

# Signs of the Times



WAGLE & LAYTON

**WE DON'T PAY THE PREACHER** (See pages 10 and 11)





REVIEW AND HERALD

*In symbolic prophecy a beast symbolizes an earthly government. As we read the Bible we see the rise and fall of one great prophetic beast after another as it marches across the centuries of time.*

# The BEASTS of DISOBEDIENCE

ONLY when kings obey the law and are answerable to it is there freedom and democracy. English history tells us of a time when the lowest classes of the country were bound down by laws imposed upon them by their superiors. The owner of land, and above him the peerage in its various categories, were free from almost all obligation to obey any law. As time went on, however, this situation changed. Through pressure from the throne and the higher levels, and from beneath, as the voice of the people began to be heard, those previously exempt classes were made subject to the law of the land.

This trend finally reached the top levels of the nobility. Even the holder of great estates, who stood in the very shadow of the throne, was forced to come under the obligations of the law

of the land. However, the king was still exempt. The king could do no wrong. But this condition did not continue to exist, for in 1215 the English barons and the clergy forced King John to sign the Magna Charta—the “Great Charter” which curbed his power and granted liberties to the people. It was then, and only then, that Englishmen could claim to be free men. It is only when law prevails and is universal in its application, in any country, that its citizens can claim freedom. Too often we forget this vital truth—that laws are not made to curb our liberties, but to guarantee them.

This is doubly true of the law of God, which was given for the purpose of making man happy in a peaceful and safe world. If there were no other proof of the existence of the devil than that from the very beginning of the

world's history there has always been present a continuous spirit of antagonism against the law of God in the earth, that should be sufficient evidence. When one considers that any reasonable man will immediately agree that the law of God is perfect and that obedience to it would vastly improve the world and the happiness of its inhabitants, the fact of this ever-present opposition becomes convincing evidence of the evil character of the opposing force.

This struggle between good and evil which you often find entering your life is, in a sense, the theme of the whole Bible. As earth's history nears its close, prophecy states that the struggle will be continually more fierce until it is finally resolved forever.

It is with the story of this aalong struggle and its future aspects that the

Vol. XXIX

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MAY, 1949

No. 5

● Published monthly, by the Signs of the Times Publishing Association (Seventh-day Adventist), Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office, Oshawa, Ontario, January, 1921. Subscription Rate: Single yearly subscription, \$2.00 within the British Empire (to U.S.A. and foreign countries add 15 cents extra for postage); single copy, 20 cents. ● Change of Address: Please give both old and new addresses. Expiration: Unless renewed in advance, the magazine stops at the expiration date given on the wrapper. No magazines are sent except on paid subscriptions, so persons receiving the SIGNS OF THE TIMES without having subscribed may feel perfectly free to accept it.



prophecies of the book of Daniel have to do.

The second chapter of Daniel, containing the story of the great metal image with its feet of clay, told us of the four world kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome, to be succeeded by the breakup of Rome into the kingdoms of modern Europe. These kingdoms were to be ever dis-united, the prophecy stated, until the coming of the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

The second chapter of Daniel is the setting—the great backdrop and background—for the still more magnificent prophecy which reveals the human agency which will carry to a climax the struggle between law and lawlessness in the last days.

As Daniel recorded the vision, he said, "Four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl: the beast had also four heads: and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns." Daniel 7:3-7.

I suppose that this is one of the chapters of the Bible which cause some people to feel that prophecy is hard to understand. It is certain, of course, that merely reading such a chapter as this will not give us very much of its meaning. Upon a first reading we are very likely to retain only a rather confused impression of Oriental imagery resulting from a dream. However, a little thoughtful analysis will begin to bring meaning from what we have read.

It will be well, first of all, to remember that the *second* chapter of Daniel, which is the immediately preceding prophetic chapter in the book, gives us the history of the world which was still in the future in Daniel's time. In this chapter, *four* world kingdoms were prophesied, and these were to be followed by the dissolution of the fourth into ten succeeding kingdoms.

The prophecy we are considering just now deals with beasts. Counting

them, we discover that there are four, the first and fourth dominant in their different and peculiar ways. This corresponds with the second chapter's delineation, the head of gold and the legs of iron being dominant parts of the image. As we read on, the record makes it clear to us that our use of analogy here is justified. "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth." Daniel 7:17. This brief bit of information is a great help, for it tells us two very important things. The first is that these beasts do represent kingdoms, just as did the parts of the metal image. The second is that they are in the future—"which *shall* arise out of the earth." (Italics mine.)

This makes it certain that these four kingdoms are the same as the ones prophesied in the second chapter. Since these kingdoms are already existent or in the future, they can be none other than the kingdoms of the second chapter, for the second chapter made it plain that there were to be *four, and only four*, dominating world kingdoms in *all future history*; therefore, these beasts cannot represent kingdoms coming after the fourth predicted in Daniel two, for that would be in contradiction of the prophecy contained in that chapter. And prophecy never contradicts itself.

I have just been reading over the ancient history of these world empires: Babylon—the lion; Medo-Persia—the bear; Greece—the leopard; and Rome—the great nondescript beast. There in history is the corroboration of the accuracy of this remarkable prophecy. There is the story of Nebuchadnezzar, of Darius and Cyrus, of Alexander the Great, and of the Caesars. Libraries have been written about these kingdoms, their leaders and their conquests, the civilizations that they built. But when God came to write their history He neatly characterized each by the symbol of a beast and wrapped up the whole characterization in one brief chapter.

Babylon, the prophecy related, was in its beginnings like a winged lion, swift and powerful; later it would weaken—be made to "stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it." Medo-Persia would be dual in character—"it raised up one dominion," margin. Greece would be doubly swift in its conquests and in its later days would be divided among four leaders—"the beast had also

four heads." Finally Rome would be "strong exceedingly." This was God's view of these kingdoms as He revealed it to His chosen servant. If we wonder why it does not correspond with that of the second chapter, we should remember that that vision was given to a heathen king and was so given as to appeal to him and to correspond with his ideas.

But this vision was not given merely to give us the understanding that God views kingdoms in a different light from the light in which men view them. It goes beyond the previous vision in its revelation of the future and it is in this revelation that we are particularly interested.

You will remember that the part of the vision that we read ended with the words, "and it had ten horns." We are not at a loss to know the meaning of the horns, and if there is any doubt in our minds we can read the Bible explanation—"And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise." Verse 24. In other words, these horns correspond to the ten toes of the great metal image—they symbolize the kingdoms into which the world empire of Rome broke. With this in mind let us continue:

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." Verse 8.

We are indeed fortunate that Daniel was as much interested in the character of this "horn" as we are, for we find him asking the revealing angel its meaning. "Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, . . . and of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell. . . . I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them." Verses 19-21. His questions were not in vain, for the angel answered, "The ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Verses 24, 25.

This explanation makes clear several things. As the ten horns denote ten kingdoms, or powers, so this horn that comes up at a later time denotes some kind of kingdom, or power—in this case a different kind of power, "diverse" from the others. We are given hints as to what sort of power it

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By

R. E. Finney, Jr.

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is by what it is said to seek to do when it comes into its own. Note the three actions which it will take: It will "speak great words against the Most High," it will "wear out the saints of the Most High," and it will "think to change times and laws." (Italics mine.)

It is plain, then, that this power is anti-God and antilaw in its nature. It speaks against God, the Most High, and wars against His people, the saints of the Most High. Most significant of all just now, it seeks to tamper with the law—and there is no doubt that this refers to the law of God.

As Rome, the fourth great world empire, declines in power, so this great antireligious power comes to the front, denying the power of God's law, seeking to destroy its power and influence in any way possible. It is no wonder that to-day we are living in a lawless generation, for this power is to endure to the end, we are told in the same chapter. "I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom." Verses 21, 22.

A brief examination of church history will show that almost from the beginning of the Christian church the influence of this antichristian power began to work. Although he uses different human tools to accomplish his work, Satan is the one who is back of all the efforts that have been made to corrupt the truth and overthrow the law.

This is the reason why it is so important that we continually check our personal religion and behaviour with the Word of God. It is well to heed religious instruction, but we can be safe in so doing only if we remember that the pure well from which the water of life comes is the Word of God, and refuse to drink from any other source.

It is time in the world's history for a return to the pure religion that was delivered to the infant Christian church. Moses threw down the tables of stone which contained the law of God, and they were broken, but not done away with, for God rewrote them. In these latter days we may think we have overthrown the law of God, but it is still immutable. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

When the King of kings shall arrive in triumph and glory, He will greet the faithful with these words: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12. (Italics mine.)

# The Necessity of Conversion

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** GUESS we shall have a new member in our class to-night," remarked Pastor Flynn to his wife as they started for their weekly appointment. "Mr. Saunders called this morning about bringing a young man by the name of Harry Pierson. It seems that Harry works with Mr. Saunders, and they began talking about the Bible studies. Harry manifested so much interest that Mr. Saunders phoned to see if it would be all right to invite him. I told him to do so by all means."

"The class certainly is growing," responded Mrs. Flynn. "Last week it was Miss Clement, and this week Mr. Pierson."

"Good evening, Pastor and Mrs. Flynn," said Mr. Saunders, shaking hands with the Bible instructor and his wife. "We are all here, and I would like you to meet Harry Pierson, the young man about whom I phoned."

"Welcome to our Bible class, Harry," greeted Pastor Flynn cordially.

"We are going to study about conversion to-night, and the absolute necessity of that experience to our personal salvation," said Pastor Flynn after he had opened the meeting with prayer. "God cannot and will not receive into the eternal realm untransformed sinners. When God frees the universe of sin, it will not come in again to disturb the peace. The earth will be purged and re-created in its original purity. Sin will be a thing of the past. Therefore, if sinners would have a part in the sinless future, they must be freed of sin. The sinner must be changed, transformed, born again, or converted."

"Does the Bible say we have to be converted in order to be saved?" asked Mr. Hoover.

"Yes, Jesus said so most emphatically," replied Pastor Flynn. "From Matthew 18:3 I read this: 'Verily I say unto you, *Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall*

*not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*'"

"These are most positive words, and they are from the greatest authority of all, Jesus Himself. Here is something further from the same source: 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.* . . . Verily, verily, I say unto thee, *Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, He cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*' John 3: 3, 5.

"You notice here that Jesus uses the most explicit terms. 'He cannot enter,' 'he cannot see,' 'ye shall not enter,' show the absolute necessity of conversion. The parable of the king's marriage feast shows how a man, a sinner, came into the feast without a wedding garment. The king came in and saw his improper attire (his filthy rags) amidst all the purity of the occasion, and ordered him bound and cast into outer darkness. Then, said Jesus, 'There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' Matthew 22:13."

"By what means is this absolutely necessary change that you call 'conversion' going to be effected?" asked Mr. Hoover, speaking again.

"That is a natural question," responded the instructor. "In reply I want first to read a verse from the Bible: 'The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.' John 3:8.

"Now I want to add to the words of Jesus the comments of a modern writer: 'The wind is heard among the branches of the trees, rustling the leaves and flowers; yet it is invisible, and no man knows whence it comes, or whither it goes. So with the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. It can no more be explained than can the movements of the wind. A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or to trace all the circumstances



in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. By an agency as unseen as the wind, Christ is constantly working upon the heart. Little by little, perhaps unconsciously to the receiver, impressions are made that tend to draw the soul to Christ. These may be received, through meditating upon Him, through reading the Scriptures, or through hearing the Word from the living preacher. Suddenly, as the Spirit comes with more direct appeal, the soul gladly surrenders itself to Jesus. By many this is called sudden conversion; but it is the result of long wooing by the Spirit of God,—a patient, protracted process.

"While the wind is itself invisible, it produces effects that are seen and felt. So the work of the Spirit upon the soul will reveal itself in every act of him who has felt its saving power. When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven. No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see, creates a new being in the image of God.—*The Desire of Ages*, Mrs. E. G. White, pp. 172, 173."

"I understand all right that it is the Holy Spirit that does the converting," observed Mrs. Hoover, who had been listening attentively. "But the thing I do not understand is this: How can a person know when he has been converted?"

"I believe that question is best answered by these verses: 'We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.' 1 John 3:14.

"Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.' 1 John 4:13-15.

"When a person has been converted," continued Pastor Flynn, "he will not practise in his life the things that he did prior to that time. He will bring his life into conformity to the law of God, and will be obedient. An old illustration that I once read in the *Expositor* makes that plain: 'Uncle Mose,' said a drummer, addressing an old coloured man seated on a drygoods box in front of the village store, 'they

tell me that you remember seeing George Washington—am I mistaken?' 'Well, sah,' said Uncle Mose, 'I uster member see'n him, but I done fo'got since I j'ned de chu'ch.'"

"According to Galatians 5:22, 23 'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.'"

"But Pastor Flynn," said Mr. Pier-son, speaking for the first time, "can't we know we have been converted by the way we feel?"

"I was just on the point of asking that same question," said Miss Cle-ment.

"Well, of course, the converted per-

son does have a feeling of peace and joy, and I would say too, that this feel- ing can come only through the con- sciousness that all is right between him and God," smiled Pastor Flynn. "But we are not saved by feeling. Feeling has nothing to do with it. Ephesians 2:8 tells us how it is, 'For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.' It is by grace on God's part and by faith on our part. Now faith is not feeling, and we should be careful to get our thinking straight on this point. If we were saved by feeling we could be saved and lost a half dozen or more times a day.

"Suppose, for instance, that you go

*As the sinner bows in contrition at the feet of Jesus, that greatest of miracles, regeneration, is wrought.*

H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS





to bed a Christian by feeling to-night, but in the morning when you wake up you are not feeling good at all. You say, 'My, but I feel terrible. I guess I was mistaken about my conversion.' However, you go down to the office, and when you open the morning mail out falls an unexpected check. When you see the check you say, 'That check certainly makes me feel better. I believe my conversion was the real thing after all.' Then for lunch you eat something that does not agree with you, and you have a case of indigestion, and you say, 'I wonder after all if I was converted.' It is not long until a friend stops by the office and tells you about a prescription that will relieve your indigestion. As soon as you feel better again you say, 'Well, I guess I was right in the first place. I was converted all right.' But as you leave the office it suddenly begins to rain, and you get wet and cold. By the time you reach home you are sneezing, and you say, 'I doubt very much if I was really converted.' However, you take a hot bath and drink some hot lemonade. As you get into bed it does not seem that you are going to catch cold, and you say, 'I'm convinced that I am a Christian after all.'

"I am convinced from this, Pastor Flynn, that feeling is not the proof of conversion," laughed Mr. Ryan. "But why do good people need this experience of conversion, anyway? We are as the Lord made us. Aren't we good enough?"

"The reason is that we are all sinners. No matter how good we appear in our own sight or even in the sight of others, in the sight of God we are corrupt and polluted by both inherited and cultivated sin. These texts give us some idea of how we appear in the sight of God:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9.

"Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores; they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." Isaiah 1:5, 6.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21."

"You stated a little while ago that

it is necessary for the Holy Spirit to make this change in a person," said Miss Clement. "Is this really necessary? Why can't a person himself turn over a new leaf? In fact I have done it myself several times."

"It is true that we can change some of our habits, but we are utterly unable to change our hearts. Let me read from Jeremiah 13:23: 'Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.'

"As far as the sinner himself is concerned, his state is absolutely hopeless. He has no power to change himself from sinfulness to righteousness. He cannot lift himself by his own bootstraps. He cannot climb up the sides of the slimy pit of sin and escape. He must have help from outside himself or he cannot hope to escape from sin's bondage.

"This is the way one commentator puts it: 'If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts? . . . There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are.'—*Steps to Christ*, Mrs. E. G. White, pp 35, 36."

"When the sinner is converted to Christ, what is his condition then in the sight of God?" asked Mrs. Goldstein.

"The answer to that is found in 2 Corinthians 5:17: 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.'

"Regeneration is an act of re-creation. The same divine power that is able to make 'something out of nothing' takes the wicked, sinful heart of man and makes it over—makes man a new creature. The old sinful tendencies, habits, and practices give way to acts and deeds of righteousness. Man's only part in this is to place his will on the side of God. God performs the miracle.

"After a man has been converted, God expects that he shall be faithful in his service. Jesus says, in Luke 22:32, 'When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.' There will be seen in the Christian's deportment the evidences of conversion. There will be self-sacrifice and self-denial. The Christian will live a new life in Christ Jesus."

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

OUR good ship was near the port. The immigration officers were aboard already, and all passengers were summoned to the lounge. Again, as I had heard often before, came the order: "Have your passport ready! Have your passport ready!" One by one we answered to our names to appear before the officials; and it was always such a comfort to me to feel absolutely sure that my passport was visæd properly.

Once, however, I was painfully disappointed. After my husband and I had spent a few days on the beautiful Riviera in southern France, where the blue waters of the Mediterranean at times rival the blue canopy above, we boarded the train for Italy, where his next appointments took us. "Now we are crossing the boundary," said our kind interpreter, and we gazed the more intently at the high Alpine ridge where, we were told, each nation has strong fortifications frowning down upon its neighbour.

Soon our train stopped at the border station, where custom officials and immigration officers awaited us. Our baggage was left unopened. But not so with our passport. With keen eyes those stern-faced immigration officers scanned the pages. Then low rumbling of Italian thunder rolled back and forth between them. The moments were passing and we were anxious to reboard the train that was leaving almost immediately. But no. In blank surprise we stood as prisoners at the bar and heard our train roll on toward Rome.

Our good friend now produced his Italian tongue, not quite as nimble as his native French or his perfectly acquired English and German, but none the less well able to cope with the situation.

"We cannot let her go," the immigration officers told our interpreter; and then for the first time we discovered that my picture when added to my husband's passport had not been properly perforated with the official stamp. They were right. The passport had not been made out properly, although it was obtained from some of the highest immigration officials in our country. I had felt absolutely sure that it was all right. But that did not change the unhappy fact.

Chug, chug, chug went our train on toward Rome, while we heaved a sigh of disappointment and sent up silent petitions. Suddenly those seemingly adamant officials relented. Smilingly they handed back the passport and waved us on. We thanked God for causing the officials to reverse their decision; and with deep gratitude we passed into the waiting room, resolved



*Have Your*

# PASSPORT READY

By Mrs. E. E. Andross

to have the passport corrected before leaving Italy.

That experience at the border really was a valuable object lesson. It set me to thinking about the passport needed by travellers on life's great highway, and my heart overflowed with gratitude to our heavenly Father for the marvellous provision He has made for supplying us each with a perfect, flawless passport to the everlasting kingdom. Then I quietly asked myself, What if I should fail to get the perfect passport that my heavenly Father has provided? What if I should be persuaded that another would do just as well? I shuddered at the thought! That would be the saddest of all sad tragedies, for there is no appeal from the decision of the immigration officers at the entrance into the heavenly country. And right there while waiting for the next train to Rome, I re-affirmed my resolution to make absolutely sure that my passport for the heavenly country is stamped properly, and also to do my utmost to help others to take the same precaution.

You say you conscientiously do what you think is right. That is a good plan.

But remember, the conscience is a creature of education. It is not a safe guide except in so far as it agrees with the great principles laid down in God's great Guidebook. I was conscientious in carrying that faulty passport. But that did not correct the mistake. You say your friends tell you not to worry, that you are all right, that God is not so particular. Your friends mean to be kind, but they may not be safe counsellors in these matters. It is absolutely dangerous to follow counsel that does not harmonize in every detail with the instruction given in the Book of books. Your eternal destiny is at stake. Make sure that you get the perfect passport that God has provided for you.

Millions will be deceived, lulled into false security. The devil, the enemy of our souls, will do his utmost to persuade men and women to be content with counterfeit passports. But Jesus knows the safe course to pursue. He has travelled over the road. He had

the perfect passport to heaven; and more than that, He secured one for whosoever will come unto Him for it. To-day He calls us to come; and He assures us that "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." Yes, He will welcome us, one and all; and He offers us His companionship and protection all the way to the kingdom. Hear Him say, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Yes, travelling down the highway of life with Jesus will secure for us the flawless passport that will ensure to us an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom. As we walk with Him by faith in the path of obedience, He will fill our hearts with peace that passeth understanding, and will transform our lives and fit us for heaven. With Him there can be no failure! Without Him there is no possibility of success! Often He will call us to pause in the counsel chamber for prayer and for a study of the Guidebook, that we may know Him better and understand more fully the wonderful plan He has for us individually.

As the great Book that God has given us for safe guidance and unfailing comfort reaches the closing chapter, He reminds us again of something He desires us to remember. Yes, He reminds us, lest in the busy whirl of these tense days we forget the arrangement necessary to obtain the passport. Here is what He says:

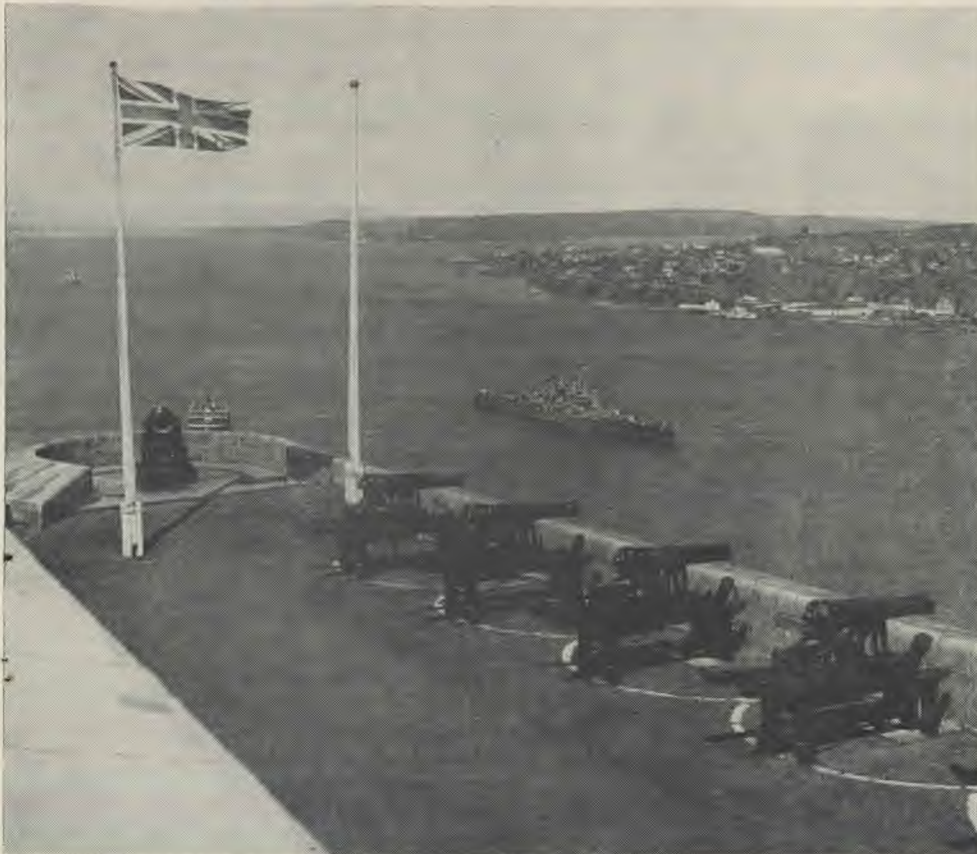
"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Yes, He repeats the directions, for He earnestly desires that you shall be in that happy multitude to whom Jesus will say: "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Friend, have your passport ready.

*Jesus secured our passports to heaven, and He will give to all who will ask in faith believing.*

R. C. N. PHOTO







# The WORLD AS WE SEE IT!

**A Prophetic Interpretation of Current Events!**

## The Crushing Cost of War

SEVENTY-FIVE cents out of every Federal tax dollar in the U. S. goes either to prepare for the next war, or to pay for those that are past. It is costing more to run the United States government in 1949 than the people of the nation earned in one year a decade and a half ago. Thirty-two billion out of a forty-two-billion-dollar budget is devoted to war costs. A little more than fourteen billion is labelled for the current defence programme; while more than seventeen billion must go to pay the debts of war.

We do not have figures from other nations showing war costs, past and prospective, but we will venture to say that the war god is dipping his metallic hand deep into the governmental tills of all nations.

Reverting to the thirty-two-billion-dollar United States war budget, we would ask — How much money is this? Frankly, we don't know, and we wonder if there are many who do. We do know, however, that if it were devoted to the purpose of raising the standard of living, the housing shortage and high-rent problem would soon be licked. It would enable every city of the nation to clean up its slums, and every state to provide adequate educational and recreational facilities.

*The high cost of modern implements of war places an intolerable burden upon the nations.*

PUBLIC INFORMATION



ties. Cities would have resources with which to construct sewage disposal plants, and provide safe drinking water.

How many guns, tanks and airplanes will this colossal sum buy? Here again we must confess our ignorance. We don't know. And from what we read it appears that Uncle Sam doesn't know either. It seems that the man across the border has so many guns, tanks, et cetera, that he is unable to keep track of them. Even millions and billions of dollars' worth of them have a way of getting lost.

Where are the United States, Russia and the other nations of the world headed? To an inevitable clash of arms, we believe. Our convictions are based not only upon the records of history and our knowledge of the trend of present events, but upon the infallible declarations of God's Word. Statesmen, in these perplexing times, would do well to chart the course of the ship of state by the Word of God. Hundreds of accurately fulfilled prophecies present an unanswerable argument for the accuracy of those as yet unfulfilled.

In prophetic outline God has given us the history of this world until its end. In Revelation 16:12-14, 16 God tells us of Armageddon, the culminating battle of earth. "The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the East might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. . . . And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

The leaders of state should note first that the "kings of the East" are going to play a part in Armageddon — the way is going to be prepared for them to participate. Now, when we look to the hitherto dormant nations of the Orient, what do we see? In China millions of men are trained in war. In India are other millions. It is current history that the island empire of Japan felt strong enough to challenge the strongest nation on earth. Let statesmen not forget, too, that Russia is Oriental, that Russia has a world-dominating programme, and that Russia is consolidating the East against the West. Communistic victories in China



indicate that the Russian programme is meeting with good success.

According to the Bible, Armageddon will be fought in Palestine, on the plains of Megiddo, about sixty miles north of Jerusalem. The spirits of devils have stirred up the kings of the whole world. All are represented here; all will participate. It is called "the battle of that great day of God Almighty." God asks that the following proclamation be made to the Gentiles:

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about. . . . Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision." Joel 3:9-14.

It is certainly far from our intent to minimize the destructive powers of the atom bomb, bacterial warfare, or any other destructive weapons of war now extant. However, we do not concur with the views of some, that the earth will be depopulated by any or all of these means. The earth will not be depopulated until the time of the second coming of Christ. In fact it is Christ's coming in glory that destroys the wicked who remain from the destruction of the plagues and Armageddon.

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

## A Modern Miracle

MORE than seven months ago Soviet Russia imposed a blockade upon Berlin. Russian leaders thought that with transportation channels cut, the United States and Britain would be unable to feed the two and one-half million Germans in their sectors of the city. In weighing the chances of the blockade's success, the Russians evidently did not reckon sufficiently with air power. From the Russian point of view the blockade has failed — the Germans have been fed, clothed and warmed, and this fact constitutes a modern miracle.

That miracle would have been stark impossibility forty-six years ago. It was December 17, 1903, that the Wright Brothers succeeded in flying their heavier-than-air machine a few hundred feet at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. That was the beginning. From that, well within the scope of one lifetime, has come the miracle of the United States-Great Britain air lift. Present-day giant transports, able to take to the air with several

tons of cargo, soar through the heavens majestically, and land with the ease and grace of a bird, are a far cry from the first little plane at Kitty Hawk that was barely able to carry aloft one single passenger.

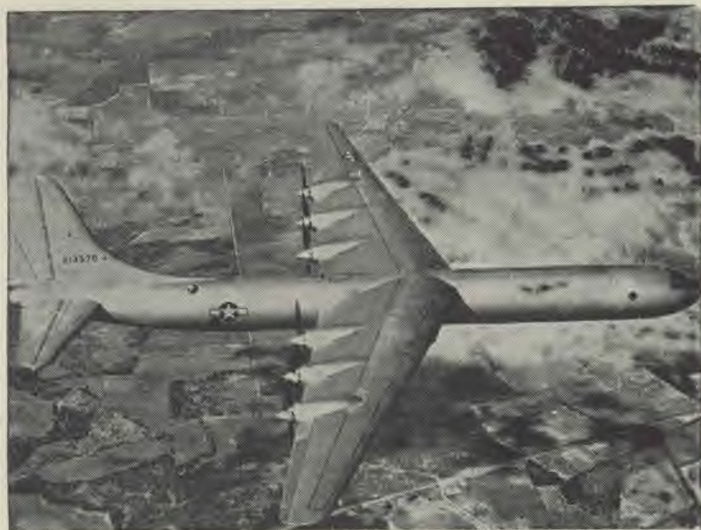
What significance does this miracle have in the light of the Bible? Daniel, who lived more than five hundred years before Christ, penned a prophecy that has tremendous import in the light of present-day air power. Daniel saw this transportation miracle, together with other modern wonders, and wrote about them in his book: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*" Daniel 12:4.

This prediction has application to the "time of the end," which is an evident reference to the end of the world. Now, admittedly, the "time of the end" is not the very end itself, but must be that little period of time that immediately precedes the end. In that period of time, according to the inspired prophet, certain distinguishable things are going to take place — events by which we may locate ourselves on the stream of time. What are these events? The answer: "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

What are we being told here by the pen of inspiration? In these few words are comprehended all the wonders of the twentieth century. "Knowledge shall be increased," said Daniel. "Knowledge has been increased and is being increased," says Mr. and Mrs. Modern Man and Woman. "Many shall run to and fro," said the prophet. "Many are running to and fro," says Mr. Everyman as he lifts his eyes to survey the land, the sea and the air.

For nearly six thousand years the world spun along at a comparatively slow pace. Then suddenly at the beginning of the nineteenth century its speed was accelerated in an unprecedented manner. At that time we had the advent of steam transportation, followed by gasoline transportation on land and in the air. We have, to-day, become so accustomed to these modern miracles that it takes a squadron of jet planes to excite half the wonder and admiration that was stirred up by the first struggling one-cylinder automobile fifty years ago.

*The miracle of the Berlin "airlift" is a far cry from the 1903 flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C.*



U. S. ARMY PHOTO



PASTOR WILSON of Sunnyview church had small relish for the sermon he was reluctantly preparing. In his years of ministry he had preached many powerful sermons pointing sinners to the Lamb of God. Love for God demonstrated in cheerful service and sacrifice for His cause was the ideal the good pastor kept before his people.

But this Sunday the sermon must be different. It seemed to the honest preacher that he was about to step in front of the cross and hide the Saviour from view while he called attention to his own needs, his own problems and the church's duty toward him as their pastor. He, himself, was to be the subject for that day, and he wished heartily he could choose a bigger one. But what could he do? A preacher has to live as well as other people.

The man who ran the theatre downtown was wealthy enough. He had a large house in the best residential section, owned several cars, and manifested his opulence in many ways. He was formerly the most liberal contributor in the church, but that was before Pastor Wilson pointed out the harmful moral effects of many of the movies. The man who owned a bar downtown flourished too. The pastor could have flourished with him if he had carefully avoided giving any offence to the liquor traffic. But this he could not do and at the same time be true to his calling as a minister of God. Consequently, another pew was empty and another one-hundred-dollar check lacking this year.

Pastor Wilson never was very fond of some methods often used to raise church funds. Tea parties, soup suppers, raffles and other such methods may be a means to a desired end, but a very questionable means. He felt that a Christian's support of the gospel should be actuated by one pure motive only. This motive is expressed in 2 Corinthians 5:14: "For the love of Christ constraineth us." The aforementioned methods appeal to the love of appetite, the love of pleasure, gain, or to the gambling instinct, but not to the love of Christ.

He was pondering these facts hours later when he passed the small Seventh-day Adventist church on Broad Street. They were singing "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me." "Strange people," he mused, "so few in number in this locality, so comparatively few anywhere, and yet they support their ministers. They are not especially rich. In fact, their Sabbathkeeping notions cause them many handicaps in earning a livelihood. I wonder how they do it?"

This led him to think of Joe Hampton, the barber. He would call at Joe's place, perhaps to-morrow evening, for

a trim, and have an undisturbed chat with Joe. Perhaps he could get some facts that he could use to stir his people to emulation.

"Joe," said the preacher when the time was convenient, "you people are few in number and not very rich as a rule. Tell me one thing. How do you pay your preacher?"

Joe looked at his clerical friend, gave a long, slow smile and answered simply, "We don't pay him."

Pastor Wilson was not prepared for this answer. "Don't pay him! Why, what do you do, Joe? I always understood your ministers received a fair salary."

"So they do," answered Joe. "They get an adequate, though modest, salary. But we don't pay them. You will never hear anything in any of our churches throughout the world about paying the minister. It is a responsibility we just don't have. None of us anywhere ever earmark any money for the support of any minister. We don't hire the minister. The Lord hires him and the Lord pays him."

The minister was silent a long moment. "That would be ideal," he mused. "That is how it should be. The master should pay his servant." Aloud he said, "I'm awaiting an explanation, Joe."

Joe picked up his clippers and held them up to his friend. "Do you know who owns these?" he asked with a smile.

"You do, I suppose," answered the preacher.

"In a way, yes." Joe spoke earnestly now. "You will forgive me, I am sure, for catching you this way. The Lord owns these clippers."

The pastor smiled. "Use your own methods of instruction, Joe. You are the instructor to-night."

"Yes," continued Joe, "the Lord owns these clippers. He owns this shop and everything that's in it. He owns me. He owns you. He has said, 'For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. . . . If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is Mine, and the fulness thereof.' Psalm 50:10, 12. 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, saith the Lord of hosts.' Haggai 2:8. Concerning ourselves we read, 'What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.' 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

"These verses tell us plainly that we are not the owners of anything we possess, not even of ourselves. All belongs to God.

"The Lord claims one-tenth of our increase as His own. It is His, like the

# WE DON



other nine-tenths, by virtue of primary ownership. But above that, it is His by a divine reservation. It is not ours at all. He allows it to come into our hands that the blessing of passing it back may be ours."

"That is what is called the tithe," commented the pastor. "According to that, we are on a nine-tenths, one-tenth basis. It is as if the Lord said to us, 'You may have nine-tenths of everything you can honestly acquire. I'll provide all the necessary material and the ability to acquire possessions, and for My share I reserve one-tenth. I will not take it out first. I'll commit it all to your care, and trust you to reserve for Me that which is Mine.'"

"That is just about how it is," continued Joe. "He has said, 'All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord.' Leviticus 27:30. Here it is plainly stated that the tithe is the Lord's. It is His not only after it is presented to Him, but it is His before. It is His whether we present it or not. And notice the statement: 'It is holy unto the Lord.' Perhaps you have noticed in your Bible reading, Pastor, that when a thing is pronounced holy unto the Lord it is not to be treated carelessly."



# DO NOT PAY THE PREACHER



H. A. ROBERTS

*The Lord lays claim to the earth and its contents. Says He: "The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine." Haggaï 2:8.*

"I have noticed that," said Pastor Wilson. "The Bible certainly makes it clear that the Lord's portion is sacred. Understanding it that way, who would dare to use it for any secular purpose whatever?"

"It is never used for a secular purpose when it is used according to the Lord's plan. You have your Bible, Pastor. Read Numbers 18:21. The Lord is the one who is speaking."

Pastor Wilson read: "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation."

"Who were the Levites?" asked Joe.

"They were really the Lord's ministers," answered the preacher.

"Exactly, sir, and I read in the third chapter of Numbers these words of the Lord, 'The Levites shall be Mine.' That is, they were His as all the people were His by right of creation. But above that they were His by divine reservation. The Lord's ministers are in a special sense holy unto the Lord. Like the tithe, they are wholly separated unto the gospel of God. Do you

see, Pastor, how that part of His people's money which He has reserved unto Himself is used for the support of those among His people who are especially separated unto Himself to speak His Word to the people?"

"I see that plainly enough, Joe. It is wonderful. God pays the preacher out of His own funds which He has wisely reserved for the purpose. It is just as it should be, Joe. Just as it should be." Pastor Wilson's face was beaming with interest. "Tell me more. I begin to see how it is you don't pay the preacher, but I like the original way you tell it."

"When we have returned to the Lord the tithe, which He claims as His own, we have not yet begun to give. We have been strictly honest, but not liberal. We have contributed to His cause nothing that we could rightfully call our own. The Lord loves to have His children show their gratitude by giving freely of their means."

"I like that approach to the matter of giving," said the minister. "After all, we are much like a little boy who saves his pennies to give daddy a birthday present. Daddy supplied him with every cent he saved, and, of course,

By

George Russell

daddy is not made much richer by the gift, not in money. But he blesses his little boy for his loving, generous spirit, and encourages the sacrifice with the hope that such gestures will help to develop a truly noble and unselfish character.

"But listen to this, Joe! It seems that there is some compulsion about giving, after all. Listen to Malachi 3:8-10: 'Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.' It looks as though we rob God when we withhold our offerings as well as our tithe, doesn't it?"

"It looks that way," commented Joe. "After all, how can the Lord train us for His kingdom if we do not do the exercises designed to develop the proper traits?"

But Pastor Wilson was thinking of something else. "How great must be the curse," he murmured, "on those who are so forgetful of their obligations to God as to spend His bounties on sinful entertainments and worldly lusts while the souls for whom He gave His Son go down into Christless graves."

Mr. Wilson took Joe's hand in his. "My friend," he said, "I have enjoyed this conversation. It is refreshing to talk with a layman who understands his obligation to God. I have enjoyed being in the pew, as it were, to-night. And I'll say this, you people, by adopting the tithing system, have a method of church support that has the bingo, social and raffle system beaten a mile—yes, sir, beaten a mile," he added in deep meditation. "I'll see you again in a couple of weeks, Joe. Good night."





## Liquor Costs

Prince George, British Columbia, is reported to have spent \$1,000,000 on liquor during the past year. Prince George is a town of approximately 8,000 people. It is interesting to note that this sum would have built and equipped a complete ultramodern one-hundred-bed hospital—in one year's time. Those who vote a dry community wet in order to secure tax revenue from liquor and thereby reduce other taxes, are making a poor investment.

A survey made by the State of Massachusetts revealed that while \$13,000,000 was collected in taxes the State spent \$6,100,000 to care for persons suffering directly or indirectly from the use of liquor. More than 1,000 school buildings in Virginia alone are declared unfit for school purposes because of health or fire hazards. The State needs to spend the "staggering sum" of \$396,000,000 during the next ten years for replacing these units. Liquor costs in the U. S. have now reached the "staggering total" of \$9,000,000,000, enough to build schools for twenty-two such States—in one year. At a recent convention of the National Temperance Movement, in Minneapolis, many pastors admitted that the use of liquor has become so widespread by church members that they would risk their jobs as ministers should they speak boldly against even moderate drinking.

## Vitamin U

From Stanford University's School of Medicine comes an announcement by Dr. Garnett Cheney of a new antiulcer factor which he calls vitamin U. Using raw cabbage juice, a substance containing the new U factor, ulcer patients were found to make unusually rapid recoveries even when on regular diets. Average healing time for duodenal ulcers was 10.4 days as compared with 37 days for a control group treated by milk, alkalis and a conventional bland diet. Vitamin U is also found in celery, unpasteurized milk, fresh greens, raw egg yolks, cereal grasses and certain animal and vegetable fats.

## Neutron Blindness

The public has recently been somewhat horrified to learn that a new form of blindness is another of the dangers brought into the world through atomic research, that Pandora's box of modern life. Blindness may be too strong a word to use, although no one knows the final outcome. At any rate, to date five scientists who worked with cyclotrons have developed a new type of cataract that results in blindness in the worst cases. One of the men, exposed to the deadly neutrons thrown off by the cyclotron in 1943, is now blind in one eye and can barely see with the other. Apparently some of the victims did not use proper precautions when working in the vicinity of the apparatus, and since no ill effects were felt at the time of exposure, or in fact in some cases for several years after, there seemed to be no cause for alarm. The cyclotron seems most dangerous when it is just starting up. It is at this time that it still needs adjusting and throws off the neutrons which do the deadly work.

**G**OD has never foreordained that some of the human family should be saved and some lost. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. The apostle Paul declared that God "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4.

In pursuit of this great purpose He sends His Holy Spirit to convict all men of sin. "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 the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16: 7, 8. And to all there comes the divine invitation: "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.

Yes, "whosoever will may come." It would be to charge God with utter inconsistency to believe that when men accept the invitation, they are rejected by the One who gave His life for their salvation.

Upon what condition is salvation offered? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31.

While God has never foreordained that certain ones should be saved or lost, He has ordained that those possessing certain characters should be saved. "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. . . . In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will." Ephesians 1:4, 11.

Our salvation must be worked out in co-operation with the divine plan. God has constituted man a free moral agent. It is in his power to accept or reject the salvation which God offers him as a free gift.

In view of this, we are exhorted: "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." 2 Peter 1:10. And Christ gives us this admonition: "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Revelation 3:11. Upon those who are faithful the crown of life is bestowed at Christ's coming.

## The Experience of Pharaoh

Does not the Bible say that God hardened Pharaoh's heart? Yes, the Bi-



# Foreordination

ble says this, and the Divine Record also says that Pharaoh hardened his own heart. "And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to show in thee My power; and that My name may be declared throughout all the earth. As yet exaltest thou thyself against My people, that thou wilt not let them go?" Exodus 9:16, 17. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might show these My signs before him; and that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I am the Lord." Exodus 10:1, 2. "But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said." Exodus 8:15.

The king's heart was hardened because he refused to obey the Lord, and held God in utter contempt. He contrasted the God of a race of slaves, with the gods he worshipped, gods which he believed had enabled him to make Egypt a mighty empire. Hence he replied to Moses' request to let Israel go: "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go." Exodus 5:2.

The mighty miracles wrought by the hand of Moses were designed to show the utter impotence of the Egyptian gods, and the infinite power of the God of heaven. These mighty manifestations should have turned the heart of Pharaoh to the worship of the God of heaven, but he rejected the light given and hardened his own heart until the Holy Spirit ceased its pleadings and he was given up to his own wicked ways.

## God's Mercy

Does not the Bible say that God will have mercy on some and harden others? Does this not show that some are predestined to be lost and some to be saved? I answer, yes, and no. The scripture reads as follows: "Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth." Romans 9:18.

God will have mercy on all who seek His mercy. Whosoever will may come to Him. He desires to save all men. Christ died for the world. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our

God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7. "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 could cite many other scriptures of similar import.

The Spirit of God convicts men of sin. He seeks to win men from their wicked ways for Christ, the Saviour. It is left for every soul to accept or reject the divine invitation. Some accept, and obtain mercy. Others reject the Spirit's pleadings and in consequence are hardened. Thus it is that God has mercy on some, and others by their own choice harden their hearts as did Pharaoh of old.

"With the merciful Thou wilt show Thyself merciful; with an upright man Thou wilt show Thyself upright; with the pure Thou wilt show Thyself pure; and with the froward Thou wilt show Thyself froward." Psalm 18:25, 26.

There is no frowardness in God. The froward man judges God by the standards of his own froward heart and life.

Some self-deceived people pride themselves on being well-born. They glory in the fact that they have always lived well-ordered lives. Like the Phar-

isee of old, they thank God "that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." Luke 18:11, 12. The poor publican had no commendation of himself. "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." Verse 13.

God gives the ill-born man an equal chance with the one who is well-born. If one sunken to the lowest pit of sin will cry to God for deliverance, divine grace will make up his deficiency. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Romans 5:20, last part. The merciful, loving Saviour will take into account the environment of every soul, and all the circumstances which have shaped his life, the place even where he was born. "I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know Me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there. And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her; and the Highest Himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when He writeth up the people, that this man was born there." Psalm 87:4-6.

HAROLD M. LAMBERT

By  
F. M.  
Wilcox

*According to the Scriptures God foresaw but did not foreordain that this man should occupy a prison cell.*







# BIBLE ANSWERS

by your Bible Answerman

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

**Dear Bible Answerman:** Will there be industrial peace, or will there continue to be strikes as we have them at present? J. M.

The teaching of the Bible is that there will be neither industrial nor international peace as the world approaches its end. It is a lamentable fact, but Satan gains more and more control over men and nations as the Spirit of God is grieved away from the earth by the disobedience of the people.

James 5:1-8 tells us what we may expect in the last days in the way of industrial accord: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

"Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

Those who are oppressed are admonished by the Lord to wait and be patient, because this industrial strife is a sign that the time of Christ's second coming is at hand. The Lord has promised justice and equity in the reign of the kingdom of glory. Since the time of the entrance of sin into Eden there has always been oppression, and it will not cease as the end of the world draws near. The opposite is true—trouble of all kinds will in-

crease. The just will be condemned and killed. The wicked will live in pleasure and be wanton.

Notwithstanding the apparent triumph of the forces of evil, God hears the cries of the persecuted righteous and delivers them from the power of their persecutors.

**Dear Bible Answerman:** Please explain the following contradictory texts. In Matthew 6:7 Jesus said, "Use not vain repetitions," and in Ezekiel 21:27 the Lord said, "I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it." S. M., Trinidad.

Matthew 6:7 tells us this: "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."

Our questioner evidently failed to take note of the word "vain." It is evident that he regards the repeated word of the Lord in Ezekiel 21:27 as a vain repetition, but it is not. The meaning of the word "vain" is "empty and devoid of meaning and significance."

History shows that the Lord's words of Ezekiel 21:27, directed to the Jewish

nation, were not empty words, void of meaning. The prophecy that God would overturn, overturn, overturn the Israelitish nation was fulfilled to the very letter. "I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him." God has overturned the Jewish nation, and the promise is that it shall be no more until Christ comes whose it is, and He shall receive it.

The heathen use vain repetitions in their prayers, and think that they will be heard for their much speaking. The practice is not confined only to the heathen—some Christians do likewise. This Jesus admonished us not to do. However, let us not think that God at any time uses vain repetitions. God does not contradict Himself, nor does He use silly, useless words.

**Dear Bible Answerman:** Which is the true church? Is the Roman Catholic Church the true church, as it claims to be?

We conceive this to be a very important question to which many people are seeking the correct answer. We are sure there is a true church on earth at the present time because of Revelation 12:17: "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

This verse assures us that God has had a true church all down through the ages. The last church is spoken of here as the "remnant" church. Now there could not be a remnant church unless there had been a former church. It would be impossible to have a remnant of a bolt of cloth without the beginning of the bolt.

Furthermore, the remnant of a bolt of cloth must of necessity be identical with the first piece in pattern, weave and quality. This same principle must hold true in respect to the remnant church. The remnant church must be exactly like the apostolic. It makes no difference about the claims of this church or that church—the point is, Is it like the original? If it is, it must

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The Editor

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

OSHAWA, ONTARIO

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be the remnant; if it is not, it cannot be the remnant.

Is the Roman Catholic Church the true church as it claims to be? Is it like the original, the apostolic, in doctrinal teaching and practice?

We see from John 13:1-17 and 1 Timothy 5:10 that the apostolic church celebrated the ordinance of humility, that of feet washing. We have no information that the Roman Catholic Church does this.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 tells us to "abstain from all appearance of evil." Exodus 20:4, 5 tells us not to make any graven images in the likeness of anything that is in the heaven above, the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth. "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them. . . ." Of course the Catholic Church maintains that in bowing down to the images with which their churches and cathedrals are filled, they are not worshipping them. If that be true, it still has the appearance of evil. There is not a syllable in the New Testament to show that any apostle ever made or bowed down before images.

Luke 4:16; Acts 13:14, 42-44; 16:13; 17:2; Luke 23:54-56 show that Jesus and the disciples observed the Sabbath day. In fact, we are told that it was Jesus' "custom" to so do, and that it was Paul's "manner." Yet the Roman Catholic Church, instead of observing the seventh-day Sabbath as did Jesus and the disciples, observes, without any warrant of Scripture, the first day of the week—Sunday.

The following quotation is the testimony of a Catholic priest: "I will give \$1,000 to any man who will prove by the Bible alone that Sunday is the day we are bound to keep. . . . The church changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and all the world bows down and worships upon that day, in silent obedience to the mandates of the Catholic Church."—*Hartford (Kansas) Weekly Call*, Feb. 18, 1883; quoted in *Facts for the Times*, p. 130, edition 1885.

The Roman Catholic Church not only does not observe the commandment Sabbath, but boasts of having changed the day, and declares that all who observe Sunday are bowing down to the mandates of the Catholic Church.

The following quotation is taken from a Roman Catholic Catechism: "What Bible authority is there for changing the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week?"

"Who gave the pope authority to change a command of God?"

"Answer.—If the Bible is the only guide for the Christian, then the Seventh-day Adventist is right in observing the Saturday with the Jew. But

Catholics learn what to believe and do from the divine, infallible authority established by Jesus Christ, the Catholic Church, which in apostolic times made Sunday the day of rest to honour our Lord's resurrection on that day, and to mark off clearly the Jew from the Christian. . . . Is it not strange that those who make the Bible their only teacher should inconsistently follow in this matter the tradition of the church?"—*The Question Box*, pp. 254, 255, edition 1903, New York: The Catholic Book Exchange, 120 W. 60th St.

We think the conclusion is so obvious that we are content to have our readers make their own decisions. The true church, the remnant church, on earth to-day must be identical with the apostolic. It must teach the teachings, and follow the practices of Jesus and the apostles. Otherwise it cannot be the true church.

**Dear Bible Answerman: What verse in the Bible says not to smoke cigarettes? A. B.**

We learn from John 14:23 that the Christian, when he surrenders his heart to Christ, becomes host to divinity: "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

The body of the Christian becomes holy, because of the presence of God, just as the ground around the burning bush became holy because of the divine presence in Moses' day. Therefore, the Christian is to do nothing that will defile his body. If he does, the warning is that God will destroy him. The young man Daniel refused to defile his body with the king's meat and wine.

The use of tobacco lowers the physical and mental efficiency as do gluttony and intoxicating beverages.

"In a study of two thousand nonsmokers by the Life Extension examiners, some interesting observations were made.

"Smokers complained of cough 300

per cent more often than nonsmokers. Smokers complained of irritation of the nose and throat 167 per cent more often than nonsmokers. Smokers complained of palpitation 50 per cent more often than nonsmokers. Smokers complained of pain over the heart 73 per cent more often than nonsmokers. Smokers complained of shortness of breath 140 per cent more often than nonsmokers. Smokers complained of excessive gas 62 per cent more often than nonsmokers. Smokers complained of nervousness 76 per cent more often than nonsmokers.

"From these figures it is evident that smoking is the cause of much suffering and that it does influence health. . . .

"Many people believe that smoking facilitates relaxation and helps them overcome nervousness. Nothing could be farther from the actual truth. Smoking causes a stimulation, not a relaxation."—Harry J. Johnson, M.D., *Invitation to Health*.

"A cigarette manufacturer sent an agent to Jack Dempsey when he held the world's championship as pugilist, asking for his signature to a recommendation of a certain brand of cigarettes, and offered a tempting financial consideration. Dempsey read it and, turning to the man, said: 'You could not get me to sign that for ten times what you offer. I do not smoke cigarettes, and never did. Do you think I am going to ask the thousands of young boys who read about me to take up cigarette smoking? If you had a harmless candy or soda water, I wouldn't mind giving you a testimonial for nothing, but I don't sign your testimonials for a cigarette.'"—*Boys and Cigarette Smoking*, by D. H. Kress, M.D.

No, the Bible contains no verse saying, "Thou shalt not smoke cigarettes," but it does declare that the individual who is so unwise as to defile his body, the temple of God, will be destroyed. The cigarette, when considered in the light of reason and common sense, is seen to be, not only an agent of defilement, but a deleter of beauty, brains and brawn.







# The DOCTOR'S VOICE

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



## Overweight

**Question:** During the last few years I have had a swollen ankle. I am also very much overweight. Do you think my condition is due to kidney disorder? I drink a lot of liquid with meals, especially tea. Would you advise me to cut down on liquids?

**ANSWER:** The two most likely causes of the ankle edema which you describe are kidney disease and heart disease. If the kidneys are diseased and albumin is being lost, edema results. This is corrected in part by taking extra protein as found in vegetable sources such as beans (navy, lima, soy, kidney, etc.), lentils, or nuts. Milk may be used sparingly. Salt is restricted. Certain foods high in salt are also restricted, such as meat, fish and butter, also cream cheese. Eggs are limited to three or four a week.

Salt restriction is also recommended in the presence of heart disease. In any case, weight reduction would seem to be one of the first essentials. There are diets that will enable you to lose weight at the rate of from five to seven pounds a week and at the same time assure adequate protein. The list of foods relative to their salt content will guide you in that respect.

As an alternative the two-meal-a-day plan is very good when one is trying to lose weight. A suggestive menu is as follows:

### Breakfast:

Fruit and fruit juice  
Cereal with milk or toast  
An egg cooked without fat  
Milk to drink

### Dinner:

Cottage cheese or soybeans  
A yellow vegetable  
A green vegetable  
Salad  
Milk to drink  
Whole-wheat bread  
Bland fruit for dessert.

It would be best to omit tea altogether. Fluids as allowed in the diet

are in order. Water may be used freely. A medical examination would indicate the cause of your trouble.

## Football

**Question:** During a football game when one is perspiring, and a few minutes after rain begins to fall, is it better to run and seek shelter or to keep on playing until the end of the game?

**ANSWER:** Prolonged exposure to cold, which is all the more penetrating when clothing is wet, is not favourable. Short exposure to cold and wet is all right if one is able to take a hot shower immediately following and change into warm clothing. These facilities are seldom available under the circumstances which you describe. After strenuous work or athletics when one is perspiring it is important to prevent chilling.

## Tennis Elbow

**Question:** What is the cause of "tennis elbow"? Is there any special treatment?

**ANSWER:** The condition known as tennis elbow is characterized by pain over the outer side of the elbow unaccompanied by limitation of movement or by evidence of arthritis or other joint abnormality. It may be due to tennis, to screwing and hammering, ironing and wringing, or to the work of violin players, masseuses and surgeons, in fact any occupation where the arm is rotated inwards and outwards with the elbow extended. It is thought to be due to an incomplete rupture of the fibres of one of the extensor muscles at its origin at the elbow. The condition usually automatically subsides after about twelve months, but in the early stages may be painful enough to prevent the patient from even turning a doorknob. A simple treatment is to rotate the forearm inwards, flex the fingers and the wrist and then extend the elbow (stretch it out). Active exercises are immediately practised and if necessary the manipulation is repeated every fourth day until relief is complete.

**C**LEANLINESS and godliness belong together; they cannot be separated. Not merely is there forgiveness of sins, but there is also physical cleansing, in the gospel of Christ.

I heard of a man who had been a menace in the community in which he lived. One night, at a revival service, something was said by the minister that touched his heart. He resolved to accept Christ as his personal Saviour. He left the church that night with a changed heart. The first evidence his neighbours had of this change was the change that took place on his premises. His back yard had always been in a topsy-turvy condition. Old wheels and rubbish had been scattered about everywhere. The very first thing this man did after his conversion was to begin to clean up his back yard. The neighbours, as they passed by, observed that something out of the ordinary had taken place. He did not do this in order to become a son of God; not that I think God would have laid it up against him had he done so. The change in his back yard was made *because he was a son of God*. The cleansed soul could not long feel at ease and be content in surroundings that were unclean.

Two ministers were once called upon by a woman to offer prayer in behalf of a sick child. As they entered the room, they noticed that the bed had not been made and everything was scattered about. One of the ministers said to the mother, "You are not prepared to have prayer offered for your sick daughter until you have cleaned up the room." After the room was cleaned and arranged in an orderly manner, they came together and offered prayer. A woman will not long leave things topsy-turvy in her home after having become a daughter of God. Christianity cleans up the back yard, and it cleans up the house.

What was it that convinced Peter and John, when they entered the empty sepulchre where Jesus had lain, that His body had not been stolen, as was reported by some? They "saw the linen clothes lying," and "*the napkin, that was about His head, not lying with the linen clothes.*" It was not thrown down carelessly, "but *wrapped together in a place by itself.*" They "*saw, and believed.*" They believed that Christ had actually risen and was alive, although "as yet they knew not the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead." They were acquainted with His orderly habits, and before them, in the orderly arrangement of the clothing, they beheld the evidence that His own hand had done this, and that He must be alive.



# CLEANLINESS and GODLINESS

By Dr. D. H. Kress

There are those who make a profession of Christianity who step out of their clothes at night and leave them scattered about carelessly—stockings here, trousers there, shoes tossed into a corner somewhere. It is difficult to harmonize this with the spirit of Christianity. Professedly Christian homes are sometimes anything but inviting.

The Christian will not tolerate bodily uncleanness. But cleansing goes still farther. Through the prophet, anciently God said: "I will *cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed*: for the Lord dwelleth in Zion." Joel 3:21. *Clean* premises, *clean* homes, *clean* clothes, *clean* bodies and *clean* blood are all associated with Christian living. Clean blood can be produced only from clean food and clean drink. Food and drink may be of a nature to defile the blood stream. To make of His people a kingdom of priests and teachers, after coming out of Egypt, God supplied them with clean food. "These things were our examples, to the intent we should not *lust* after evil things, as they also lusted." 1 Corinthians 10:6. Of Daniel we read: "He would not *defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.*" Since we are composed of what we eat and what we drink, diet reform is a natural part of the gospel.

About thirty years ago I read a paper before the World's Congress Against Alcoholism, held in the city of Toronto, Canada. Representatives were there from all over the world. The day before I presented my paper, the representative from Bulgaria in his address said that in his country Protestant churches would not receive into membership one who was addicted to the use of either alcohol or tobacco. He was applauded. The next day in my preliminary remarks I referred to the statement made by the Bulgarian representative, and stated that I was pleased to say that I was a member of a church here in America with a membership of more than half a million, and that not one of that number was addicted to the use of either alcohol or tobacco. I intended to say no more, and began to read my paper, but the representative of Great Britain, who was on the platform with me, said, "What church is that?" Hesitating, I looked at him and smiled, and then proceeded with my paper. But again he asked, "What church is that?" I then modestly said, "It is the Seventh-day Adventist Church." The entire congregation, numbering several thousand, applauded. At that influential gathering I was proud that day to be able to represent a body of believers of whom this could be said.

I have heard the remark that "the gospel brings us all down on the same level." This is not true. The gospel exerts a refining influence. It *elevates, ennobles, and lifts men and women up unto a higher plane of living*, hence the command is, "*Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.*"

A striking moving picture was shown in Australia some years ago of possibly the filthiest and most degraded pigmy race in the world, dwell-

ing in some remote part of Africa. Underneath the picture were the words traced by someone, probably the photographer, "*Waiting for the Seventh-day Adventists to come along, to clean them up.*" Everywhere Seventh-day Adventists are recognized as a clean people, with a message that cleanses its converts. I thank God for such a message, and that not merely in Bulgaria, but also in America, there exists such a church.

*Cleanliness is said to be next to godliness. However this may be, there is a cleansing of the heart that is far more important.*





# The Necessity of Conversion

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

1. Complete: "Verily I say unto you, \_\_\_\_\_, and become as little children, \_\_\_\_\_." "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, \_\_\_\_\_ he cannot see the kingdom of God."
2. What does it mean to be converted? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What explicit terms does Jesus use? \_\_\_\_\_
4. By what means is man converted? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened to the man without the wedding garment? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Draw a line through the false statements:
  - a. Every converted person knows the exact time of his conversion.
  - b. In John 3:8 the Holy Spirit is compared to the wind.
  - c. Conversion may be a gradual process.
  - d. The Holy Spirit is visible (may be seen).
  - e. The Spirit of God transforms the life.
  - f. The converted person will bring his life into conformity to God's law.
7. From the quotation from "The Desire of Ages," give five things that take place when the Spirit of God possesses the heart: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
8. How can we know we have passed from death unto life? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How did "Uncle Mose" give evidence of conversion? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Name nine "fruits of the Spirit." 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Write false or true after the following statements:
  - a. Feelings are a safe guide in conversion. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Man is saved by grace through faith. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The human heart is deceitful and wicked. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Man is able to turn over a new leaf and reform himself. \_\_\_\_\_
12. When a man is in Christ, what is he said to be? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What does Jeremiah say about the heart? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What does Isaiah say about man's natural condition? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Give seventeen "works of the flesh." 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_ 11. \_\_\_\_\_ 12. \_\_\_\_\_ 13. \_\_\_\_\_ 14. \_\_\_\_\_ 15. \_\_\_\_\_ 16. \_\_\_\_\_ 17. \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.

Upon learning of the obligation of the seventh-day Sabbath, Annie Lawson immediately became obedient. However, Jimmie was obstinate. Some told him the Sabbath had been changed—others that it had been done away with. He finally came to the place where he no longer believed the Bible. At last he yielded his wavering will to God and became obedient.

N EARLY seven years had passed since Jimmie met with the tragic accident that ruined his health, blighted his hopes, and almost exhausted his financial resources. Yet his mother still prayed and trusted that all things would work out for good. All things were not good in themselves, but she knew that in God's overruling providence "all things" would eventually work out "for good to them that love God." Even now she could see God's workings. Perhaps if Jimmie had not been brought through this trying experience he would never have taken time to search the Scriptures.

One day a friend recommended to Jimmie a certain doctor in the United States whose courses of treatment had been the means of bringing renewed health to many. Willing to try anything, Jimmie decided to visit him. Mrs. Lawson, however, was not too hopeful of his receiving much benefit. She felt that almost all that medical skill could do for him had already been done. She feared that only another disappointment would await him there.

"Oh, if only Jimmie could be made well," she mused. "It is possible. 'With God all things are possible.'" Did not His Holy Word say, "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight"? 1 John 3:22. And had not Jesus Himself said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you"? John 16:23. When Jesus was on earth He healed the sick, and was He not just the same to-day? Yes, He is the same "yesterday, and to-day, and forever." This same Jesus who gave the centurion faith to say, "Speak



# Annie Lawson's Prayers

By Mary C. Murdoch

the word only, and my servant shall be healed," could give faith to her.

Therefore, in humble faith, Annie Lawson asked God to heal Jimmie even while he was on his journey. To the centurion, Jesus had answered, "As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour." Matthew 8:13. Thus it was with Mother Lawson. As she reached out and grasped the promises on behalf of her son, he was healed in that "selfsame hour."

Jimmie felt new life and vigour pulsating through his whole being, and he knew that God had healed him. On reaching his destination he made arrangements for a consultation with the doctor to whom he had been advised to go. This doctor, after giving him a thorough examination, pronounced him physically fit. Jimmie told the doctor of his years of helplessness, and how, while on his way to have treatments from him, he was miraculously healed. The doctor, who was a Christian, listened intently. After a moment of silence he looked earnestly at Jimmie and said, "I could never compete with the Great Physician."

When Jimmie heard that a large camp meeting was about to convene in a suburb of the city, he made his way to the campground. Here he worked for three days helping to pitch the tents. He who for years had not been able to work at all could now work with a sixteen-pound sledge hammer without any particular sense of exhaustion. During the camp-meeting session a testimony meeting was held for all who desired to speak of God's goodness. Jimmie was indeed glad of this opportunity to proclaim publicly what great things the Lord had done for him.

After the meetings were over Jimmie hastened home. When his mother saw him revived in spirit and restored in health, her heart overflowed with grateful praise. "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name." Psalm 103:1.

Since Jimmie had been so remarkably restored to health, he now felt himself under a double obligation to work for the Lord. Many were the opportunities that came to him to speak a word in season. Humbly and yet with a power that could not fail to reach hearts, he told the simple story of all that the Lord had done for him. It was

not only the spiritual blessings, however, that he shared with those around him. Within a remarkably short time Jimmie was again successful in building up a good business for himself. The text in Isaiah 58:7 which says, "Deal thy bread to the hungry, and . . . bring the poor that are cast out to thy house" was lived out in Jimmie's life in a very practical way.

Almost twenty years had passed since the Lawsons left Eastern Canada. They often talked of the old acquaintances they had left back there. Jimmie had many friends in Toronto whom he wished to see again. But it was to Muskoka that his mother wanted to go, for it was there that Hetty, her adopted daughter, had now made her home. So after some consideration, they decided to go to Ontario for their summer holidays. Before setting out on the trip Jimmie purchased a large quantity of gospel literature—booklets, pamphlets and magazines—which he distributed freely along the way.

The arrival of the Lawsons caused a stir around the old settlement. Among the many who gathered to greet them were Lura Robson and her father. In Lura, Jimmie could see but faint resemblance of the little school-

girl he had met so many years before. Mother Lawson was indeed happy to be with Hetty once more. Hetty was now married and was very eager to have her mother stay with her. Somehow Jimmie began to wonder if this visit back to the old home surroundings might be in God's divine plan for him. All week he had found himself thinking of Lura. Lura had grown to be a fine Christian young woman who believed as he believed. Could it be possible that she, like Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel, would be willing to leave her kindred and her father's house? Jimmie felt that if ever divine guidance was needed, it was in the choosing of a life companion. The more he prayed, the more he felt impressed to make known to Lura the fondest hopes and fervent wishes of his heart. Evidently Lura, like Rebekah of old, must have said, "I will go," for within a few weeks the wedding bells in the city of Toronto were chiming for Jimmie and his bride. With the assurance of a divine blessing and with the confidence that a mother's prayers would follow them, they proceeded on life's journey together.

(The End)

*Annie Lawson's prayers of faith for Jimmie have been answered. The earnest, fervent prayers of a righteous person avail much.*



HAROLD M. LAMBERT





# Mothers



*Mine*

*and*

*Others*

*By*

Martha E. Warner

**I**T WAS a little scrap of paper, tucked away in my alabaster box, so called because, like Mary of old, I had put into it my choicest treasures—treasures which set me to thinking not only of my mother, but of other mothers. And it may be, a little later on I will share with you its message. But now, just now, it seems to be the children I am thinking about.

It was but a few days ago that I received a letter from a young man. As I had known his family for years, he did not hesitate to write me of the mother he had lost; and near the close of the letter he said, "If I could live my life over again, I tell you, there are many things that would be different. But it's too late now, mother's gone."

Then there was the young woman who had caused her mother many a headache, but on the day that mother was laid in her grave, the daughter said to me, "If I could only see my mother alive for three minutes, I'd give all I have in this world." Again it was too late.

And now I am thinking not only of children, but of a mother—a mother who has been blind for years, and is now being shunted from her son's house to her daughter's house, and vice versa. Don't you think her life must hold many a headache?

It was Longfellow who said, "Even He who died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of His mother." It may be that our Saviour wanted to teach us that a child's duty is not done when he has fed, clothed and housed his parents. There is more, so very much more, if we are to have no regrets.

But now back to the alabaster box and the little scrap of paper which set me to thinking not only of my mother, but of other mothers. It came tucked in the folds of a dainty handkerchief edged with fine tatting, which mother had made for my birthday, and on it was written, "You have been a great comfort to me all your life. May God bless you, Precious. Love, Mother." Now as mother was in her ninety-fourth year, can you not understand why I treasured it?

In thinking back over the years of my childhood, youth and adulthood, I find that mother's voice has always stood out above all others—mother's voice as she prayed with us children each morning before we went to school; mother's voice in the evening as she read to us the Word of God. Her words followed me, and led me to the feet of Jesus.

Mother was in her ninety-sixth year when we laid her to rest beside father, on a little knoll facing Totoket Moun-

tain. There she waits for the glorious coming of our Saviour and happy reunion with her family. Even as I write, the scene comes back to me; and almost I can hear the voice of the pastor as he says:

"Warm summer sun,  
Shine kindly here;  
Warm southern wind,  
Blow softly here;  
Green sod above,  
Lie light, lie light.  
Good night, dear heart,  
Good night, good night."

—Robert Richardson.

My eyes were blinded with tears as I left mother that day, but now my heart is filled with joy because of the words written on that scrap of paper which rests in my alabaster box. And you, dear son and daughter, whoever you are and wherever you may be, can have that same happiness in your heart, if you to-day, and so long as you have your dear mother with you, find time to write to her, to visit her, and to shower her with little tendernesses. And I know because I know.



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