

Signs of the Times



PEACE and the
COLD WAR

(See pages 2 & 3)

Is the BIBLE
TRUSTWORTHY?

(See pages 10 & 11)



RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Will the nationalities of earth learn to live together before some incident turns the "cold war" into a "shooting war" and giant planes begin dropping high-power bombs upon defenseless people?

PEACE

and the

Cold War

FOUR years have passed since the close of the world war, and peace still eludes us. Large forces of troops are still intact over the earth. Borders are nervously guarded. Naval might is increasing. Air power mounts from year to year. Governments are greatly burdened with staggering budgets for armaments. Outside the United Nations troubled lands of earth are grouping themselves in military alliances. And within the United Nations all is not well. There the walls resound with recrimination and complaint.

We are told that all this amounts to a "cold war." Homes are not being blasted, but hopes are. Lives are not being sacrificed, but friendly relations are. Nations are not being invaded with destructive armies, but with destructive ideas. There is no open strife, but that which is more deadly to peace of mind—the subtle undermining of confidence by exaggeration and lies.

And the boards of strategy are still on the alert planning for this and



ARMY AIR FORCES PHOTO

that eventuality. Certain moves are made and others are planned to block them. The vigilant guardians of the air are prepared to strike at any moment or in any place.

In the meantime, the threat of annihilation is used to check a shooting war. No nation is taking any risk today. All are preparing for another war on as great a scale as possible just in

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Editor, DALLAS YOUNGS

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case one may break out. Weapons far deadlier than human imagination has conceived in past decades are being sought out. With these in hand, peace is being talked at tables around which men look at one another with great suspicion. With tongue in cheek, all say, "I am working for peace," even while they are feverishly preparing for war.

Never has there been a time like this. We have come to the most critical hour in human history. Raymond B. Fosdick, President of the Rockefeller Foundation and a keen observer of world events, pictures the general deterioration in human relations in an article appearing in the *New York Times* Sunday Magazine, December 19, 1948. He says in part:

"The desperate crisis which we face to-day in human affairs is due to the disproportion between our development of science and engineering on the one hand, and our knowledge of human behaviour and social relations on the other. We have armed our primitive instincts with weapons by which we can destroy our civilization even while we protest that we are trying to save it. For the first time in his history, man's curiosity and ingenuity have led him to sources of physical power by which, unless ethical and social restraints can be discovered, he will blow himself and his institutions into final dust."

The dreadful consequences of the last war can hardly be comprehended. An article in *Harper's Magazine* (April, 1949) on "What the War Cost," tries to give some idea of this. Summing up, the author says:

"The military expenditures recorded in national budgets—let us assume that they are accurate—come to a total of over one trillion dollars, or \$1,117,000,000,000. Let us further assume that the cost of destruction came to at least twice that figure; this is a very modest assumption indeed, for in some countries it was much more than twice, though in others it was less. This would give us a figure of a little less than two and a quarter trillions, or \$2,234,000,000,000. Toss in an additional \$650,000,000,000 for the sort of losses which I have said above tend to elude even the most industrious figure-makers. Then add up these monstrous sums, and you get a grand total of just about four trillion dollars. Or, if a trillion is difficult to comprehend, say four thousand thousand million dollars.

"Forty million people and four trillion dollars. Look hard at those figures and you begin dimly to see what World War II cost. And even so, you have left out the moral cost of what man so systematically and purposefully did to man."

It is strange indeed, since war is so dreadful, that men should seek recourse to it to settle their differences. But man seems to know of no other way than the use of force to carry out his will. This was not so dangerous a method in former days. We are living under different circumstances to-day. Mr. Fosdick comments on this unique situation as follows:

"We know now, far more accurately than our forefathers could guess, just how high the price is that we shall pay for war. With the new weapons at our disposal, the trial and error technique, as it relates to the international scene, is no longer possible. The time has gone by when two nations can resort to arms and then later decide to live as best they can in the same world. The next general resort to arms will be the final decision and the final issue, and when it is concluded there will be no habitable world left for either nation to retreat to."—*The New York Times*, Dec. 19, 1948.

The Bible long ago depicted such a time as this. Jeremiah aptly described our day when he wrote, "We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble!" Jeremiah 8:15. "They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace." Jeremiah 6:14.

Men have always longed for peace. They still long for it. Never before in human history has so much time been spent in seeking permanent peace. Treaties, alliances, conventions, leagues, have not been able to hold back the evil forces that drive men to war. Our hopes have been blasted again and again. Many have quoted Scripture to show that peace movements would succeed:

"Many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord . . . And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Isaiah 2:3, 4.

But those who quote this text forget another one which prophesies that just the opposite of this will take place in the last days. Of this we read in Joel 3:9-12: "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 pruning hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause Thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. 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."

How shall we harmonize these verses? They are harmonized in the paradox of our times. The one in Isaiah states that "many people shall go and say." This is just what is being done. Never have so many people been at work for peace as to-day. They have declared that there shall be no more war. Yes, war has even been outlawed by a serious treaty. But what do we find? The nations are doing just what the prophet Joel said they would be doing in the last days. They are preparing for total war. And when necessary they will turn their factories, which have been erected for the production of implements of peace, into arsenals for the production of the weapons of war. Even the weakest of nations feels the need of concentrating its efforts on preparation for war.

Yes, many people shall say, "Peace, peace." But behold we have sudden destruction instead. This has been true to such an extent that to-day we must call our present peace by another name, "a cold war."

The Word of God tells us that though men long for peace, "the spirits of devils, working miracles, . . . 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." Revelation 16:14.

Joel says of this time, "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 3:13, 14.

This time of crisis in the life of man is a sign that the day of the Lord is near. That which man is unable to do for himself, God will do. But He must first renovate the world (2 Peter 3:10-13), destroy those who destroy the earth (Revelation 11:18), and then set up His own everlasting kingdom. (Daniel 2:44.)

Then Christ, the true Prince of Peace, shall reign forever and ever. (Isaiah 9:6, 7.) It is for this time that all should prepare, by confessing Christ as Saviour and Lord, and by obedience to God's will as revealed in the Scriptures. "Therefore be ye also ready;" said Christ, "for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44.

By Frederick Lee



More than two thousand five hundred years of the world's history was outlined in a few minutes by the young prophet Daniel—prophecy that subsequent events have proved to be accurate to the letter.

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.

THE Saunders and their friends seem to be getting more and more interested in Bible study," observed Mrs. Flynn as she and Pastor Flynn started for their regular Wednesday evening appointment.

"Yes, they do, don't they? Especially Joyce Clement, Harry Pierson and Mr. and Mrs. Hoover. When we started, the Hoovers were definitely anti-re-

ligious, but now their attitude seems to be changing. They are really fine people; but like so many others, they have never taken time to investigate for themselves the teachings of the Bible."

"I don't recall that we ever before had a Bible study group in which everyone was a young person. I imagine Mr. and Mrs. Ryan are the oldest of the group, and I don't believe Mr. Ryan is more than twenty-four or twenty-five."

"Well, all these people are friends and associates of the Saunders; there-

fore they would likely be about the same age. If these young people will give their hearts to the Lord for His service, they can do great things. Think of what the disciples accomplished in the propagation of the gospel after the death of Jesus. I have faith to believe that some of our Bible study group, perhaps all of them, will give themselves wholly to Christ and find their place in His service."

"I trust that such may be the case," replied Mrs. Flynn earnestly.

"We are studying to-night about one of the great prophecies of the Bible," announced Pastor Flynn. "Prophecy is history before it takes place, and it provides one of the most conclusive proofs of the divine origin of the Bible. No living person can foretell the future. Not one of us can tell what will take place to-morrow, or even in the next five minutes. However, God is able to tell the end from the beginning. In the Bible He has depicted many events centuries and sometimes millenniums before they came to pass. He has foretold the rise and fall of nations. To-day we may study these predictions and see where we are living in relation to the prophetic chart of world history."

"History was my favourite study in school," said Mr. Saunders with a smile. "I imagine that I shall find prophecy even more interesting. Where do we find the prophecy we are going to study to-night?"

"You may open your Bibles to Daniel, the second chapter, and we shall read the first three verses to begin with: 'In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers and the Chaldeans, for to show the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said unto them, *I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.*'"

"This opens up the subject for us. Before I comment on this, I wish to read verses 28, 29, which tells us the time to which the king's dream applies. 'But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to king Nebuchadnezzar *what shall be in the latter days.* Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed are these: As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, *what should come to pass hereafter; and He that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.*'"

"Nebuchadnezzar was emperor of great Babylon, the first world empire. He was unable to see the future regarding his mighty empire, and as he lay on

SIGNS of the TIMES

The Prophetic Outline of DANIEL 2

his couch one night he fell to giving consideration to its future. Would it be perpetuated? Or would it disintegrate and be overthrown by another empire? These thoughts troubled him. Naturally, he wanted to perpetuate his name and his kingdom.

"God took note of what this man was thinking and He gave him a dream portraying the history of the world from his time until the end of the world. Unfortunately, when the king awoke he could not recall his dream — it had passed from him. Nevertheless, the impression it left was so strong that he called in the wise men of his court, men who purported to be able to reveal hidden and secret matters, and charged them to reveal to him both the dream and its interpretation.

"When the wise men were unable to comply with the king's command to reveal the dream, the king ordered that they and their houses should be destroyed. Daniel was a young man, a Hebrew, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken captive. On account of his great learning (Upon examination he was found to be ten times wiser than they.), he was counted among the wise men of the king's court. It appears, however, that Daniel first knew of that particular matter when the executioner came for him. In this emergency he displayed the wisdom for which he was noted. He gained an audience with the king, and promised that, if given time, he would reveal the matter."

"How could he do this, Pastor Flynn? He didn't know the dream any more than did the other wise men, did he?" asked the new member, Harry Pierson.

"No, he didn't, Harry. Not even Daniel was wise enough to know that. But he knew where to find out. He went home, enlisted the aid of his trusted friends, Mishael, Azariah and Hananiah, and together they held a prayer meeting. That night God revealed the dream to Daniel, together with its interpretation. 'Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.' Verse 19."

"I suppose the first thing Daniel did when he awoke was to get an audience with the king and tell him

the dream," observed Mrs. Ryan.

"No, the first thing he did was to thank God for having revealed the dream to him. Then he sought an audience with king Nebuchadnezzar. The dream answered the question which the king had in mind. Babylon would not stand forever. Nebuchadnezzar's throne would not be perpetuated.

" 'Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. . . . This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.' Verses 31-35.

"As Daniel related the dream, Nebuchadnezzar did not question its accuracy. It all came back to him, and the fact that the young prophet could reveal the subject matter of the dream itself gave the king confidence in the accuracy of the interpretation. God had given the king a vision of a great metallic image with head of

ing could be plainer, simpler or more direct. Nebuchadnezzar at the head of the mighty Babylonian Empire was symbolized by the head of gold of the image.

"History describes Babylon as 'the golden kingdom in a golden age.' (See Jeremiah 27:1-11; Isaiah 14:4; 13: 19.) Nebuchadnezzar had made Babylon a great metropolis, sixty miles in circumference. Temples, palaces and hanging gardens made it one of the world's seven wonders. Babylon ruled the world from 606 to 538 B.C., when it was overthrown in the days of Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson.

"Continuing, Daniel said: 'And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee.' Verse 39.

"The kingdom that is described as 'inferior' was Medo-Persia. Medo-Persia overthrew Babylon in 538 B.C. and ruled the world until she was overthrown by the kingdom of brass in 331 B.C., (Compare Daniel 5:25-31; 6:28; Ezra 1:1, 2.)

"Going on with his interpretation, Daniel told the king: 'And another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth,' Verse 39, last part.

"The kingdom of brass represents the Grecian kingdom which, under the leadership of Alexander, overthrew Persia in 331 B.C., and ruled until conquered in 168 B.C., by the kingdom represented by the legs of iron.

" 'And the fourth kingdom,' said Daniel, 'shall be strong as iron.' Verse 40.

"History knows Rome as the 'iron monarchy.' The armies of Rome defeated the Greeks at the battle of Pydna in 168 B.C., and ruled the world until A.D. 476, a period of about 650 years. Rome was ruling the world at the time of the first advent of Christ. There was universal peace in the world at that time because all nations had been conquered by the legions of Rome. There was no nation extant able to challenge the might of the iron monarchy. Bethlehem became the birthplace of Jesus because of Roman taxation: 'And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all

By Dallas Youngs

gold, breast and arms of silver, stomach and thighs of brass, legs of iron and feet of both iron and clay.

"As we shall see, the different parts of this great image represented different nations that would arise. In this prophetic man is portrayed more than 2500 years of the world's history.

"When Daniel had finished telling the dream he said: 'This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, . . . art this head of gold.' Noth-

the world should be taxed.' Luke 2:1. No nation taxes all the world unless it rules all the world."

"What nation overthrew Rome in A.D. 476?" asked Mr. Hoover.

"Rome was not overthrown by another world empire," replied Pastor Flynn. "Rome was divided into ten parts, as is indicated by the ten toes of the image. 'And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided.' Verse 41.

"Babylon, Medo-persia and Greece were overthrown in turn by a succeeding world empire, but the prophecy made no such prediction for Rome. Rome was to be broken up, divided—and that is exactly what happened between the years A.D. 351 and 476. The ten toes of the image indicate the division of the iron kingdom and symbolize the nations into which the Roman Empire was to be broken up. The division was as follows: Anglo-Saxons (England), the Visigoths (Spain), the Lombards (Italy), the Burgundians (Switzerland), the Franks (France), the Alamanni (Germany), the Suevi (Portugal), the Heruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths. The last three are not now extant."

"Are we to understand from this, Pastor Flynn, that the ten kingdoms which came out of the Roman Empire were always to remain divided?" asked Mr. Goldstein.

"That is what verse 43 says: 'Whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.'

"Those seven words, 'they shall not cleave one to another,' have blighted the hopes of some of the world's greatest military geniuses. They stopped the armies of Kaiser Wilhelm, defeated Adolph Hitler and brought to nought the ambitions of Napoleon Bonaparte. During the past fifteen centuries every man who has cherished the ambition of welding the broken fragments of the Old Roman Empire into another single kingdom has met his Waterloo through the overruling providences of God."

"What is meant by 'they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men'?" asked Mrs. Goldstein.

"That means that the ruling houses of these respective kingdoms would intermarry in an effort to strengthen their position. We find that before the current overthrow of many of the royal houses of Europe the ruling families had intermarried to the extent that virtually every family was related to every other family. But this did not serve to bind them together any more than did the might of armies. The prophetic word of God spoken six hundred years before the birth of Christ has proved stronger than mar-

riage alliances, guns, battleships, armies or intrigue. The words, 'they shall not cleave one to another,' have as much strength to-day as they had the day Daniel spoke them to Nebuchadnezzar, as any would-be-conqueror of Western Europe will bitterly discover."

"How long will the kingdoms of Western Europe continue? Will they never be overthrown?" inquired Joyce Clement.

"They will be overthrown," replied Pastor Flynn, "but not until Christ comes and establishes the kingdom of glory. 'In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: ... but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.' Daniel 2:44.

"The stone that strikes the image on the feet represents the kingdom of God, which destroys all existing worldly nations and then itself fills the whole earth. (Matthew 25:31-34.)

"The stone is cut out of the mountain without hands, thus indicating divine power. We are now living 'in the days of these kings.' The next event in this prophetic drama is the coming of Jesus Christ and the setting up of His kingdom of glory."

Now that you have read and studied the lesson on *The Prophetic Outline of Daniel 2*, turn to page 18 and fill in the answers to Pastor Flynn's Quiz.

Did Pope Pius Come Back?

Are the dead, poor man or prelate, able to return
from the tomb?

A VERY great deal is made by the Roman Catholic hierarchy of reputed "appearances" by worthies of old with messages for the church from the "beyond."

Thus far, the most notable of such alleged "appearances" have been those of the virgin Mary. The places where she is supposed to have manifested herself, like Lourdes in France and Fatima in Portugal, draw millions of pilgrims every year.

Recently, however, an "appearance" of a new kind has been given publicity in a number of Catholic or-

gans, which may have a very great significance for the Roman Church and the world as a whole; namely, the "return" of a dead pope with a momentous message to a pontiff-to-be.

The story to which we refer was apparently printed originally in *L'Illustrato della Domenica* of Rome. It was quoted by another Rome publication,

By W. L. Emmerson

Il Crocifisso, the organ of the Passionist Fathers, from which it reached *The Cross* of Dublin, and still more recently the English journal, *The Universe*.

According to this story, published "with all due reserve," it appears that a few days before the assembling of the conclave at which Cardinal Pacelli was elected Pope Pius XII, he was in his study after nightfall when a white-clad figure, seemingly surrounded by an aureole of light, appeared before him.

The cardinal, it is stated, recognized

SIGNS of the TIMES

the apparition as Pope Pius X, who occupied the papal throne from 1903 to 1914, and addressed him as "Your Holiness."

The white-clad figure confirmed his identity, saying, "Yes, beloved son, it is I," and continued:

"The Almighty has granted me the great favour of speaking to thee. Within a few days thou shalt be the new Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth, even as I once unworthily held that office. Terrible happenings will scourge the world during thy pontificate. . . . Be strong to guide the helm of the church. . . . Thou wilt be the sole comfort towards which the hopes of millions of men will turn."

We do not question the sincerity of those who have passed the story on from journal to journal; nor do we question the possibility of an "apparition" appearing to any individual, whether pope or layman, adult or little child, but what we do seriously question is the true identity of the "apparition."

The Bible is very clear in its repeated declarations that when human beings pass from the land of the living their "thoughts perish" (Psalm 146:4), they "know not anything" (Ecclesiastes 9:5), and they can have no "more a portion for ever in anything that is done under the sun" (verse 6), until they are wakened out of their "sleep" in the first or the second resurrection. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-16; Revelation 20:4-6.)

As we have said so many times about

the virgin Mary, that she could not possibly appear to anyone in our day because she is "asleep" in death, so now we must assert that the being which is purported to have appeared to the future Pius XII could not possibly have been his predecessor, Pope Pius X.

If Roman Catholics gave careful heed to the voice of Peter, who on one occasion categorically asserted that David is "not ascended into the heavens" (Acts 2:34), they would realize that neither Mary nor Pius X could be there either.

Pius X knows nothing of what has happened in the past thirty-five years, nor anything of what is going to happen in the future. And as he has been "asleep" since the day of his death, he could not conceivably be the bearer of any message from the "Almighty." Who, then, could have impersonated the dead pope? Clearly it was not an angel from the throne of God, for no good angel would have been dispatched upon such a mission. If, therefore, such an appearance did take place—the report seemingly is not at the moment corroborated from the highest quarters and is issued "with reserve"—it could only have been one of the "deceiving spirits," who the Scriptures declare will be especially active in the last days.

These deceiving spirits, the revelator tells us, speak through the mouth of the "dragon" and the "beast" and the "false prophet" with deceptions to which the adherents of these several

last-day powers will be particularly susceptible.

The Roman Church, by its acceptance of the false doctrines of the consciousness of the dead, the entrance of the righteous to heavenly bliss and the trials of those needing purification in purgatory, has laid itself open, from the highest authorities downward, to deception by spirits impersonating notables of the church, just as the same false doctrine lays non-Catholic Spiritualists open to like deceptions; and we may be sure that the chief of the deceiving spirits will increasingly use this avenue of approach to accomplish his fell purposes in those who are susceptible to this form of delusion.

Indeed, we may expect the arch-enemy to provide more and more of these miraculous "appearances" in order to exalt the Papacy in the eyes of the world and place it in a position where he can use it for his last terrific attempt against the government of God.

The only safety from these "strong delusions" of the last days which will lead the masses of mankind to "believe" Satan's last "lie," is to receive the "love of the truth" as it is set forth in God's Holy Word.

How important it is, then, that the people of God should fortify themselves by a constant and diligent study of the Word, that they may detect the deceiver in whatever "disguise" he may assume, and so be preserved blameless until the coming of our Lord in glory for His own.



REVIEW AND HERALD

Was Pope Pius able to circumvent this divine decree and return from the "land of silence"? We think not. "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything." Ecclesiastes 9:5.



WORLD AS WE SEE IT!

**A Prophetic Interpretation
of Current Events!**

Sunday

Our attention has been directed to two articles appearing in a daily newspaper coming to our desk. The first, a news item under the caption, "Local Rector Protests Sunday Sports," and the second an editorial, "Violating Sunday Laws." The clergyman, says the news report, protests the fact that local bowling alleys and pool halls have found a way to circumvent existing Sunday laws and to keep their establishments open on that day, extant decrees notwithstanding.

The aforementioned editorial finds fault with the Lord's Day Alliance for having closed the community concerts, which were held after church, and which were of a highly cultural nature, because of payments having been made to certain of the appearing artists. This, says the editor, has drawn criticism down upon the heads of the Lord's Day Alliance people because of the fact that the bowling alleys and billiard parlours remain open.



H. A. ROBERTS

Is Sunday a day of rest or work? According to the Lord's Day Alliance you must rest; according to the Bible it is a working day, the first one of the week.

Personally, and I say this at the risk of being called a heathen by those who read no farther than this paragraph, I see no more harm in community concerts or the rolling of bowling or pool balls on Sunday than on Monday, Tuesday or any other working day of the week. As a matter of fact, Sunday is, according to the record of creation and divine law, a working day — the first one of the week, to be exact. This is a fact that may be attested from multiple sources.

We have full confidence in the earnestness and sincerity of both the minister and the editor in the case; however, we would direct attention to the fact that earnestness and sincerity are no substitutes for accuracy. It makes no difference how earnestly you may travel; if you are going in the wrong direction you will never reach your destination unless you change your course. It is axiomatic, that starting with a false premise, you must arrive at an unsound conclusion.

To say that Sunday is the Sabbath day, or that it is a holy day of any sort whatsoever, is to start with a false premise. Therefore, any conclusions drawn from that premise are certain to be erroneous.

We wonder just how peculiar, in this age of modern, shifting religious views, we would be regarded if we directed our readers' attention to some plain, homely, matter-of-fact statements from the Bible itself. To begin with there is the Genesis statement of creation: "And God said, Let there be light, and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." Genesis 1:3-5.

The first day of the week, according to all reliable sources, is Sunday. This being the case, then Sunday is the first day of the weekly cycle, upon which God Himself worked. It is our humble opinion that the creature cannot go very far wrong by following the example of the Creator. We ask, Upon what basis could God condemn a man for following His example of working on the first day of the week, especially when the divine example is accompanied by a divine command, contained in the very heart of the law that is recognized by all Christendom as the foundation of all morality?

"Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy

SIGNS of the TIMES

son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:9-11.

Man's work and rest programme was declared by both example and decree. To say that we observe Sunday because others do so is but to follow the line of least resistance. It is the height of presumption to suppose that God will accept a substitute of man's convenience, instead of the specific thing which He has commanded. Said Jesus: "In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:9.

During the time of His earthly ministry Jesus effected no change in the divine statutes. During His ministry He said: "I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." John 15:10. Early in His ministry Jesus demonstrated the way in which He kept the fourth of His Father's commandments: "He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read." Luke 4:16.

Admittedly all religionists, Protestant and Catholic alike, concede that there is not a grain of evidence in either the Old or the New Testament that shows divine authority for the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, instead of Saturday, the seventh day of the week.

The premise that Sunday is the first working day of the week being sound, upon what basis, then, is the objection made to community concerts, or in fact to honest work of any type? It can be only on the basis of human laws that are contrary to divine laws. To this we can give no other answer than did Peter: "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29.

Speed and Space

THE Mount Wilson telescope will reach out into space about half a billion light-years, but the 200-inch Hale instrument will double that. A billion light-years is a long distance — more distance, in fact, than it is possible for the human mind to conceive in miles. However, tremendous as it is, it is not the end of space — it is not the "jumping-off place" where space has an end.

The sun is computed to be something over ninety million miles distant from the earth. If, in our imagination, we were to ride a beam of light from the sun to the earth it would take only about eight minutes. If, however, we were to extend our journey to the nearest star it would take more than four years. But if we were to go farther afield in the universe and were to employ the aid of the Mount Palomar telescope, we would be carried a full billion light-years distant. That journey would take one billion of earth's normal years travelling at the speed of 186,000 miles a second.

Even to those of us who live in this twentieth century, and who have become accustomed to the heretofore unbelievable speed of jet planes, speed of 186,000 miles a second and a billion light-years of space stag-



ger the imagination. It was once thought that the planet earth was the centre of the universe. It took a long time for us to realize that the earth revolves about the sun, and that our sun is but one of trillions of others that occupy space so unlimited that it cannot be comprehended.

We do not know the location of the throne of God in the universe, but we are convinced that it must be a tremendous distance from this planet — perhaps even beyond the range of the 200-inch telescope. Such being the case, we are led to wonder about the speed which angels are able to travel. Hebrews 1:14 tells us that they are "all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation."

How long does it take an angel, after having received instructions concerning some "heir of salvation," to travel from the throne of God to this earth? Unfortunately we do not have as much information as we would wish from the Bible to offer in answer to this question. We do, however, have the instance of the visit of the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel. Daniel was engaged in earnest prayer to the throne of God, and following is the record of the way it was answered:

"Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. *At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee;* for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision." Daniel 9:21-23.

When Daniel began his prayer the command was given to Gabriel to go to the praying prophet. He executed the command and stood by the side of Daniel before he had completed his prayer. It takes possibly two minutes to read the prayer as it is recorded in the ninth chapter. We don't know how far Gabriel travelled from the throne of God to the prophet's side, but we conceive that his speed exceeded that of jet planes, rockets or space ships — yes, it was faster by far than the speed of light. It appears that as far as the angels are concerned, space is virtually annihilated. But more wonderful, perhaps, as far as human beings are concerned, are the words of Jesus saying that the redeemed will in some respects be like unto the angels.

OUR attitude toward the Bible will, of course, be determined by our confidence in it. And this is the fundamental question of every reader about the Bible—not, "Is it inspired?" but, "Is it trustworthy?" Can we rely on its statements? We can be entirely without any theory of inspiration and still greatly enjoy and greatly benefit from the Bible if we can only be assured of its reliability.

There are many who think the question of the Bible's trustworthiness can be settled only by experts, scholars, or critics, and is beyond the limits of possibility for the ordinary person who is without special technical equipment. But this is not true.

God gave man an intelligence. With this he can perceive, compare, reason. It follows, therefore, that all men, to a greater or less degree, possess the ability to examine and decide concerning matters which affect their interests.

Learning, while of great value, is not everything. No amount of critical knowledge and erudition can take the place of plain common sense. No class monopolizes all wisdom. The possession of great intelligence does not preclude the possibility of making great mistakes. No general assumption of learning, authority, or infallibility in this realm can settle these matters. It is better in this important matter of the trustworthiness of the Bible to use whatever of intelligence and common sense our Maker has granted us in an endeavour to come to right conclusions than to sit down in dumb and awful silence, abashed by the majesty of some learned professor or college president, and consider his word law and his decision an end of all controversy.

Critics May Make Mistakes

Learning is neither logic nor common sense. It is altogether possible for men of cultivated minds to find themselves lost in the labyrinths of their own theories, and to assume positions which contradict the common sense of the world. No man knows everything. What the uncultivated man knows he *knows*. What the learned man does *not* know he is just as ignorant of as is the most uncultivated ignoramus. He may be able to talk vaguely. He may be able to conceal his ignorance under learned words and obscure phraseologies. He may tell you what he does *not* know in a dozen different languages. But the fact of his utter ignorance remains.

It is not necessary, therefore, for any person in considering this question of the Bible's trustworthiness to abandon either his faith or his common sense and incontinently swallow the vague



In sickness or in health the Bible may be depended upon to point the way of life. Its pages the "plan of salvation" is set forth in all its convincing glory.

SIGNS of the TIMES

Is The Bible Trustworthy?

speculations, crude interpretations and rash and contradictory assertions of men who would have us consider them critical oracles and encyclopedic geniuses. He does not need to be so dazed at displays of learning, which may be either bought or borrowed, that he accepts with unquestioning confidence the unsupported assertions, the undigested fancies and the unmitigated follies of the so-called higher critics. It is not necessary for him to accept as teachers those who clothe themselves with an air of inerrancy. These critics should not be allowed to take upon themselves the task of thinking, studying, analyzing, comparing, investigating and deciding for us. We are fully able to do our own thinking in this matter, and capable of arriving at our own conclusions.

Method of Deciding

It is not only possible for every person, but it is his duty, to test for himself this question of the Bible's reliability. There are many ways of doing this, five of which will be used here as illustrations. These five are the history of the Jewish nation, the findings of archeology, the testimony of Jesus Christ, the seal and endorsement of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual experience of the church. Each of these, taken separately, is sufficiently convincing. Taken together, they will be seen to supply the searcher for truth with opportunities and methods of reaching a positive, final decision regarding this matter which is altogether satisfying to the candid, sincere inquirer.

This matter of reaching a decision on this question is so vital and altogether important that without an assurance of the substantial reliability of the Scriptures, both the life and the testimony of the seeker for light must be seriously damaged. In order that he may arrive at this bedrock of assurance for himself, by his own investigation, these five ways are indicated, and, in connection therewith, certain fundamental principles are set forth.

Frederick the Great, on a certain occasion, said to one of his marshals, who was a devout Christian, "Give me in one word a proof of the truth of the Bible." The laconic, and altogether unanswerable, reply was, "Sire, the Jews."

The nation of the Jews is a fact in history. The record of this nation is set forth in the Old Testament. Very little contemporary history exists by which to enable us to verify the scriptural record. Archeological discoveries afford us some assistance, but only on points of detail, not for any long, continuous period.

But this record of the history of the Jewish nation can be demonstrated to have remained the same over many centuries of time. And all that is known from other sources is found to be in exact agreement with the Old Testament.

Here, then, is a great outstanding fact: the Jewish nation. The Old Testament originated in this nation. It contains the record of the nation. It developed with the nation. It moulded and formed the nation. It witnessed against the nation. We can look to this nation, then, for the earliest and most convincing testimony of the reliability of the Old Testament.

And on this basis the trustworthiness of these writings is convincingly evidenced. The Old Testament is altogether in accord with the historic development and position of the Jewish nation. Consequently we can test the Old Testament by the history of the Jews. So testing it, we discover it in complete accord with all we know of the national life of the Jewish people.

Nation Destroyed; People Preserved

God threatened the destruction of the Jewish nation: "Among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest; but the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind; and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life." Deuteronomy 28:65, 66.

Notwithstanding all this punishment, and dispersion, and persecution, it is predicted that the Jews shall exist as a people, contrary to all expectation: "Yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly." Leviticus 26:44.

(Please turn to page 15)

By

Carlyle B.

Haynes

H. A. ROBERTS

Within



The Bomber on Top

Just now it is believed that the bombers have the advantage over the fighters in air warfare. Those who know about such things believe that the powerful B-36 would be able to defend itself effectively against the fighters now developed. It carries formidable armament and can fly 400 miles an hour. It is not believed, however, that this superiority will be maintained by the B-36 for long. Already underway are all-jet bombers and better fighters.

One weapon already in existence for which no adequate defence is at hand is the V-2 type rocket that strikes down from the stratosphere at speeds of around 3,500 miles an hour. The United States, claims General Joseph T. McNarney, Chief of the Air Materiel Command, can now build a guided missile that can fly 5,000 miles without a human passenger. Effective accuracy is still a problem, but it can be solved.

Young Man in a Hurry

The United States Army Air Force has a flyer who has experienced many times what very few men have ever experienced—supersonic flight. Flying a stubby winged plane that cannot leave the ground by itself, he is reported to have flown hundreds of miles faster than sound, and has done so repeatedly. His experimental plane is powered by rockets which burn liquid oxygen and alcohol and is packed full of recording instruments which bring back a complete scientific record of each flight. Dropped from the belly of a bomber at a speed of 240 miles an hour, it burns its fuel in less than four minutes of wide-open flying and lands at 164 miles an hour. Civilian pilots are reported to have refused offers of as much as \$150,000 for flying this strange little plane at speeds faster than sound. For Air-Force pay and the love of flying, the Army has accomplished it.

Diagnosis

Another step, perhaps a long one, has been taken in the early diagnosis of cancer in certain parts of the body. A Yale University anatomist and a New York University gynecologist had a Yale physicist build a special microvoltmeter which measures millionths of a volt. With its use seventy-four out of seventy-five cancer patients were correctly diagnosed by the two inventors of the process. Presence of cancer, or certain other abnormalities, in a patient made a difference in the response of the microvoltmeter to the body's electrical potential. One of the advantages of the method is that it takes only twenty-five minutes. The great disadvantage, to date, is that it is usable only for certain body areas.

Victory for Morality

Liquor interests in British Columbia suffered two body blows recently. First, the Provincial Legislature refused consideration of any change in existing liquor laws in the province. Second, the Provincial Cabinet has decided not to submit the issue to the people in the forthcoming Provincial election. Both decisions, it was announced came about through strong and numerous protests by church groups and other organizations opposing any change. British Columbia has shown that IT CAN BE DONE.

IN this solemn hour the King of kings proclaims to all the nations, "Prepare to meet thy God." Amos 4:12. This summons follows a reminder of the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah—a fate that will assume global proportions when God shall close the hideous programme of the archwarmonger. Hence the earnest appeal, "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless." 2 Peter 3:14.

"Found of Him in peace"? Will there be such a people on the earth as it madly plunges to Armageddon? Basing our reply on the certainty of God's Word, we unhesitatingly answer, Yes. What a marked contrast such a people will be, as the millions of earth reach the crescendo of strife. Too, what a strikingly contrasted programme of preparedness will have been theirs, in response to the summons of the great "I AM."

Jesus compared these latter days to the days of Noah. Of that generation we present the following pointed exposures: "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. . . . The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted His way upon the earth." Genesis 6:5, 11, 12.

And now the parallel: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

Preparing to meet God demands far more than seeking church affiliation. Please observe that the long list of sins given as signs of these last days, begins with the very sin that started Lucifer on the programme that made him a devil. Here it is: "Lovers of their own selves." Then follows covetousness and boasting. What chance is there for peace in this tragic hour when the very condition that changed an angel into a warmonger, prevails so generally among professing Christians? This is a major cause for the prevailing "distress of nations, with perplexity," which Jesus gave as a sign of His coming. (Luke 21:25.)

But do not lose faith in real Chris-

THE END of STRIFE

By R. A. Hubley

tianity because of this colossal counterfeiting. If the actual currency of heaven were non-existent, counterfeiting could serve no purpose in Satan's programme. The striking contrast between the two types when Christ shall come is vividly portrayed. The vast multitude of all nations will become insane with fear. (See Revelation 6:14-17.) The children of God will look up with rejoicing and say, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us." Isaiah 25:9.

How significant the salutation, "THIS is our God." There will not be one guilty, cringing soul in that victorious group. Every member of that righteous remnant will be God-centred. Not a soul, from the fair maiden to the stooping grandmother, or from the vigorous young man with firmly knit muscles to the aged grandsire, will be cheapened by "the pride of life." In that purged, prepared last legion of the cross none will be "lovers of their own selves." There will not be one counterfeit among those beaming countenances as they gaze heavenward on the grandest pageant of all time.

It is to be expected that such people would stir the wrath of the dragon whose battle of the ages has been directed against the law of God. Divine prophecy depicts the issue in these words: "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17. This could not be written if they were careless regarding one of God's holy precepts, for it is written, "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10.

This description of preparedness blends with the entire Bible. Isaiah, rapt in vision, beheld the hour of consummation and the people prepared for the convulsive crisis. To quote: "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but My salvation shall be forever, and My righteousness shall not be abolished. Harken unto Me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My law." Isaiah 51:6, 7.

What a contrast to the mere "form of godliness" is shown in this exhibit of the prepared people whose lives

diffuse righteousness out of hearts in which is written God's law. No discord will mar this sturdy remnant who KNOW righteousness, for we read, "The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever." Isaiah 32:17. And again, "Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Psalm 119:165.

Whence this transformation of character? No ethical code could effect such a miraculous change. Dead works of the law could not supply the spiritual dynamite for such a complete antithesis from the carnal nature. Neither cold ritualism nor religious excitement could change the sinner from disobedience to God's law to a life of complete submission and obedience in word and deed. This work can be wrought only by the Man whose name is "Wonderful." Saith He, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8.

Jesus is both the author of salvation and its omnipotent finisher. "For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." Romans 9:28. It was He who made all things in heaven and on earth. (John 1:1-3; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1, 2.) When He completed the six days of miracle-working power in creating this world and all therein, He pronounced it "very good." Genesis 1:31. As His crowning work He made man and invested him with dominion "over all the earth." That glorious beginning was one revealing righteousness, peace and good will.

Under such ideal conditions the first Sabbath was kept. Resting in God's love, the primitive pair, richly endowed with mental and spiritual acumen, kept Sabbath with their Creator—JESUS. Upon this blissful scene the strains of celestial harmony came wafting through the gates of eternity upon this new world, as angels joined in a mighty oratorio of praise. (See Job 38:4-7.) The divine decree had set the boundary of the weekly cycle—the memorial of God's wonderful works—to remain to all generations. (Psalm 135:13.) Thus God's plan for this world had been perfectly initiated.

But the one who had marred the peace of heaven marred the wonder-

ful plan of God for this world. The tranquility of Eden was interrupted by the entrance of sin. The first Adam failed, but divine love and wisdom had, from time eternal, made provision for the last Adam. (1 Corinthians 15:45.) He would be not only a living soul, but a "quickening Spirit." God's original plan, though destined to be side-tracked through centuries of strife, suffering, tragedy and death, would again be restored by "Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Matthew 1:23. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.

This wonderful plan of salvation, laid in the bosom of infinite love, could be successfully carried through in no other way than that of unutterable agony to the Deity, but divine love is "strong as death." Songs of Solomon 8:6. He who had cast Lucifer out of heaven, would stoop to the estate of humanity, and in a programme of love that would take Him to the cross, He would eliminate the regime of the adversary from this earth.

The hour of consummation has come. Says the Bible, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:12. This explains the frenzy with which the world is seized as it advances to the hour of doom for the warmonger and all who are cursed with the virus of war. All human efforts to prevent war have miserably failed. Soon the Man whose name is "Wonderful... The Prince of Peace," will terminate all strife.

Reader, are you ready to join in the scene depicted in these words: "Every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Revelation 5:13.

To open the gates of paradise for you, Jesus chose to take the agony of the cross. Are you prepared to meet Him in peace? Does war in its incipency or causative stage exist within you to imperil your soul? Are you in actual life and in your inmost soul living a life of peace with God and man? This is your privilege. Will you embrace it?



BIBLE ANSWERS

by your Bible Answerman

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

Dear Bible Answerman: If God is a God of mercy and love and the director of the universe, why does He send earthquakes and tidal waves which kill thousands of people?

This presents a problem to many people. The fact is, however, that God does not send these destructive agencies. It must be remembered that Satan, at present, is the god of this world. When in the Garden of Eden he succeeded in getting Adam to obey him, he introduced sin into the human family, together with all its horrible results, among which are earthquakes and tidal waves. God does not send these things. They do not originate with the God of love and peace, but rather with God's enemy, Satan. Sickness, accidents and death in all forms are the awful result of sin. Had there been no sin, there would have been no earthquakes, tidal waves or any other disasters.

It is true that God does permit these things to take place, but this fact does not contradict the truth that "God is love." It is God's purpose to save men, but He can do this only as He is able to bring them to realize their lost condition, and in realizing it, to accept His proffered salvation. God does this by the giving of His blessings and by the withdrawal of them—by the giving of His protection and by the withholding of it. Some, as they see the uncertainty of life, are moved to seek God and make preparations for the life to come.

The time is coming when the destruction of human life by the convulsions of nature will be forever ended. After the destruction of Satan, sin and sinners, God will re-create the earth in its Edenic beauty, purity and security. The promise is that affliction will not rise up a second time. Never again will any of the inhabitants of God's great universe pass through another "sin" experience. The lamb and the lion shall lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

Dear Mr. Answerman: Now that the government says, "Compulsory hospital insurance for everyone," what is your answer to men and women the world over

who for fifty years or more have trusted in the Lord for healing, and He has never failed them? A.B.H.

We believe in divine healing, but we also believe that it is God's will that we should use the agencies and remedies that are extant for the relief of sickness and disease. We have no doubt that God has given knowledge, wisdom and skill in surgery and medicine to relieve sufferers in the last days of the world, when disease has become more rampant than ever before. Luke was a physician in Bible times. Hezekiah was healed of the Lord, but with the assistance of a local remedy. As we contrast the countries that have hospitals and those that do not, we see that hospitals are institutions of mercy in the relief of suffering. In Jesus' time one man had been a cripple for forty years; a woman had had an issue of blood for twelve years.

To us, hospitals and the use of their service constitutes no denial of faith. Man's extremity is God's opportunity. We believe that God will not do for us that which we can do for ourselves. After we have done all we are able to do, God will come in and supply the deficiency. However, if obedience to

any matter decreed by the government leads one to disobey God and His laws, then we must say with the apostle Peter, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29.

Dear Bible Answerman: What is meant in Matthew 8:21, 22, where Jesus says to let the dead bury their dead?

Matthew 8:21, 22 reads as follows: "Another of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow Me; and let the dead bury their dead."

The disciple wanted to go and bury his father. Evidently this was but a hypocritical excuse which Jesus saw through. This disciple would postpone his coming to Christ and rendering Him service. Perhaps he was putting secular interests in connection with his father's estate ahead of his service to the Lord. But Christ would have him and us know that His claim is paramount. Said Jesus, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." Home ties, no matter how sacred, are a snare when they interfere with our service to Christ.

This question involves the entire matter of Christian discipleship. This disciple who would follow Jesus recognized His call. He would respond. He would follow Jesus, but he wanted to delay. He had some things he wanted to do first. No doubt this man put too light an estimation on what it meant to follow Christ. To him it was something that could be done at his convenience. His words show that he was too self-sufficient. Like Peter on the night of the crucifixion, he would be faithful under all circumstances. Unenlightened by the Holy Spirit, he believed that he would indeed follow Jesus "whithersoever" He went, but Jesus knew better. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit within is any man able to follow the Lord. Only as man lends himself to the Holy Spirit to be used can the Lord's name be glorified.

Dear Mr. Answerman: By what name was the apostolic church called? A. C.

According to Acts 11:26 the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

Signs of the Times

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The Editor

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

OSHAWA, ONTARIO

Is the Bible Trustworthy?

(Continued from page 11)

In these passages we have four distinct predictions: national peculiarity, world-wide dispersion, grievous oppression and remarkable preservation. The fulfilment has been before the eyes of the world through the centuries. To this day the Jews remain a distinct people unamalgamated with any other race. Probably more oppressed, more fervently hated, than any other people of history, they have endured the wrath and persecutions of their enemies through the ages; but instead of diminishing they seem to grow more numerous.

The Discoveries of Archeology

A second way of testing the Bible's trustworthiness is offered us by the evidence of archeological discoveries. During the past three-quarters of a century many diligent investigators of ancient civilizations have been digging in the earth in Egypt, Palestine, Assyria and Babylonia. They have made many discoveries. They have added to our knowledge of ancient peoples, customs, cities. Many of these discoveries have had a bearing on the records of the Scripture.

There is a very special advantage attached to these archeological discoveries. It is that they are easily within the comprehension of ordinary men. Expert technical scholarship is not required to interpret or appreciate their meaning. The bearing of this on the trustworthiness of the Old Testament is obvious.

We cannot here set forth these discoveries in detail. To a limited degree we shall do that in a later article. What we here desire to emphasize is that not a single discovery of archeology, anywhere in the world, at any time, has set aside or even weakened one statement or record of the Scriptures, or undermined in the slightest degree the trustworthiness of these remarkable writings. Moreover, while discoveries are now being made more rapidly than ever, each one that has any bearing at all on the Biblical record only provides additional corroboration of its statements.

The Testimony of Jesus

A third method of determining the reliability of these ancient writings, especially for those who believe in Jesus Christ, is to become acquainted with His view of these writings. It certainly comes with convincing significance to those who look to Him as Lord and Master to learn that He regarded the Old Testament writings as infallible truth. Indeed, this is made

so plain that one conclusion alone can be reached: If the Old Testament is not true, then Christ Himself was altogether mistaken, and hence cannot be looked on as divine. Christ and the Bible stand or fall together. But neither will ever fall.

It is not sufficient to reply to this by saying that Christ did not know what modern scholars have in recent years claimed to discover about the Old Testament, or that He was not chiefly concerned with historical questions anyhow, but only with divine principles and doctrines of truth. These very divine principles and doctrines are involved in the historical statements of the Old Testament. And it is quite likely that every "modern" position which seeks to undermine the reliability of the Old Testament was quite well known to Him. He certainly had ample opportunity to learn all these modern views, for "modernists" continually dogged His steps and pressed their arguments upon Him. And they disbelieved the same things that the modernists of to-day disbelieve, except, of course, the miracles of our Lord, which they were reluctantly compelled to accept because they saw them with their own eyes.

The Endorsement of Christ

Jesus was the searcher of hearts. He knew what was in man and needed no one to tell Him. He knew more. The whole invisible realm of angels and devils was open to Him. He said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." "Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat." In all the demoniacs He saw the power of the evil one.

And more. Jesus saw God. Heaven itself was open to Him. "Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son," He said.

This Divine One, who saw the depths of humanity and the whole realm of invisible spirits, who knew God absolutely, who is Himself the truth and light of the world, is the one who testifies, "The Scripture cannot be broken." We can believe such testimony. He was supremely qualified to speak.

Jesus began His ministry by endorsing the miracles of both Elijah and Elisha, the famine of three and a half years, the supernatural sustenance given the widow of Sarepta, the healing of the leper, Naaman. (Luke 4:24-27.)

He declared the very voice of God was in the Old Testament; and consequently, "the Scripture cannot be broken." John 10:35. When He was about to close His ministry He directed the minds of His disciples to the

prophecies of Daniel, thus endorsing their trustworthiness. (Matthew 24:15.) Following His resurrection He rebuked His disciples for not believing "all things . . . which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms," which include the whole Old Testament. (Luke 24:25-27, 44.)

Seal of the Holy Spirit

A fourth fact that has a bearing on the trustworthiness of these Sacred Writings is the evident seal and endorsement of the Holy Spirit upon all loyalty to their authority and inspiration. The clear, obvious blessing of the God of heaven rests notably upon those who, in their Christian ministry and service, hold and teach the trustworthiness of the Bible. There are men around all the circles of the globe who are doing outstanding evangelistic and pastoral work, and who cling tenaciously to the inerrancy of the divine Word. And God witnesses by "signs following" to their belief and their constancy. Their belief has not operated as a bar to the grace of God. Blessing has come to them richly as they have used these Sacred Writings in impressing lessons of spiritual grace, in moulding their own methods of service, in obeying the ancient teachings and precepts, and in emphasizing the spiritual value of the Bible.

As any view of the Bible which is to be accepted as true must bear the seal of the Holy Spirit, and as this view of its absolute trustworthiness does bear this determining seal, having been, and being now, abundantly blessed of God, it becomes plain that in this consideration alone we have a convincing demonstration of the reliability of the Holy Scriptures.

Spiritual Experience of God's People

There is an additional test which must be set forth here. It comprises the testimony of the spiritual experience of the followers of God. Truth produces its own verification in the spiritual man. Once bring the divine Word to bear upon the mind, heart, conscience and will of human beings, and it will carry its own conviction and demonstrate its own reliability and truth. There is a value in every divine truth which, relied upon, always makes its response to faith, and thus supplies undeniable evidence of its own genuineness. It is this never-failing response to faith which brings any man having this experience to the position of the psalmist when he said, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. . . . Thy Word is very pure; therefore Thy servant loveth it." Psalm 119:105, 140.



The DOCTOR'S VOICE

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



D.D.T.

Question: During the years 1946 and 1947 I used D.D.T. to excess. Thinking we had lice or scabies, I painted my body with it, sprayed beds, closets, everything. Later I found the trouble to be only in my imagination. Since I have been failing fast in health, could D.D.T. be the cause?

ANSWER: It is unlikely that the D.D.T. is the cause of your illness. It is possible for D.D.T. to cause skin and respiratory irritation at the time of exposure.

Margarine

Question: Is margarine more healthful than butter?

ANSWER: Butter is an important source of fat in the diet of many people. It contains an appreciable amount of vitamin A. Vitamin A can readily be secured from other sources in most localities, as in citrus fruits, tomatoes, greens. I understand that many brands of margarine are fortified with vitamin A. The oil in margarine, if of vegetable origin, is less irritating to the stomach than butter fat. This fact is noticed by elderly persons. Vegetable oils are higher in vitamin F than is butter. Butter contains considerable cholesterol not present in margarine prepared from vegetable oils. It is recognized that the body can synthesize cholesterol from other oils. However, since cholesterol is thought by some to contribute toward development of arteriosclerosis, the moderate use of margarine would seem in some ways to be preferable to the moderate use of butter. This is a personal opinion.

Emotional State

Question: What effect does the emotional state of the pregnant woman have upon the child?

ANSWER: Dr. H. C. Schumacher of the U.S. Public Health Service states that "symptoms as nausea and vomiting, bleeding, and even spontaneous abortion may be caused by the emotional state of the woman. The emotional state of the pregnant woman influences her attitudes to the child. Many a child was rejected before his

birth and continued to be because the mother could not accept her pregnancy. So, also, a child may be the favourite one of several children because of the happy, contented state the mother experienced in that particular pregnancy. The pregnant woman's attitude toward herself may greatly affect a disease from which she may be suffering." Hence the importance of "joy and contentment in her marriage."

Craving for Starch

Question: An overweight person writes, "I have a very strong craving for laundry starch. Is this harmful or am I lacking starch in my diet? I eat lots of potatoes and bread."

ANSWER: Starch is converted into sugar in the body. It is completely lacking in minerals and vitamins and would indirectly throw an extra demand on vitamin B stores. It is not recommended as an article of diet.

Chewing Gum

Question: Is chewing gum harmful and what is it made of?

ANSWER: Dentists say that most persons' teeth will stand up to about one hour of chewing a day. This is one advantage of the two-meal-a-day programme. Eating between meals, chewing gum, chewing hard candies and grinding the teeth are all bad habits and will eventually hasten your need of a dentist's services. There is nothing harmful in chewing "gum" itself.

Adhesions

Question: Four years ago I had an operation for an obstruction in my bowels, and also had adhesions. Symptoms are beginning to show up again. Would this obstruction return, and make another operation necessary, or can I be cured of this without an operation?

ANSWER: The more operations, the more adhesions. Hence every effort possible is made to avoid operations for adhesions. About the most the individual can do is to avoid constipation and mixtures containing kaolin, etc.

THE habit of eating between meals has become almost universal. It begins in early infancy. Mothers begin it by nursing their little ones at irregular periods. Whenever the infant cries, the cry is interpreted by the mother as a call for food, when often the stomach is in a disturbed condition, due to too frequent feeding.

Irregular feeding is unphysiological. The digestive juices are not "on tap," to be drawn upon at any moment and at frequent intervals. Too frequent demands upon them make it impossible for the glands to secrete sufficient fluid to digest well an ordinary meal.

This habit of frequent eating, begun in infancy, is continued as the child grows up. From among this class, an army of dyspeptics is produced. The walls of the stomach, because of continuous irritation, lose their vitality. This paves the way for ulcer of the organ, and, later, for cancer.

Children are easily taught regularity in eating. The younger they are taught, the more easily the habit of regularity is formed. Babies can be taught so that they will waken at regular intervals for feedings; then when they are older, they have no desire to take food between meals.

During the teething period, the gums of the babe are usually inflamed and congested. The little one longs for something, usually *water*—seldom does it want food. Seeing the fingers in the mouth, the mother misinterprets the child's needs, and gives it a crust of bread or a cracker to chew. Ere long it is able to ask for food, and expects food. Nothing else will then satisfy, because it has formed the habit of frequent eating. Bread and butter, bread and jelly, gingersnaps, cake, crackers, candy, icecream cones, peanuts, apples—in fact, anything the little one demands—is given it.

There are children that cannot eat well at the table. Mother feels ashamed because of it, never dreaming that the piecing between meals is responsible. They develop digestive disturbances early in life. Most of the serious digestive disturbances that appear later in life are traceable to dietetic errors in infancy and early childhood.

Rarely do children who do not piece between meals, suffer from indigestion later on; but there are few children who do not eat between meals. If cake or candy is handed to them between meals, they at once put it into the mouth, instead of putting it aside, as well-trained children would do.

This habit of piecing is so common that when children go visiting with their parents, the hostess thinks she must supply some little delicacy to

By Dr. Laurretta E. Kress

EATING *between* MEALS

the children. This is a part of the programme. The child expects it, and is disappointed if it is not carried out.

When shopping with mother, the child teases for some little knickknack it may see. If its demands are not met, there is trouble; and so the mother yields to its wishes, until this becomes part of the child's programme whenever a store is entered. As a result, there is no appetite for food when mealtime arrives; but some little delicacy may tempt the appetite even then, and to this the mother resorts.

These are the children that perplex a physician; for if he recommends plain, simple, wholesome food, the mother invariably says: "Doctor, the child *will not* eat that kind of food. It would rather starve than eat it." She knows, of course: so the little nervous anæmic body gets its accustomed delicacies at meals and between meals, to induce it to eat at all. A child that has indulged in delicacies between meals cannot possibly relish plain, wholesome food at mealtime.

Make the experiment, mothers, of withholding all food from children between meals. Have regular periods for eating, with not a morsel of anything, not even fruit, between meals. This will in a very short time bring results. The food at the regular meal hours will be relished, and delicacies will not be so much in demand. A little delicacy at the close of the meal, as a relish, will not destroy taste for the wholesome and substantial foods taken at the beginning. Children that have been brought up thus will not even be tempted to eat between meals. It is no hardship to them to wait until mealtime.



Above: Dr. Laurretta E. Kress with her 3,000th and 4,000th child. To the left: the coincidence of twin nurses assisting at the birth of twin boys born on Friday and triplet girls born on Monday—"Quints."

The Prophetic Outline of Daniel 2

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

1. Who only is able to foretell the future?
2. What chapter gives the prophecy of the metallic man?
3. About what was Nebuchadnezzar troubled?
4. To what time did the dream have application?
5. False or true:
 - a. Daniel was five times wiser than the other wise men.
 - b. Nebuchadnezzar wanted to perpetuate his name and kingdom.
 - c. The king recalled his dream when Daniel related it.
 - d. The dream occurred in the fifth year of the king's reign.
 - e. Daniel and his friends held a prayer meeting.
6. When Daniel learned the dream, what did he first do?
7. The image's head was of The beast and arms were of
The stomach and thighs were of The legs were of
The feet were of
8. The stone smote the image on its head feet stomach
.....
9. The head of gold represented Babylon Rome Eng-
land Greece
10. The silver represented Germany Babylon Medo-
Persia Rome
11. The Brass represented Spain Rome Greece
Switzerland
12. The iron represented Portugal Greece Rome
Great Britain
13. Give the dates during which Babylon ruled the world. Medo-Persia.
..... Greece. Rome.
14. What kingdom was ruling the world when Christ was here?
15. Name the ten kingdoms that came out of the Roman Empire.
.....
16. What seven words defeated Hitler?
17. How did the ten kingdoms mingle themselves with the seed of men?
18. In the days of "what" kings will God set up His kingdom?
19. What does the stone represent?
20. Where are we now living?

WHEN John Winant took his life in November, 1947, the Manchester *Guardian* closed a powerful editorial on him with these words: "It is a sad commentary on our postwar world that John Winant could not bear to live in it." Only a few months before this tragic day Mr. Winant was talking to a minister of the gospel. In the midst of the conversation he said to the clergyman: "There is little hope left in a world of despair outside the teachings and practice of the life of Jesus. You of the clergy hold a great responsibility. It requires great courage. I trust that you will do your duty."

The statesman's words were true. This generation knows that it cannot save itself. A new way must be taken if the world is to be saved. The Bible speaks of it as the "new and living way."

There was a time, nearly two thousand years ago, when it could be said: "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." Matthew 4:16. And Jesus said: "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness." John 12:46.

What our generation needs is light, and this is precisely what the gospel has to offer. Henry P. Van Dusen, in his book *They Found the Church There*, describes a meeting of a group of inhabitants of the jungle. The Missionary in charge of the services asked his audience to tell him what they considered the most important gift they had received from the hearing of the gospel. After a moment's silence a grizzled jungle veteran arose in the back of the room and answered with just one word, "Light." That is the new and living way for man to follow, regardless of whether he is inhabiting a hut in a deep jungle or a palace in the most dazzling metropolis.

Life changes when it is viewed in the light of Christ. All is changed and glorified. The poet tells us:

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace."

But the sinner seeks to avoid this step. He does not want the light to expose his life to full view. Christ once said: "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."

SIGNS of the TIMES

The Lighted Way

By H. L. Rudy

John 3:19, 20. He is like the man at a railway station in Alberta. It was about two o'clock in the morning. The passengers were about to board the train when a man on his hands and knees in the darkness at the end of the station seemed to be in trouble. Thinking he needed help, someone approached him with the idea of rendering assistance, only to find that he was hiding a bottle of whiskey in the lining of his coat. After he thought the bottle had been sufficiently secluded he got up, and staggering toward the coach said: "There, the conductor can't see that."

How different it is with the sincere follower of the light. With him there is no affinity with darkness. "He that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." John 3:21.

There are many popular voices calling from the darkness, offering substitutes for real life. One says: "The urges of nature must have free, full play. There must be no restraint. Self-denial is a maiming of the natural impulses that should be given full play." Another voice says: "Don't follow conscience. Follow the desires of the flesh. Suppress the voice of the inner self and don't allow it to spoil your pleasures." Still other voices herald ways of life which thrive in darkness. They all articulate what someone has rightly described as "the philosophy of the pigsty."

But there is one voice heard above all others. It is the voice of Christ. It follows lovingly and patiently, claims and promises overflowing, abundant life. It says: "I will let you know what it means to really live. Come, help Me in My saving of the world, not merely by doing nothing to pollute the world, but by living for My sake, and reflecting My glorious Spirit." Only one voice is able to offer such a life.

"No," you say, "I can't see it. This is my life; I have but one life to live and I want to make the most of it." Christ repeats His offer to you of an abounding life, overflowing with good things here in this world and in the world to come everlasting life. Do you still refuse to heed His voice? If so, you may expect to hear the words: "Well, have your way. You might have been a fellow worker with Christ."

What a glorious privilege to join

Christ in the saving of the world! Remember Paul. When the voice of Christ came to him he answered, "I will. I will discipline and train myself that I may be a good soldier of the Lord." You, too, can do it, if you are willing to accept the discipline and the training. Yes, it will cost, it will hurt, it will often be uncomfortable. But unless you are thinking of giving a whole life for nothing more or better than mere cosiness and comfort, you will accept the Master's call to real living in the pathway of truth and light.

Arthur John Gossip relates the following from the life of a noble missionary who laid down his life in service for the people of the Near East.

"Raymond Lull was, in his day, the gallantest knight in Spain, foremost in jousts and tournaments and manly exercises. Yet, sometimes, into his self-centred, idle, frivolous life there blew tidings of greater things. Christ, on occasion, now and then appeared to him in vision, and offered him His gifts. And, peevishly, and almost without listening, he pushed them aside, declared he didn't need them, didn't want them, would not have them. Until there came another day, when

Christ again appeared. But this time He said nothing, only put His heavy cross into Lull's hands, and left it there, and looked him in the eyes and went His way. And that did it! For, left with that horrid symbol of suffering and sacrifice, the man's heart rose to it. Here, he said, is an adventure worth the having. That I should help Christ in His saving of the world; and, with that, turned, and followed eagerly, through all the glory of his martyr life, on to the splendour of his martyr death. And now that same Christ makes that self-same call on you. Come, says He, holding out His hands to you, help Me in My saving of the world. You have it in you, and I need you so. Come! Come! Come!" — *Experience Worketh Hope*, p. 93.

Viewed in the light of the cross, the voice of Jesus has infinite appeal. If you are still lured by the ease and comfort of your position when Christ is earnestly entreating you to follow Him, you must pause a little longer before the cross, that "horrid symbol of suffering and sacrifice." Gaze upon it till it becomes the standard for your life, by which you can measure every decision you make, and regard as sin everything that clashes with its meaning.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO



The cross constitutes the "lighted way" for every person who aspires to better life.



The Sabbath- God's Flag

by Alice M. Rogers

*I*N Six brief days God made the world,
And fashioned with great care
All things that on the earth do dwell.
And when He saw He'd made them well.
He said: "I'll make one day more fair
Than all these days before unfurled.

"I'll make a day to be a sign,
A flag that shall not fade,
A day both sanctified and blest,
When all My creatures shall have rest,
To view what things My hands have made,
And know that they are ever Mine."

And so He made the seventh day,
The Sabbath rest, for all
Who would with thanks acknowledge Him
As their Creator, Lord and King;
That other gods might never call
Them from His blessed fold away.

"For this," said He, "shall be a sign
'Twixt Me and you, who bear My Name;
A token lest in some proud hour
You should forget My name and power;
A flag that waving shall proclaim
That I'm your God and you are Mine."

The fool hath said, "There is no God";
The heathen turn to gods of stone;
But while I have this blessed sign
That I'm my Lord's and He is mine,
I'll serve one only God alone,
The great and good Creator-God.

