:31-33.

The king's acceptance of this revelation of his dream was immediate. His recollection became perfectly clear once his mind was called back to the outline of the dream. Now he was



ready to listen to the interpretation.

"This is the dream," said Daniel, "and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath He given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold." Verses 36-38.

This much of the prophecy is certainly plain. The image that Nebuchadnezzar saw was symbolic, and the head of gold symbolized the kingdom of Babylon. Evidently the image had to do with the dominant kingdom of the world, insofar as the head was

THE FUTURE . . .

Prophecy Written for Youth



REVIEW AND HERALD

Daniel, a mere youth of twenty or so, interpreted for king Nebuchadnezzar more than 2500 years of the world's history—a youth-given prophecy that affects youth to-day.

concerned, for at the time of the dream Babylon was truly a world empire whose power and wealth were unchallenged. Excavations by archaeologists make it more and more clear that the level of civilization and wealth in ancient Babylon was fully as high as the Bible record indicates.

But let us listen a bit further as Daniel proceeds with his interpretation. "And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee," we read in verse 39. And since we began the symbolism with a world empire, it is only reasonable to suppose that the interpretation continues thus—in fact we shall find that this is most cer-

tainly demonstrated as we go along.

It needs merely a little knowledge of history to know the rest of the prophecy. As any schoolboy who has taken ancient history knows—Medo-Persia, symbolized by the breast and arms of silver, succeeded Babylon as a world power. Medo-Persia in turn was superseded by Greece, under Alexander the Great, or, "Another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise." Verses 39, 40.

The fourth kingdom was Rome. Rome pushed the world empire she inherited from Greece far beyond the boundaries of any previous kingdom, and Rome endured. Her capital became known as "the Eternal City," so impervious to the inroads of time she seemed to be. But finally, as the prophecy foretold, Rome began to crack, then to crumble, and finally to break up entirely.

"And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." Verses 41-43.

Had the prophet seen the future history of the world he could not have written it more exactly than he did, especially in this closing symbolism and his interpretation of it. Contrary to the history of the nations which had gone before, Rome was not conquered by any one nation. Her downfall came from within more than from without. Idleness and fulness of bread brought decadence to the once strong and aggressive Roman people. As the iron hand of the empire relaxed its grip upon the European satellites who had once been perfectly controlled by the legions of the south, the northern barbarians began to throw off the Roman yoke. More than that, as their insurrection mounted they expanded to the south until their wild hordes were finally hammering at the gates of the Eternal City itself. The gigantic empire creaked, groaned and fell into pieces. Those pieces are symbolized by the feet and toes of the image.

Out of the Roman Empire came the nations of Europe—exactly ten of them. Only a moment's thought will make plain to you that the prophecy of their strength is entirely accurate. "And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken." This has been the history of Europe and still is to-day. And ever since the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, Europe has been a continent of separate nations. And always will be!

This was what I was thinking about as the learned doctor spoke fearfully of the possibility of Hitler's overrunning and subduing all Europe. It simply could not be, I reminded my-

(Please turn to page 17)



EVERY living Christian will be a growing Christian. A Christian character is not perfected in a day. It comes as a result of growth, as the fruit of experience. It is represented by Christ in the expression: "First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." Mark 4:28. It is expressed by the apostle Peter in the following statement: "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18. And again the apostle Peter exhorts the believers to desire the sincere milk of the Word, that they may grow thereby. (1 Peter 2:2.)

How essential is a daily study of the Word of God to this growth in grace. Many fail to grow because they do not partake of the food God supplies. The child grows in strength as he partakes daily of physical nourishment. The disciple grows up to the full stature of the man of God by making the Word of God his meat and drink. And this Christian growth will stabilize the believer. He will not be carried about by every wind of doctrine, but will have an abiding experience in Christ the Lord. Speaking of this, the apostle Paul declares:

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

It is through study of the Word and faith in its promises that we become partakers of the divine nature. "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue; whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:2-4.

Following this admonition the apostle enumerates a ladder of divine qualities which should characterize the growth of the Christian believer. "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten

On the Increase

Diabetes is on the increase in the United States. This was borne out by investigators, using Oxford, Massachusetts, as a test community. Basing estimates on this figure, sufferers from diabetes in the United States now number 2,800,000 instead of 1,500,000 as was previously thought. The most startling result of the test was the finding of one-half of the cases among those who did not suspect that they were sufferers. Most of these unsuspecting victims, it was stated, were in the late stages of the disease.

The Brain

"The Brain" is the nickname given to the electronic device aboard a U.S. Air Force C-54 which recently flew the Atlantic without anyone at the controls. Carrying fourteen persons, the plane took off from Stephenville, Newfoundland, and landed at Brize Norton Aerodrome, near London. Take-off, flight, and landing were all entirely automatic. Speed, altitude, et cetera, were "pre-set" before the beginning of the flight and were accomplished as planned. The crew had little to do on the flight except amuse themselves and sleep. The plane followed a "beam" on its journey and was guided in at the end by a landing beam. Thus one more step is taken toward the push-button war of the future in which there will be no "front-line" because the front-line will be everywhere.

Through the Barrier

The U.S. Army Air Force's announcement that its super-speed rocket ship, the XS-1, has several times broken through the barrier of the speed of sound in test flights, is considered of primary importance in aviation circles. The XS-1 is a small thin-winged ship launched from the belly of a B-29, has a limited flight range, burns out-of-the-ordinary fuel, alcohol, say some reports, and has tremendous speed and climbing ability. To achieve supersonic speed it must have gone more than 760 miles an hour at sea level. It has been revealed that it has achieved altitudes of 70,000 feet, far in excess of the previously existing record. In making its supersonic flights it experienced none of the difficulties anticipated before the tests. Flights took place at Muroc, California, where the Air Force has a closely guarded test base.

Uranium Hunt

Canada has opened the door to uranium prospectors. Since 1943 such activity has been prohibited. A price of \$2.75 a pound for ores with a minimum of 10 per cent uranium oxide has been promised those fortunate enough to find ore. All discoveries must be reported only to the Atomic Energy Control Board for the Mines and Resources Department. Location of claims containing such ores as are covered by this stipulation may not be otherwise disclosed. A stiff penalty for violators has been provided. Uranium is now said to be the world's most coveted mineral.

Spiritual Growth

By F. M. Wilcox

that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Verses 5-11.

In seeking growth and advancement in the Christian life, the believer should be faithful in prayer. Christ teaches: "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Luke 18:1. The apostle Paul instructs the believers to "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17. The Christian cannot be always on his knees in prayer, but he can cherish the spirit of constant intercession. It is fine to have a place of prayer to which he may often resort to hold communion with his Saviour, whose ear is always open to his intercession. Even on the busy street or in the midst of the milling crowd, he may lift his heart to God for wisdom and help.

The Father's Love

"In one of Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman's meetings a man rose to give the following remarkable testimony: 'I got off at the Pennsylvania depot one day as a tramp, and for a year I begged on the streets for a living. One day I touched a man on the shoulder and said, "Mister, please give me a dime." As soon as I saw his face, I recognized my old father. "Father, don't you know me?" I asked. Throwing his arms around me, he cried, "I have found you, I have found you; all I have is yours." Men, think of it, that I, a tramp, stood begging my father for ten cents, when for eighteen years he had been looking for me, to give me all he was worth.'

"Such is the love of the heavenly Father for His sinning children."—*Sunday School Chronicle.*

But woe to the man who continues in sin that grace may abound, who presumes upon God's mercy, who plays with temptation and yields himself, even for a moment, to its flattering, deceiving representations. Rather will the true child of God inquire with the apostle Paul, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" And his answer will be as decided as that given by the apostle: "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Romans 6:1, 2.

Do you inquire, How may I repulse the evil thought? How may I lift up a barrier against the enemy who seeks to come in and take possession of my soul? You cannot do this in your own strength, but you may cry mightily to God for deliverance, and He will heed your cry. The moment the evil suggestion is made, cry out to Heaven for power to resist. You may not have the opportunity of falling on your knees or of going to a quiet place where you can meditate alone, but your heart can utter a prayer that perhaps your lips cannot frame, and God will hear the cry of your heart.

And this is the way to gain the victory over every sin. Our great trouble is that we dally with sin, we play with it, we open to it an avenue of approach to our hearts, we invite the sin to enter, and then after we have yielded to its baneful influence, after we have fallen into the pit, we pray to God for forgiveness. Our salvation, our victory, is in meeting the sin at the point of approach, at the first point of contact, and then and there turning to God with new consecration. Let us say as did Joseph of old, "How . . . can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" and God will help us as He helped Joseph, and He will work for us deliverance from all the power of the enemy.

One of the great tests of our Christianity is the life we live in our homes.

Here, shut within four walls, we act out our own natural selves. I was asked some time ago to arrange for a season of prayer for a Christian woman who was ill. Among those she wished to take part, she included her husband. She said, "I have faith in his Christianity." He lived in the home what he professed. Dear reader, do the members of your family have faith in your Christianity? If they do, you may well praise God for His grace and goodness in enabling you truly to represent Him before them. If they do not have this faith, then it should lead you to serious consideration of your spiritual experience.

Practical Christianity will manifest itself in neighbourly kindness and courtesies, in living before others the Christ-life in order that those who know not the Lord may be won to Him.

And beyond our own neighbourhood and nation, we will feel a burden for those of every race and colour to lead them to a saving knowledge of Christ the Lord.

To His disciples, including us today who read the Divine Record, there is given this high and holy commission: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

As the mind feeds upon the Word of God, particularly in youth, spiritual growth and development are most gratifying.



RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO



BIBLE ANSWERS

by your Bible Answerman

Send your Bible and religious questions to "The Bible Answerman"
Box 398, Oshawa, Ontario

Dear Bible Answerman: How is the conviction of sin produced?

The conviction of sin is produced by the agency of the Holy Spirit. Said Jesus: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove [or, convince, margin] the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:7, 8.

As Jesus spoke these words to His disciples He stood in the shadow of the cross. He knew that soon, too soon for them, He would be taken from them into heaven. He foresaw the great trial to which their faith would be subjected in His crucifixion. He comprehended the task—that of preaching the gospel to all the world—that would be laid upon them, and He understood that they could not in their own strength and power carry out this world-encompassing programme. Therefore, He looked forward to the time when the Holy Spirit would descend as His representative, and would convince the world of sin. By this divinely appointed agency the dormant conscience would be aroused, and the heart would be fortified to resist the assaults of the enemy.

Dear Mr. Answerman: Does Satan have a tail, legs, horns, head and hoofs?

I am very sure that Satan does not have all of these members. No doubt, however, he is well pleased when he sees himself so depicted. If he can get people to believe that he is just a ludicrous idea, then he throws them off their guard, and so much more easily accomplishes their destruction.

The fact is, Satan, whose name formerly was Lucifer, is a highly intelligent being. He is one of the highest, perhaps the highest, in intelligence in all God's extensive creation. Before he sinned he was both beautiful and accomplished. Ezekiel, the twenty-eighth chapter, gives us a description of him:

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy

covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

"Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. . . . Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness." Ezekiel 28:13-15, 17.

Just how great was this angel, Lucifer? He is believed to have stood next to the divine family. At any rate, he aspired to the status of divinity, and challenged the position of God among the angels of heaven. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of

God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High." Isaiah 14:12-14.

It is evident that he had no horns, tail and hoofs at that time. He was wonderful in power and glorious in beauty, and in his rebellion against the government of God he led millions of the angels with him. How did the rebellion climax? As all rebellions do—there was war: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:7-9.

As a result of the war, to what place was he cast? To this earth. When Christ was here did He recognize this fact? Yes, indeed! Christ said to the seventy as they returned from their mission: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Luke 10:18. Well could He say that. This same Jesus, who also is called Michael, is the one who, at the head of the loyal angels, cast the rebels out of the heavenly places.

God was too wise to allow Lucifer to spread his rebellion to all parts of the universe. Therefore, He cast him to this earth and confined him to this planet. It is often asked why it was that God did not destroy Satan at once. Why did He allow him to carry on the reign of sin on this earth, and accomplish six thousand years of woe, misery and death? That, certainly, is a good question.

We may be sure that God permitted Satan to live for the best good of the universe. The angels of heaven and the inhabitants of the other worlds had never before known of this thing called "sin." They had heard Satan's accusations against God and His government, but it was impossible for them to tell whether they were true. God was in the position of a church pastor

Signs of the Times

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The Editor

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

OSHAWA, ONTARIO

who has as a member of his congregation a highly respected and honoured man, yet the pastor knows that this highly respected individual is in actuality a scoundrel, but he cannot prove it. What is to be done? The pastor can do but one thing—the thing which God did. He must allow time to prove the character of this hypocritical member.

God cast Satan to this earth, and has given him six thousand years to demonstrate his true character in the sight of all the inhabitants of the universe. All the universe beheld the love of God manifested in the gift of His Son. They saw the treatment which He received at the hands of Satan. They beheld the slaughter of the innocents, the wilderness temptation, the scoffing, the mocking, the scourging, the crucifixion of the Son of God. They witnessed the degradation of the human race, the crime, war, sickness, disease and death—all resulting from Satan's form of government, for Satan is the god and ruler of this world.

During this long period they have become convinced that God's government of love is good, and that Satan's government of force is evil. All this was necessary in order that sin might be eradicated once and for all from the universe. The promise is that affliction shall not rise up a second time. Soon we shall experience the consummation of the promises of God in the ultimate destruction of Satan and his followers, and in the final deliverance of the saints from this world of sin.

Dear Bible Answerman: Does trouble come from God? Do you believe God ever sends trouble to us purposely, or does it come in the natural order of events?

Generally speaking, all trouble—individual, national or world—is the result of sin, just the same as are sickness and death. It was always far from God's purpose that any of these should afflict His creation. Sickness and death, foremost of man's troubles to-day, were nonexistent until after Adam's fatal transgression. In the Garden of Eden prior to this time the leaves did not fall, insect pests did not destroy the luxuriant fruits, animals possessed kind and affectionate dispositions, while peace, harmony and love were the ruling principles of this earthly paradise.

However, with the coming in of sin this beautiful picture of tranquility changed to one of strife, suspicion, fear and despair. Blight, decay and death became the lot of every living thing. The flowers faded and died, the animals viewed one another and man with fear and hatred, and man, the crowning work of God's creative powers, became censorious, fearful and

ignoble in character. All these things, introduced by Adam's one unfortunate act, add up to the present-day distress of nations and individuals.

Does God ever send trouble to us purposely, or does it come in the natural order of events? It cannot be said that God sends trouble to any man deliberately and purposely. Trouble is the result of sin, and God causes no man to sin. It is true, on the other hand, that God permits trouble to come to both men and nations as a disciplinary agent to bring an awareness of sin and to induce repentance. It is sometimes said that God lays a man on his back to give him time to look up. The thought is that God permits sickness or accident to afflict a man in order to halt him in his headlong course to destruction, in the hope that he will turn from his evil ways and seek life eternal.

Oftentimes God chastens a man with the results of his own folly and sin. And sometimes the innocent suffer because of the sins of others. God cannot be blamed for any man's troubles. Satan and man himself are alone blameworthy. Nevertheless in this sin emergency God overrules for man's best good by bestowing and withdrawing His blessings, by permitting trouble and by saving man out of trouble.

When Israel refused to be submissive and obedient to Him, God chastened them by withdrawing His protection and allowing them to be afflicted by other nations. When they repented of their sins and sought Him in meekness and humility, He delivered them from the oppression of their enemies. In principle He deals in the same way with individuals.

It would be well for us to keep ever in mind that it is God's primary object to save men and women for His kingdom. Recognizing this, and the necessity of a perfected character, we can readily understand the admonition of the writer of Hebrews to us, that we despise not the chastening of the Lord: "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him. For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and

scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." Hebrews 12:5, 6.

Dear Bible Answerman: Will you please explain the last phrase of Colossians 2:16?

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days."

The context of the verse clearly shows that the writer of Colossians is here talking about the ceremonial things of the ceremonial law, which were done away with at the cross. Most people, however, do not recognize the fact that there were ceremonial sabbaths in addition to the regular weekly Sabbaths. There were seven yearly, ceremonial sabbaths in connection with the yearly feasts that the Jews celebrated. These had nothing to do with the weekly Sabbath of creation. Paul is here talking about "meat" and "drink," about "holydays," "new moons" and "sabbath days" (yearly).

Dear Bible Answerman: If God predestinated everyone to be saved, is He not powerful enough to accomplish this? Houston, B. C.

It is quite true that God predestinates all to be saved. It is also true that the vast majority of people will fail of being saved. Notwithstanding God's omnipotence, He is helpless to accomplish the salvation of all, because He cannot use the means necessary to that end. God is a lover of freedom. Freedom of choice is one of the very foundation principles of the divine, universal government. God cannot and will not force the will of any creature. He did not make man an automaton—He made him a creature possessing the power of choice. That is to say, God gives man the right to serve Him or not to serve Him. God cannot force man's will. He cannot compel his service and devotion. That is the reason the all-powerful God is unable to accomplish universal salvation.

In giving consideration to this question, we should not lose sight of the distinction between foreknowledge and foreordination. God has all foreknowledge. He knows who will be saved and who will be lost. He is able to look down the stream of time and foretell every detail of every man's experience before it comes to pass. But while He has that ability—that foreknowledge—we should not by any means entertain the idea that God predestines any man to be lost. Man is lost because he chooses to be—because he chooses to serve Satan—because he will not bring his life into conformity to the requirements of the plan of salvation.





The DOCTOR'S VOICE

Send your health queries to the Doctor's Voice, Box 398, Oshawa, Ont.



High Blood Pressure

Question: Will you please state the symptoms of high blood pressure, the cause and cure if any.

ANSWER: The symptoms of high blood pressure are not clearly defined. Often the patient is quite surprised when he is told of his condition. Heart consciousness and throbbing in the ears are the most common complaints. If there is any sudden variation in pressure, particularly if it is upwards, there may be headache. If hardening of the arteries is present, complications such as impaired vision, renal failure and sometimes strokes may occur. The latter are not necessarily always an accompaniment of high blood pressure.

The cause is not definitely known. Toxemia of pregnancy (related to inadequate protein intake during pregnancy), childhood infections such as scarlet fever, tonsillitis, etc., play a part. Too much protein in the diet, particularly animal protein and other foods high in salt, may be factors, also the complications of modern life.

Treatment is directed mainly at urging adequate rest, and of even greater importance, relaxation. Stimulants of any kind are best avoided. These would include tea, coffee, spices, tobacco, cola drinks, etc. Extra salt is eliminated, and flesh foods restricted. Annual pilgrimages to the "baths" or sanitariums are conducive to rest and relaxation, which are often lacking during the conventional "holiday."

Old Age

Question: Aside from general hygiene and healthful habits of living, is there any treatment for the degenerative changes of old age?

ANSWER: Drs. Kountz and Chieffi of Washington University, St. Louis, are of the opinion that a persistent fall in the metabolic rate may be the first indication of bodily degeneration, often beginning after forty.

Symptoms which they describe are fatigue, nervousness, rapid heart rate, abdominal distention, sluggish mental and physical reactions, and moderate increase in blood pressure. They find the administration of small doses of thyroid extract with organic iodine helpful, along with amino acids, and where indicated even small doses of the sex hormones.

Impetigo

Question: What is the cause of impetigo, and the treatment?

ANSWER: Impetigo may be due to a streptococcus infection in which cases the lesions form small ulcers; it may be due to staphylococcal infection in which the lesions form small blisters at first, or as is usually the case there is a mixed infection. The condition may originate with a running nose following a severe cold, a running ear after an ear infection, or may seem spontaneously to develop. Scabs should be removed with peroxide and an antiseptic ointment applied. Ammoniated mercury is an old stand-by. Sulfa ointments or ointments containing tyrothricin are very effective but should be prescribed by a physician. Exposures to ultraviolet light are very effective. In severe cases penicillin is sometimes administered by injection.

Sour Milk, Saurkraut, Dill Pickles

Question: Is sour milk healthful to drink? Is saurkraut healthful, and dilled cucumbers?

ANSWER: Yoghurt or acidophilus cultured milk is healthful, as proved by the Bulgarians. The bacilli alter the intestinal flora, decreasing putrefaction in some cases. They also manufacture more than their own requirement of vitamin B, to the advantage of their host. Saurkraut and dilled cucumbers have lost any vitamin C that they ever might have contained and are high in salt, so have no particular food value. They are contraindicated in heart and kidney disease.

BOYS thoughtlessly smoke cigarettes because their associates are smoking them and because they regard smoking a manly act. If they knew the truth about the cigarette, few could be induced to take the first smoke. They ought to know.

Roger Babson, the famous statistician, said: "When America's keenest minds are using the newspapers, magazines, movies, and radios to entice youth to drink whiskey, smoke more cigarettes, and make heroes of criminals, those youths should have the other side of the argument from someone." They ought to be told, and no one is better able to do this, aside from parents and teachers, than the physician who is appealed to by parents, and by the finished product of cigarette addiction.

The question as to what extent boys are injured by the use of cigarettes is certain to come into greater prominence now that the habit has become so general. It has long been recognized that the cigarette exerts a mysterious demoralizing influence over the boy user. Parents are fully aware of this.

A mother in writing made the appeal: "My boy was as fine and bright a boy as one would meet anywhere until he commenced this habit. It seems to have changed his entire disposition. He cannot study and has given up his music, in which he was previously much interested. He has had to give up school. He will go without clothes to buy cigarettes. He is my only boy and I had hoped much for him. I felt that I could not give him up; this and this only is my excuse for troubling you with my affairs. I have been on the lookout for something or someone to help me. My prayers though constant, seem to do no good, and in the meantime the years go by and he is wrecking his young life as well as mine."

Teachers in public schools recognize the effects of this habit. This led the National Educational Association to put on record this statement: "The rapid increase of cigarette smoking among people of all ages and both sexes, and especially among growing boys, is not only a cause of alarm; it is a call to arms."

Here we have the late Henry Ford's observation: "The youth who gets to the front in any line must be wide awake, alert, with a mind that is clear and capable of tackling the problems that come up. The boy or young man whose brain is fogged by the use of cigarettes finds himself hopelessly handicapped. His services are accepted only as a last resort; and if there is anyone else available, he is not entrusted with important matters, or considered for future possibilities."

At a clinic, one of the boys who was brought for treatment had the appear-

FACTS for BOYS

By D. H. Kress, M.D.

ance of a boy about nine years of age. The nurse who assisted me said to him, "How old are you?" He replied, "Fourteen." She next asked, "How long have you smoked?" "Since I was two years old," he said. "Who taught you to smoke?" she then inquired. "My brother," the boy replied. With considerable emphasis she added, "Your brother? Your brother ought to be in jail." The boy innocently replied, "He is."

Henry Ford was not extreme in saying:

"If you will study the history of almost any criminal you will find that he is an inveterate cigarette smoker. Boys, through cigarettes, train with bad company. They go with other smokers to pool rooms and saloons. The cigarette drags them down. Hence if we can educate them to the dangers of smoking we will perform a service."

Judge de Lacey of the Washington, D. C., juvenile court, says: "There is something about this cigarette habit that weakens and unnerves the boy. It destroys his memory, impairs his reasoning faculties, robs him of his power, and deprives him of his initiative. Often this habit has so fastened itself upon impressionable boy nature that it cannot be shaken off."

Judge Crane, of New York City, said: "Cigarettes are ruining our children, endangering their lives, dwarfing their intellects, and making them criminals fast. The boys who use them seem to lose sense of right, decency, and righteousness."

Jess Willard, former world champion heavyweight pugilist, attributed his victories to the fact that he had kept away from the cigarette and other health-destroying narcotics. He says: "The boy who wants to win gives the cigarette the go-by."

Gene Tunney, former heavyweight boxing champion of the world, says:

"I've always opposed the pernicious advertising that extols the 'benefits' of tobacco using.

"Such misleading advertising I cannot rap too hard. It is dangerous, par-

ticularly to our 35,000,000 young people. To contract the tobacco habit when the growth factors of the body are exerting themselves to their maximum is to handicap oneself physically and mentally for life.

"To me the ugliest of advertising is that which features soldiers and sailors smoking cigarettes. As director of the Navy's physical-fitness programme, I can bluntly say that few could be worse for physical fitness than promoting the cigarette habit."

In a challenge to Joe Louis, present-day champion, he said:

"It's over thirteen years since I retired from the heavyweight championship. But here's a challenge: If Joe Louis will start smoking, and promise to inhale a couple of packages of cigarettes every day for six months, I'll engage to lick him in fifteen rounds!

"Of course, Joe wouldn't be foolish enough to meet my terms. No boxer, no athlete in training, smokes. He knows that whenever nerves, muscles, heart, and brain are called upon for a supreme effort, the tobacco user is the first to fold."

We see from this, that in the smoking of cigarettes by boys we are sanctioning an evil which is a maker of defectives and criminals. In the interest of the nation's future, therefore, we should put a stop to the use of cigarettes or tobacco in any form, by our youths under twenty-one years of age.

Boys who smoke deserve pity rather than censure. As parents, as teachers, as medical men, we have failed in our duty to instruct them by precept and example. They have innocently followed the example of their associates and of men whom they have respected and admired, who should have placed before them a more worthy example. For every stripe given to them in punishment, if deemed necessary, we who know better, deserve ten.

Ex-President Hoover a few years ago, while occupying the position of Secretary of Commerce, in a letter to Calvin Coolidge said:

"We in America are far behind

what a national conscience should demand for the public protection of our children. There is no agency in the world that is so seriously affecting the health, efficiency, education, and character of boys and girls as the cigarette habit, yet very little attention is being paid to it. Nearly every delinquent boy is a cigarette smoker, which certainly has much to do with his delinquency. Cigarettes are a source of crime. To neglect crime at its source is a short-sighted policy, unworthy of a nation of our intelligence."

A farmer, being asked how he succeeded in having such a fine flock of sheep, replied, "I take care of my lambs."

To build men and make our nation secure for the future, we must give attention to our youth. There is no other way by which this can be done.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

(Continued from page 11)

self, for it was contrary to prophecy. "And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."

Everyone knows that time and time again other powers have tried to do what Germany was doing at the time the above conversation took place. Charlemagne, Charles the Fifth, Napoleon and others had the same hopeless dream—hopeless because it was contrary to the great blueprint drawn by the Master Architect. Incredible as it may seem—and I know there will be those who will doubt—there have always been those who have believed that the uniting of Europe into one great empire will never be.

But there is one more part of this prophecy that I must call to your attention. "In the days of these kings [the kingdoms of divided Europe] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Verse 44.

When the great judgment day is over, God is going to gather up the reins of government, and you and I may have the privilege of becoming citizens of the "nation of the world" that will be under the rulership of God, governed by the laws of God.

And what about this prophecy of lawlessness that we started to find out about? We have just been laying the foundation for finding out all about that. Let us consider it further in our next talk together.

The Meaning of Repentance

(This is Pastor Flynn's Bible Quiz. After you have studied the lesson, see if you can answer the questions.)

1. How may repentance be simply defined?
2. What did the son do who said he would not work in the vineyard?
3. Tell in what way the little girl's idea of repentance differed from the little boy's.
.....
4. Draw a line through the false statements:
 - a. When a person truly repents he keeps on sinning.
 - b. Jesus came to call the "righteous to repentance."
 - c. There is only one kind of repentance.
 - d. "Sin is the transgression of the law."
 - e. The breaking of any one of the ten commandments is sin.
 - f. There are many who have not sinned.
 - g. When a person lies, steals or swears he transgresses the law of God.
5. By what agency is the sinner led to repentance?
6. Give the four key words in Acts 2:38.
7. How did the prodigal son feel in his heart?
8. What did he ask?
9. Complete the following sentences:
 - a. "The goodness of God leadeth thee to" "
 - b. "He will reprove the world of" "
 - c. "Repent and be" "
 - d. Do not try a deathbed
10. After repentance, what is the next step in Christian experience?
11. What of the man who covers his sins?
12. What of the man who confesses his sins?
13. Write out a direct promise from God of forgiveness.
.....
14. Write false or true after the following:
 - a. Confession is necessary to forgiveness.
 - b. Restitution is proof of repentance.
 - c. There are some sins that even the blood of Jesus cannot cleanse.
 - d. God is reluctant to forgive the sinner.
 - e. Satan can still get a verdict against forgiven sinners.
 - f. When the sinner repents, God writes "Forgiven" across his sin record.

What Has Gone Before

Peter Lawson was ashamed of his weakness for drink, and sought to hide it from Annie, his young wife. But when Peter was brought home in a drunken stupor Annie was terrified for fear little Jimmie would follow his father's example. In the years that passed Annie was drawn close to God. Jimmie grew to manhood torn between the influence of his father and of his mother. At length he is converted and devotes himself to God in serving the cause of temperance.

Following his father's death, Jimmie and his mother moved to town where the young man received serious injuries in rescuing a child from a burning building. While convalescing he met Mr. Wood, who observed the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath. This circumstance changed the entire course of Jimmie's life.

BACK home Mrs. Lawson looked questioningly at the clock. It was now after six. Surely Jimmie had not forgotten that Mr. P had been invited to dine with them that evening. Mr. P was one of the ministers with whom Jimmie had often discussed religious topics. About fifteen minutes later Jimmie came in, greeted his guest and explained the cause of his delay. "I have been visiting Mr. Wood, who has bought one of the building lots along the road. He keeps Saturday instead of Sunday. He says that God blessed and sanctified the seventh-day Sabbath at creation and that the blessing has never been removed."

Mrs. Lawson's attention was immediately arrested. Could it be that she had been missing God's special Sabbath blessing all along? Then voicing her thoughts she said, "I think he may be right in what he says."

"Well," put in Mr. P, "Sunday is good enough for me."

At this Mrs. Lawson, with a little more than usual firmness in her voice, retorted, "If it isn't the day that God has blessed and sanctified, it isn't good enough for me."

She would have liked to hear more about Jimmie's visit, but when she noticed Mr. P's evident lack of interest she immediately changed the topic of conversation. But after their guest had gone Mrs. Lawson began to ask her son more about it. Jimmie reiterated as best he could recall some of the texts that Mr. Wood had quoted from the Bible, and his statement that the apostate church away back in the early centuries had tried to change the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first, but that God had never sanctioned it.

"Jimmie, I believe he is right. I would like to keep the Sabbath that God blessed and sanctified at the beginning."

"Well, Mother, you'll have to convince me. I don't care what anyone says, I still believe that Sunday is the Sabbath," said Jimmie emphatically.

Mrs. Lawson did not make further

Annie Lawson's Prayers

By Mary C. Murdoch

comments. She determined to study the Bible for herself to see if "these things were so." During the rest of the week she continued to study the subject with much prayer for guidance. The more she studied the more she became convinced that the one and only true Sabbath is indeed the seventh day. With new understanding she read again the fourth commandment.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11.

Yes, this commandment was part of that divine law of which Jesus had said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:17, 18.

"Jimmie, I cannot understand why I have been blind so long. It's all so plain. The Bible has now become a new book to me." Yes, even the psalms that she had known from memory for so long seemed to have new meaning in them.

On Friday Jimmie observed that his mother was planning to carry out her convictions. That day she was particularly busy preparing the food for the morrow and doing all the extra work that she used to do on Saturday. She worked rather late that night, for she wanted to be sure that everything was in order. The following day seemed like Sunday. Mrs. Lawson had always been a strict Sundaykeeper, but now she seemed even more zealous as she observed the Sabbath.

That night Mr. Wood's boy called and delivered a suit which Jimmie had left earlier in the week to be pressed. Mother Lawson, with a look of dismay, turned questioningly to Jimmie for an explanation. "I thought Mr. Wood told you he closed his business on Sabbath."

"O, yes, Mother, he does. There's something I forgot to tell you about.

He told me it was 'from even unto even' that God had commanded the Sabbath to be kept, and that it says somewhere in the Bible that 'even' is the time when the sun sets. It's after sunset now; so probably he has gone back to work again."

"Now I can understand what was wrong last night. Do you know, I was troubled about something. Now I know what it was. I was working after the sun had set, after the Sabbath had begun." With this Mother Lawson went to her room. Closing the door, she knelt before God and pleaded forgiveness for desecrating the opening hours of the first Sabbath she had tried to keep holy. Then with the assurance of forgiveness and with "a conscience void of offence" she promised, with divine help, to guard carefully the sacred Sabbath in the future. As time continued Mother Lawson rested each Sabbath day "according to the commandment." Luke 23:56. But Jimmie still hesitated. He thought there must be a good reason for such a widespread observance of Sunday.

Some with whom Jimmie discussed the question maintained that the Sabbath had been changed at Christ's resurrection. But try as he would he could find no record of such a change in the Bible. On the contrary, however, there was a record to prove that Jesus had admonished His disciples to keep the Sabbath after His resurrection. In warning them of the destruction of Jerusalem Jesus had said, "Pray ye that your flight be not . . . on the Sabbath day." Matthew 24:20. This destruction, Jesus knew, would not take place until many years after His resurrection.

Others argued that the Sabbath was Jewish, but Jimmie knew enough of his Bible to know that the Sabbath had been given at creation, before there was ever a Jew in existence. Still others held the view that the ten commandments had been abolished at the cross. This theory seemed very confusing. The Bible taught that the ceremonial law had been abolished at the cross, when type met antitype, but nowhere did it teach that the law of God—the law of the ten commandments—was ever to be abolished. God had plainly said, "All His commandments are sure. They stand fast forever." Psalm 3:7, 8. And Jesus had said, "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I

have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." John 15:10.

It was true that the Lawsons had received many blessings while worshipping on Sunday, but now more light had come. "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Proverbs 4:18. Mrs. Lawson feared that if Jimmie should deliberately turn away from this light, then the light that was in him would become darkness. And "how great" would be "that darkness." Matthew 6:23. The Sabbath that had been given at creation (Genesis 2:2, 3), called to remembrance amid thunder and lightnings on Sinai, and observed by Jesus our greatest example (Luke 4:16), was surely of most solemn import.

"O Jimmie, I wonder why you cannot see it. It's so plain all through the Bible."

"Mother, I do see it. I mean I can see it from the Bible, but I am beginning to doubt the Bible. I'm beginning to wonder if the Bible is inspired after all."

Mother Lawson was stunned. For the moment she could not believe that she had heard aright. Could this be her son who was beginning to doubt the Bible, beginning to question the holy Word of God?

Another Friday evening's sun was setting, and Jimmie was still undecided. Despite the "abundance of the revelations" that had been given him in the past, he was now assailed by doubts and beset by unbelief. In his confusion he turned toward heaven and yielded his wavering will to God.

The next morning Jimmie awoke with a song of praise in his heart. Never before had he felt the divine Presence so near, as on that ever-to-be-remembered Sabbath morning when he had definitely decided to keep the day that the Lord had blessed. As his thoughts went out to the Maker of heaven and earth he felt his whole soul in tune with the harmony of heaven, and he rejoiced and made melody in his heart before the Lord.

Years before when Jimmie had first surrendered his heart to God he had consecrated his life to mission work. So with the acceptance of this new light he now reconsecrated himself to the service of God. But how different are his circumstances now.

(To be continued)

BROTHER ROB

By M. E. Warner

ALTHOUGH the little house at the end of the road was bathed in sunshine, and the inside of the house was cheery and bright, the man lying on his bed was apparently unconscious of it, for the light in the "valley of the shadow" was dim, and soon, too soon, it would be dark. And the man knew it, for when he had asked the doctor for the truth he was told the truth—life for him would be only a matter of days.

The children came home, and everything was done to assure him of the love of his dear ones; but even so, he appeared restless, as if listening for a footstep, then he would shut his eyes, and once, just once, his wife saw a tear roll down his face. But when she asked what it was he wanted, there was no reply.

The next day he went into a coma, from which the doctor said he never would recover. Yet along towards night he opened his eyes, and whispered to his wife, "Mary, tell Rob I am dying and want to see him."

Now Rob was the man's brother to whom he had not spoken for many years; and all because of a bitter quarrel over a horse trade which ended in an oath never to speak to each other again. The oath had never been broken.

Immediately one of the sons went to his uncle's house, which was just over the hill from them. He delivered the message and begged his uncle to go back with him, but the only reply was, "Your father called me a thief. Tell him I may be a thief but I'm not a liar. Go on home and don't bother me again." So the son went back to his father.

The man lived through the night; but in the morning just as the sun was rising in all its glory the

man's breathing stopped, for the angel of death had spread its wings over the little house at the end of the road.

Brother Rob, in the house just over the hill, sat white and stricken. "Oh," he cried, "If I had known for *sure* that he could not live I would have visited him. But I was afraid he would get well, and then crow over me for the rest of my life for being the first to speak."

Oh, how big a word that little word is, if, if, *if*. And how many heartaches have arisen because of it. Arisen in my heart, arisen in your heart, because we were proud, too proud to say to a dear one, I'm sorry, forgive me. But Jesus forgave, even while He was suffering untold agony as He hung on the cross. "Father," He said, "forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Oh, how glorious is the grace of forgiveness. As Christ forgave, so must we forgive. Then, and then only, can we sing from the heart, the words of W. J. R. Taylor:

"Ring, snow-white bells, your purest praise
To glorify this Easter day,
And let our risen Saviour's joy
Fill every valley with perfume
And lighten death's appalling gloom,
Teach ye our troubled hearts the way
To trust our Saviour every day."

