

Signs of the Times

A Merry Christmas

A Divine Mediator
(See pages 2, 3.)

The Child of Light and Glory
(See pages 6, 7.)

A Divine Mediator

THE apostle Paul says, "Our sufficiency is of God." 2 Corinthians 3:5. God has made Christ, the divine Son of God, our all-sufficient sacrifice for sin. John the Baptist, under the inspiration of the Spirit, said: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Christ is God's Lamb or sacrifice, "which taketh away . . . sin."

The Levitical priests could "never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. . . . For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." Hebrews 10:1, 4. The apostle Paul declares most emphatically: "We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Hebrews 10:10. Again Paul declares that the Levitical "sacrifices" "can never take away sins: but this Man [Christ], after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God. . . . For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." Hebrews 10:11-14. The apostle John wrote: "Ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins: and in Him is no sin." 1 John 3:5

Christ is our priest now. He made atonement for our sins. As Paul says: "This Man [Christ], because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. . . . Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for His own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself." Hebrews 7:24, 25, 27.

We do not need any man to mediate between us and God. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ

Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all." 1 Timothy 2:5, 6. In view of this clear scriptural teaching that Jesus Christ is our only mediator between God and men, and that Christ's sacrifice for the sins of the world was all sufficient and made "once for all," it is nothing short of "blasphemy" for any church organization to inaugurate another system of priesthood to offer sacrifices for sin. This is exactly what one branch of the Christian church did in the early part of the Christian Era. The apostle Paul predicted that there would "come a falling away," or an apostasy, and that a certain personage in the church would magnify his office and authority, "who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.

Paul called this apostasy "the mystery of iniquity," and he said: "The mystery of iniquity doth already work." Verse 7. He also informs us

By C. S. Longacre

that it would continue to work to the end of time. For, says Paul, this "wicked" system, "the mystery of iniquity," shall be manifested, "whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming." Verse 8. Paul reminded the believers in the church in Thessalonica: "Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things." Verse 5. When Paul visited the churches in Asia Minor for the last time, he informed "the elders of the church," in his parting words to them: "For I know this, that after my de-

parting shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Acts 20:29, 30.

The apostle John, at the close of his long life in the end of the first century of the Christian Era, writes to the Christian believers, saying: "Ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists. . . . They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." 1 John 2:18, 19. Among these "many antichrists" was to arise that "Wicked" one who was to be known as the real antichrist, "showing himself that he is God," sitting "in the temple of God."

The early Christian church was divided into many sects during the second and third centuries of the Christian Era. One of the branches of the Christian church made a mediator between God and man out of the virgin Mary. They taught that the virgin Mary was "immaculate," "without original and actual sin," and they prayed to her, addressing her: "O most holy Mary." They taught that it was absolutely necessary for Mary to be "without sin" in order to produce "a holy Child." They taught that both Mary and her holy Child possessed "holy flesh," instead of sinful flesh.

The apostle John in his first epistle warned the Christian church that such a doctrine would be taught by the antichrist that was yet to come, saying: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets [teachers] are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh [meaning our sinful flesh] is of God:

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EUGENE J. HALL

While upon earth Christ was often found in prayer, supplicating the throne in behalf of His disciples. It is no different now. To-day, Christ is the one and only mediator between God and man.

and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." 1 John 4:1-3.

The apostle John refers to this group which taught this doctrine that Christ did not come "in sinful flesh" but "holy flesh," saying, "They went out from us, but they were not of us." This does not leave us in darkness and uncertainty as to who the

antichrist is that was already teaching that Christ was born of "holy flesh" instead of sinful flesh as taught by the apostles. The apostle Paul in his epistle to the Hebrews said: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He [Jesus] also Himself likewise took part of the same. . . . For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high

priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 2:14, 16, 17; 4:15. If these texts do not teach that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary with the same "flesh and blood" as we have, that is, sinful flesh, then words have no meaning.

But the apostle Paul, in his epistle to the Romans, left no doubt about the Son of God coming in the same sinful flesh that we have when he said: "God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." Romans 8:3.

The virgin Mary was not only tainted with "original sin," but with actual sin, for the apostle Paul said: "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." Romans 3:23, 10. In spite of this plain teaching of the gospel that the virgin Mary and all the rest of the members of the human family were sinners, this particular branch of the Christian church which departed from the faith of the gospel even back in Paul's and John's day, and is still in existence, and still teaches the same anti-Christian doctrine that Christ was born with "holy flesh" and had a "holy mother," who likewise was free from the stain of "original and actual sin," has written a book entitled *The Glories of Mary*, in which this organization has made the virgin Mary a greater Saviour than Christ or than God. In this book St. Alfonso Maria de Liguori says:

"Mary has been elected from all eternity as Mother of God that she may save by her mercy those to whom her Son in justice can not grant pardon."—Page 153. "God will not save us without the intercession of Mary. . . . There is no one, O most holy Mary, who can know God but through thee."—Page 145. "All power is given to thee [Mary] in heaven and on earth, and nothing is impossible to thee, who canst raise those who are in despair to the hope of salvation." Page 154. "It is the will of God that all graces should come to us by the hands of Mary."—Page 39. "He [God] has placed the whole price of redemption in the hands of Mary, that she may dispense it at will. . . . Thou, O Mary, art the propitiatory of the whole world."—Page 85.

This book has the approval of the hierarchy and is freely quoted from by those who believe in the virgin

(Please turn to page 15)

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.

LAST week we studied about the manner and purpose of Christ's second coming," began Pastor Flynn. "To-night we are going to study about the time of His coming. When Christ ascended to heaven there were some who thought He would return almost immediately in fulfilment of His promise. However, almost two thousand years have passed

unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

"In answer to this question Jesus gave among other signs, three that would take place in the astronomical heavens: 'Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven.' Matthew 24:29.

"We find as we read Genesis 1:14 that one purpose of the sun, moon and stars is that they might be for signs: 'God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to

darkness was such as to occasion farmers to leave their work in the field, and retire to their dwellings. Lights became necessary to the transaction of business within doors. The darkness continued through the day.'

"R. M. Devens gives this graphic account: 'Almost, if not altogether alone, as the most mysterious and yet unexplained phenomenon of its kind in nature's diversified range of events, during the last century, stands the dark day of May 19, 1780—a most unaccountable darkening of the whole visible heavens and atmosphere in New England—which brought intense alarm and distress to multitudes

HERALDS of the KING

and the promise is still unfulfilled. Has God told us anything about the time of Jesus' return, or must we remain in ignorance until the moment of that consummating event?

"True, the Bible does not tell us the day and hour of Christ's return. We are told that not even the angels know that, but the Father only. But the fact that we do not know the day and hour of our Lord's return does not mean that we can know nothing about it. God has given us in the Bible numerous signs by which we can know when the time is near. He has portrayed conditions that will prevail in the last days of the world's history, and has told us that when we see these things come to pass we are to know that Jesus' coming is near, even at the doors.

"The first advent of our Lord was marked by signs. A virgin was to conceive and bear a Child. The wise men were led by an unusual star step by step to Bethlehem. Those who are wise, according to the writer of Hebrews, will 'see the day approaching.' Hebrews 10:25. Some people say they don't believe in signs, but God believes in them, and expects us to know and understand their significance. (See Matthew 16: 1-3.)"

"What are the signs of Christ's coming, Pastor Flynn?" asked Mr. Goldstein.

"The disciples asked very much the same question of Jesus when He was here, Mr. Goldstein, as we see from Matthew 24:3: 'As He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came

divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.' We have no difficulty in seeing how the heavenly bodies regulate the day and night, the seasons and years, but we don't see as clearly that God designed them for 'signs' also by which He might convey His messages of warning to the world."

"Are we to understand that the sun and moon have already been darkened, and that the stars have fallen from heaven?" asked Mrs. Goldstein. "When did that happen?"

"The sun and moon were darkened May 19, 1780. This is what *Webster's Dictionary*, 1869 edition, says about it: 'In some places, persons could not see to read common print in the open air for several hours together. Birds sang their evening songs, disappeared, and became silent; fowls went to roost; cattle sought the barnyard; and candles were lighted in the houses. The obscuration began about ten o'clock in the morning, and continued till the middle of the next night, but with differences of degree and duration in different places. . . . The true cause of this remarkable phenomenon is not known.'

"Gage's *History of Rowley, Massachusetts* gives this report of it: 'The

By
Dallas Youngs

of minds, as well as dismay to the brute creation, the fowls fleeing, bewildered, to their roosts, and the birds to their nests, and the cattle returning to their stalls. Indeed, thousands of good people of that day became fully convinced that the end of all things terrestrial had come.'—*Our First Century*, pp. 89, 90.

"Fifty-three years after the dark day came the fulfilment of the prediction of the falling stars. This was to take place under the sixth seal, and the writer of Revelation adds this inspired word on the subject: 'The stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.' Revelation 6:13.

"*The American Encyclopedia*, 1881 edition, gives this account of it: 'Thousands fell in the tracks of thousands, and at Niagara the exhibition was especially brilliant, and probably no spectacle so terribly grand and sublime was ever before beheld by man.'

"Those who were so fortunate as to witness the exhibition of shooting stars on the morning of November 13, 1833, probably saw the greatest display of celestial fireworks that has ever been since the creation of the world.'—*Professor Denison Olmsted, Yale College*, 1834.

"An eyewitness recorded the spectacle thus:

"At the cry, 'Look out the window,' I sprang from a deep sleep, and with wonder saw the east lighted up with the dawn and meteors. . . . I

At the appointed time the stars fell—thousands in the track of thousands, fulfilling divine prophecy. An awe-inspiring spectacle, indeed!



R. & H.

called to my wife to behold; and while robing she exclaimed, "See how the stars fall!" I replied, "That is the wonder;" and we felt in our hearts that it was a sign of the last days. For truly "the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind." Revelation 6:13. The language of the prophet has always been received as metaphorical. Yesterday it was literally fulfilled. . . . The falling stars . . . fell, not as the ripe fruit falls; far from it; but they flew, they were cast, like the unripe fig, which at first refuses to leave the branch; and when it does break its hold, flies swiftly, straight off, descending; and in the multitude falling, some cross the track of others, as they are thrown with more or less force." —*New York Journal of Commerce*, November 14, 1833.

"Do any of the present-day conditions of the world indicate the second coming?" inquired Miss Clement.

"Yes, indeed," replied the pastor. "The Bible foretells that famines, earthquakes and pestilences shall mark the last days of earth's history: 'Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.' Matthew 24:7.

"Famines are not new to this troubled world. Currently the world's population has multiplied so extensively that any war which upsets a nation's economy and agricultural production is almost certain to result in

famine. Following the first world war, millions died in Russia from starvation; and likewise, as a result of World War II millions have died from lack of food. Famine is common to the millions of India and China, where many thousands live and die never knowing what it is to be free from the gnawing pains of hunger.

"The prophecy pertaining to pestilences was fulfilled in a marked manner following World War I by the plague of influenza. It is reported that eighteen million people perished, which is more than were killed in the war itself.

"In the last forty years we have experienced more destructive earthquakes than in the preceding one thousand years. Some of the most devastating were in Italy (1908), China (1920), Japan (1923), Chile (1939), Turkey (1939, 1940, 1943), and Argentine (1944). Almost unnumbered peoples were lost in these and other convulsions. Nature seems to be in revolt against man, as man is in revolt against God.

"Jesus also said in Luke 21:25, 26: 'Upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.'"

"Do any other world conditions constitute a sign of Christ's second coming?" asked Mr. Saunders.

"Jesus foretold, in answer to the apostles' question, that there would be wars and rumours of wars in the

last days: 'Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars. . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.' Matthew 24: 6, 7.

"In Revelation 11:18 we read that the nations will be 'angry,' and in Daniel 12:1 that 'there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.'

"Unparalleled war preparations are to be seen in the last days: '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.' Joel 3:9, 10.

"I hardly think it necessary to comment upon the extensive war preparation that preceded World Wars I and II, or the extensive preparation that is being made at the present time. It has no parallel in all the annals of human history. Yet at the very time this extraordinary war preparation is being made there is also a peace movement afoot, and equally extensive plans are being made for peace: 'In the last days it shall come to pass, that . . . many nations shall come, and say, . . . Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.' Micah 4:1-3.

"Another sign found in the Bible," continued Pastor Flynn, "that may be classified as economic or commercial is that given us by James: '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 treasures 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.' James 5:1-7.

"It has been the case in the United States and in other countries that a few people controlled the preponderance of the wealth. It is reported that in 1900 Henry Ford did not have enough money to buy a Thanksgiving Day turkey, but thirty years later he was a billionaire. The thing that has made possible such a rapid accumulation of wealth is the fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy of increased knowledge in the last days:

"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. The last one hundred years has witnessed a greater increase of knowledge than all pre-

vious centuries combined. A little more than one hundred years ago men were travelling as did Abraham, but to-day millions are on the move and at unprecedented speeds."

"The thing I am particularly interested in," said Mrs. Saunders, "is the religious signs. What signs do we have in the religious world that show the second coming of Christ to be near at hand?"

"There are a number, Mrs. Saunders," replied Pastor Flynn. "Suppose you open your Bibles to 2 Timothy 3:1-5: '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, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.'

"To the vast majority of professed Christians to-day religion is but an empty form. Christians are prone to love pleasure more than they love God. To them religion has no power to effect righteous living. The sins catalogued in these verses are all too prevalent among Christians at the present time.

"Another sign in the religious world is found in 2 Timothy 4:3: 'The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their

own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.' It is to be lamented that most people would rather walk in the light of their own uncertain theories than to bring their lives into conformity to the sound doctrines of God's Word.

"Peter gives us a sign in one of his books: 'Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, *Where is the promise of His coming?* for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.' 2 Peter 3:3, 4.

"Jesus, when He was upon earth, gave us a sign: '*Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*' Matthew 24: 11, 12.

"These signs in the religious, economic and political world are giving us warning of the near coming of our Lord. It is now more than one hundred years this side of the last event predicted under the sixth seal. The next thing that occurs at the opening of the seventh seal is the coming of Jesus. While we do not know the day or the hour of that event, yet we can tell when it is near, and wise indeed is the person who makes the needed preparation to meet his Lord in peace."

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

The Child of Light and Glory

By H. F. DeAth

AT THE time of Jesus' birth, there was an old saint, Simeon by name, who had long been looking for the advent of the Messiah. At about the time the parents of Jesus took Him as a babe into the temple at Jerusalem to be dedicated to God, Simeon was divinely led to enter the sacred building. He at once recognized the Babe in Mary's arms as the One for whom he had been looking. Guided by the Spirit of prophecy, this venerable man of God took the Babe into his arms and voiced his conviction that Jesus was "Thy [God's] salvation." Luke 2:30.

The Light of the World

Was it merely the spiritual ecstasy of an old man who had not long to live that led him to call the Babe "the salvation of God"? No, it was not. Simeon knew by the prophecies of the Old Testament and by the inspiration of the Spirit that in this helpless Babe, so miraculously conceived, lay God's whole plan for the salvation of the race.

When he called Jesus "the salvation of God," Simeon, of course, was not thinking merely of the Jewish race, from which Jesus sprang. Nor did he have in mind the political, social, or economic fortunes of any race.

Not that Jesus would be unmindful of the material and social needs of mankind. For no man ever did more to relieve sickness, suffering, hardship and want than He. But the salvation for which Jesus stood was and is pre-eminently the salvation of the whole human race from sin, the root cause of all its misery and suffering.

We need food and drink. We need decent homes in which to live and rear our families. We need gardens to cultivate and open spaces where we can breathe fresh air, so as to be fit for our daily toil. But above all these

SIGNS of the TIMES



RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO



The Christ-child of light and glory, whose birth was announced by angel song, and who was recognized and worshipped by Gentile strangers, was forced to find sanctuary from the murderous assaults of Herod in a foreign country.

things we need salvation from sin and self, that we may share God's life here and in the eternity to come.

Simeon was so filled with the Spirit of God that this paramount need of man was uppermost in his devout mind. Hence his spiritual enthusiasm at the sight of the Babe who was to be God's complete instrument to save the world from disobedience to His holy laws. "Mine eyes have seen Thy salvation," he cried, in holy rapture. And having seen God's salvation, he forthwith embraced it, as he embraced the child Jesus. Thenceforth the old man committed himself wholly to God for time and for eternity.

Nor did Simeon see Jesus merely as God's salvation for himself. He saw Him and loved Him as the universal Saviour of all men. He sensed mankind's deep need, and saw in the Babe of Bethlehem the answer to that need. Indeed, his joy for himself and for his people seems to have been overshadowed by the larger joy of what the good news would mean for the whole world; for he speaks of Jesus first as "a light to lighten the Gentiles," second, as "the glory of Thy people Israel." Luke 2:32.

Simeon was a Jew, and the Gentiles were the nations other than his own. How true Simeon's prophecy of Jesus has proved! All nations have been

blessed by the message of the Christian gospel. Fierce cannibals have become gentle subjects of Jesus. Drunkards have been won to sobriety. Thieves have become honest men. Adulterers have forsaken their adultery, liars their lying, backbiters their backbiting, and coveters their covetousness.

"Gross darkness," however, still persists everywhere. The light of the gospel is still sadly needed by "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." And it is still being carried thither by the human heralds of Jesus, through the printed page and over the radio. None need remain in darkness. Jesus is "the light of the world," "the way, the truth, and the life" for all people.

The Glory of Israel

He is also "the glory of Thy [God's] people Israel." As Simeon voiced this second description of Christ, his prophetic mind travelled beyond the narrow limits of literal Israel, his own people. He saw by faith the Gentiles, people of all nations, crowding into the fold of Christ, becoming Israelites indeed, in whom there is no guile. These, clothed in the righteousness of Christ, and walking in the way of God's commandments, would add glory and strength to ancient Israel, through

whom came the law and the gospel. Just as God is the God of the Gentiles as well as of the Jews, so His Son, Jesus, is the Saviour of both Jews and Gentiles. "They are not all Israel, which are of Israel," says the apostle Paul. Romans 9:6. And if the apostle were alive to-day, he would have to say that not all members of Christian churches are of Christ. Hence the field of missionary activity embraces the organized Jewish and Christian churches, as well as the Gentiles, or the nations of the world. And as members of backslidden Israel return to God through Jesus, and straying Christians return to their first love, they swell the ranks and the glory of the true Israel who "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

All things point to the soon return of Jesus from heaven, whither He ascended forty days after His resurrection. The final call of "the everlasting gospel" is sounding to all: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:6, 7.

Let us then, Jew and Gentile, turn to God with all our hearts, that we may not be found wanting in that day when Jesus, His glorious Son, comes "to make up His jewels," who shall adorn and inhabit the glorious everlasting kingdom of God.



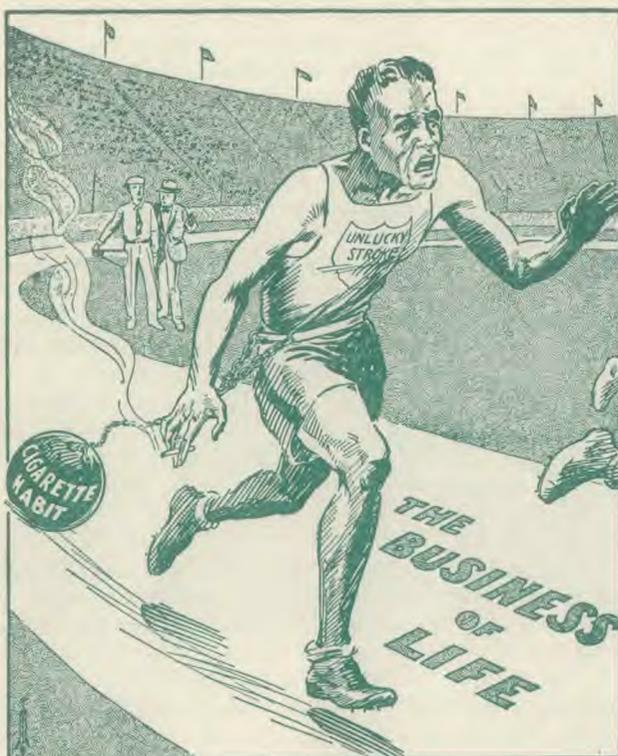
WORLD AS WE SEE IT!

**A Prophetic Interpretation
of Current Events!**

A National Drug

FOLLOWING an exhibition tennis match, a Davis Cup player stepped up to a spectator and asked for a cigarette. The spectator did not smoke, and neither should the tennis player. We have no doubt that this tennis player aspires to championship laurels. Perhaps he wishes to win the United States singles, or to take high honours at Wimbledon, or to get into the big professional money along with Kramer and Riggs. If so, we wish him every success, but we wish also that he knew and understood that every borrowed and bought cigarette is making a notable contribution against the achievement of his goal.

Candid doctors tell us that cigarette addiction subtracts fifteen per cent from the physical and mental powers. That is to say, all other things being equal, the nonsmoking man has fifteen per cent more mental vigour and physical endurance than the smoker. A little thought will bring us to recognize that fifteen per cent may indeed be the difference between success and failure in any undertaking, whether it be athletic, business or scholastic.



Statistics show further that there exists a very marked relationship between tobacco using and disease. When I was a little fellow my grandfather died of cancer of the mouth. The significant thing about it, however, was that the cancer appeared at the identical spot where for years on end he had held his quid of tobacco. General U. S. Grant died of cancer said to have been induced by cigar smoking.

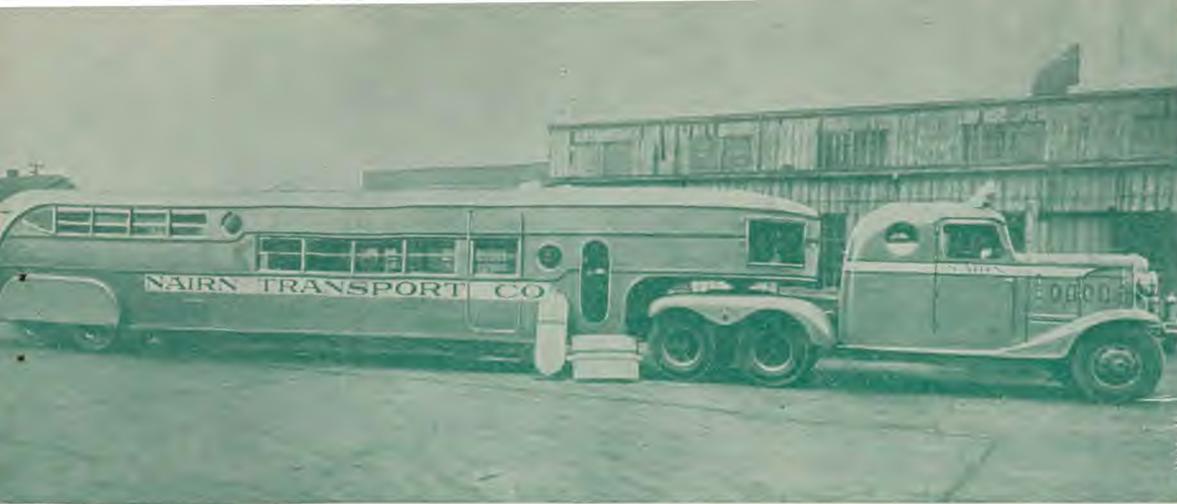
The *New York Times* for February 27, 1949, gives the result of studies made concerning the relationship between smoking and lung cancer. Twenty-five years ago the incidence of lung cancer was very low, and there was very little difference between the incidence in the male and that in the female. However, at the present time the incidence of cancer in the male as compared to that in the female has increased from eight to one to as high as twenty-five to one.

Two hundred patients suffering from lung cancer were studied. It was found that 95.5 per cent of them had smoked at least one package of cigarettes a day for the past twenty years. On the other hand, five hundred patients who were free from lung cancer were studied, and it was found that only fifty per cent of these had smoked a package of cigarettes during the past twenty years. In other words, the result of the studies added up to the fact that only one half of one per cent of the two hundred patients with lung cancer were nonsmokers, but of the five hundred patients who were free from the disease, eleven per cent were nonsmokers.

If the declaration of candid authorities be correct that tobacco addiction subtracts fifteen per cent from an individual's mental vigour and physical efficiency, then it must follow that the use of tobacco lowers the powers of the body's resistance to disease a like amount. This perhaps explains the reason for the increased incidence of lung cancer of smokers.

The C. N. E.

THE Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, Ontario, said to be the largest of its kind, presents to its patrons a maze of twentieth-century wonders. Here each fall are exhibited the latest creation in automobiles, electrical appliances and a hundred and one other things that are in fact a marvel of human ingenuity.



Twentieth-century transportation methods show that we are living in the last days of the world's history.



The C. N. E. brings together a multitude of mechanical miracles, and demonstrates the last thing in world wisdom and skill. This is designed to entertain, educate and promote the sale of the many commodities exhibited by the manufacturers. That the "exhibition" achieves its purpose is attested by its popularity. Nevertheless, there is a significance here that we believe is recognized by but few people.

In its display of human wisdom and skill the C. N. E. is in fact giving us in a concentrated way the fulfilment of a significant Bible prophecy that has bearing upon the times in which we live. Around two thousand five hundred years ago, God inspired the prophet Daniel to pen these words: "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.

If the Bible teaches us anything, it teaches us that the time is coming, and is not far distant, when this world as we know it to-day will come to its end. Preceding the very end of the world is a period which Bible writers describe as the "time of the end"; that is to say, the time immediately preceding the end itself. According to Daniel's prophecy, certain recognizable conditions are going to prevail during the "time of the end," so clearly that people living during that time may know where they are living in relation to the second coming of our Lord.

It is a well-known fact that fifty years ago automobiles were but a laughable prototype of the streamlined beauties of to-day that race up hill and down with such effortless ease. At the turn of the century automobiles were designed after the buggy, and "electrics" vied with the gasoline type for supremacy. The first National Auto Show was held in 1900 in Madison Square Garden, and was, you may be sure, very different in its physical appearance from the one held forty-nine years later at the C. N. E.

The prophet forecast that in the time of the end, many should run to and fro. This we see fulfilled in the millions of automobiles that throng the highways and the city streets. It is said that there are enough automobiles in North America to take everybody for a ride at the same time. On the land, on the water and in the air, millions of people are fulfilling Daniel's prophecy, travelling at unbelievable speeds in gasoline and steam driven vehicles.

How did Daniel know that in the time immediately preceding Jesus' return there would be a change in the mode of transportation that would set it apart from anything that had ever been before? God told him. And why? The answer is that God wants people living in the "time of the end" to know and to recognize the time in which they are living, that they may be prepared for that greatest of all "exhibitions" of power and glory—the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Living Christ

By
Carlyle B.
Haynes

VERY early on the morning of the third day after the crucifixion, some of the women who were among the followers of Jesus came to His sepulchre to embalm and anoint His body. They found an empty tomb. But this was not all they found. They found a living Christ. In seeking for an explanation of the empty tomb they were met by an angel who told them what had happened. (Matthew 28:5-9.)

Some of the women who saw Him that morning are named. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. (Luke 24:10.) After this on the same day, He appeared to two other disciples, one of them named Cleopas, the account of which will be found in Luke 24:13-35. The same day He appeared to Peter, who early that morning had been to the sepulchre with John, and found only an empty tomb. (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5.) Then the evening of the same day He appeared to the whole group of His disciples, with only Thomas absent, demonstrating to them that this was no hallucination, by asking them to behold the wounds in His hands and feet, and to handle Him and see that a spirit did not have flesh and bones as they saw Him have. (Luke 24:36-43.) He then ate a meal with them.

Eight days later when the entire eleven were together, including Thomas, the skeptical one, He appeared to them all, and told Thomas to use his own proposed test to prove His literal resurrection. (John 20:27.) Still later He appeared to seven of His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and ate a meal with them. (John 21:1-14.) Later, "He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once." 1 Corinthians 15:6.

Seen, Handled, Talked With

In fact, for forty days He was seen, handled, talked with and eaten with, and He talked to, and instructed, His disciples in the things of the kingdom of God, and with reference to the establishment and carrying forward of the church of Christ. (Acts 1:3.) In testifying to these things the disciples were testifying to events

which could easily be disproved if they were not true. They were not speaking of things which had happened centuries before, but of things that were then current events.

As a matter of fact, the very manner in which those fearless apostles published their testimony bears every mark of truthfulness. If they had been conscious of lying and deception, they would have been rather cautious as to where and when they told the tremendous thing they had to tell. Forgery and deception do not stand up boldly and face the world. They skulk and hide and dodge and look for corners and holes. But he that does truth comes to the light.

So these disciples, knowing they were telling the truth, told it in the very streets of Jerusalem. Indeed, they went into the very courts of the temple itself, the most public place of resort of the Jews who had seen Him die on the cross; and in the very teeth of the men who had put Him to death they declared He had risen from the dead.

When brought into court they did not quail. They knew their story was true. And knowing this, they dared, even before the high priest and the council of Israel, to assert that "the God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him." Acts 5:30.

Appealed to Their Judges

Would men who were conscious of relating falsehood, or who had any reason to believe their story could be disproved, have dared to call on their very judges to witness the truth of what they said? When Paul was on trial for his life, he appealed to his judge as to one who knew the facts, for, he said, "the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely; for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner." Acts 26:26.

The Christian may rest assured by innumerable proofs that the Christ of Calvary is to-day a living Christ.

H. M. LAMBERT

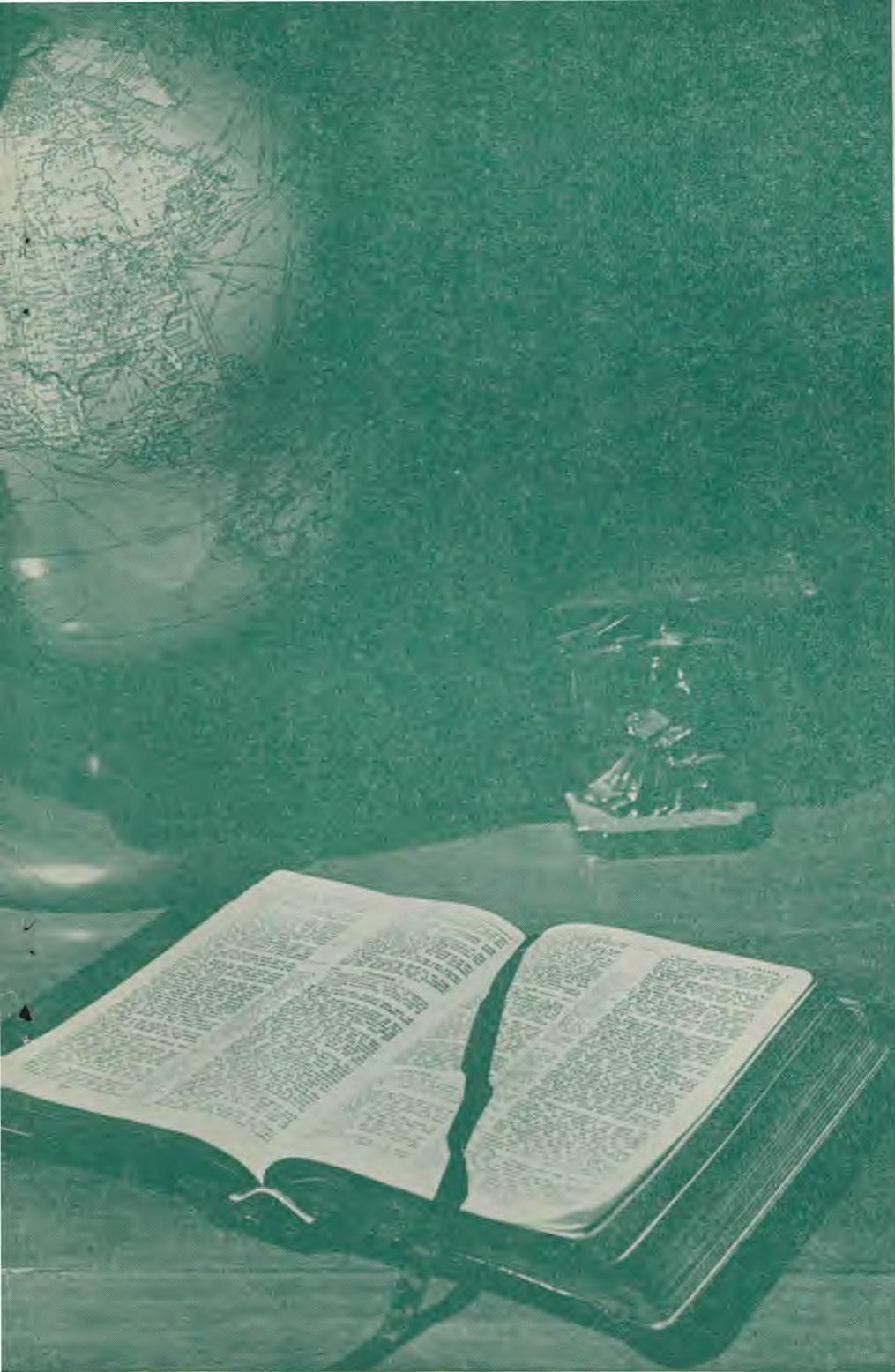
Would not such appeals and such statements have been contradicted, if the testimony was known to be false, or could have been proved to be false?

It is related that someone asked Emerson the question: "Could you say, 'I am the resurrection and the life?'"

"Yes," said Emerson, "I could say that."

"Well, could you make anyone believe it?"

There is the great difficulty. It is easy to say, but it is not so easy to demonstrate and convince. Jesus convinced men that He was speaking the truth.



The Sincerity of the Disciples

Nobody denies to-day that such men as Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, James, Peter and the other disciples lived, preached, and were persecuted because they taught that Jesus died and rose again. If these men were consciously telling falsehoods, they must have had some motive for doing so. What was the motive?

Certainly it was not to gain popularity, for what they told was supremely displeasing to the rulers of the Jews who had crucified Jesus, and who had every disposition to treat the disciples in a similar manner. It

was also displeasing to the Roman rulers, for to preach another king, one Jesus, was to bring against them the whole power of the empire. It could not please the Grecian philosophers, for nothing could be more absurd to them than to preach the resurrection of the body. It would not please sensual men, for it called for the crucifixion of the fleshly lusts and passions. There could be no design for making money out of it, for the new religion made no provision for any such thing. The disciples were practically penniless until the day of their death.

The apostles lived lives of perse-

cution, suffering and hardship for the truth they taught. The last and most convincing testimony which any man can offer for the truth of a statement is to suffer rather than deny it. The disciples did not need to suffer. They might have escaped persecution by abstaining from preaching Christ and His resurrection. But they cried, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

They were placed in bonds, they were whipped, they were stoned, they were killed. And yet to their last breath they continued to teach the resurrection of Christ. Men who know they are lying do not so.

Men can give no higher proof of their honesty, their sincerity, and their truthfulness, than lives such as these. They can do no more than seal their testimony with their blood. This the disciples did. And men who do this are not to be charged with doing it to uphold a lie—an intentional lie. It is easier, far easier, to believe in the resurrection of Christ than to believe the disciples lived such lives and died such deaths to uphold a lie which they knew to be a lie.

No, at least the disciples believed what they taught. They have given the highest proof of that. And they could not have believed it if they had stolen His body away. Therefore they did not hide His body. They believed He was raised.

The gospel is not a collection of dogmas, but rather a relation of facts. The disciples did not preach the death and resurrection of Jesus because they had read them in a creed, but because their own eyes had seen those things. They lived lives of toil, of purity, of hardship, of poverty, of suffering, while preaching these truths to the world. They died painful and shameful deaths as martyrs for their gospel. These things are admitted. And I ask, What more could either God or man do to convince men of the truth?

Paul was one of the most reliable witnesses to the fact of the resurrection of Christ from the dead. His account was among the earliest written and about the most carefully arranged. It will be found in the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians. In reading his testimony to this historical fact it should be borne in mind that the writer had been a bitter opponent of Christ and the church.

There are men to-day who speak against Christ, who write against Christ, who hate Christ, and who work against Christ. But none of them hate Him so ardently as did that

(Please turn to page 15)



The DRAGON'S TRAIL

Radioactive Residue

Tests are still going on at Los Alamos, site of the first atomic bomb explosion. While both desert plants and animals have come back to the bomb crater and apparently are suffering no ill effects, scientists are cautious about making any statements as to the safety of human beings who might try to inhabit the area. The crater is still radioactive, and a man lying down in it would absorb within a few hours all the radioactivity he could safely endure for a week. Dust blown into the air by the explosion settled back to the earth in a strip ten miles wide and one hundred miles long. In parts of this space radioactivity is still measurable six inches under the surface, and it is stated that the radioactivity is going steadily deeper.

Crime in Chicago

The city of Chicago had 326 murders last year as compared with 315 in New York and 105 in Detroit. There are so many unsolved murder cases in Chicago that one of the leading newspapers there has instituted a crusade to solve them. Detailed case histories of the murders are printed successively with liberal rewards offered for solution and a scheme for the protection of the informant. It is claimed that the plan is already bringing results.

Still in Jail

Probably few people know that there are still forty-two conscientious objectors serving time in jail for failing to register under the Selective Service Act for reasons of conscience. It is pointed out by the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors that since the act has been abrogated, virtually, by the suspension of the draft for military purposes, these men should be released.

Race Trouble in Washington

Attempts to end race segregation of Negroes and whites in the city of Washington, D.C., have resulted in near riots and the probable temporary abandonment of the scheme. It is claimed by the National Committee on Segregation that efforts to stop segregation are being thwarted by the board of trade and particularly by real-estate interests in the city. The present storm has centred about the attempt to have mixed use of public swimming pools.

Earthquakes in Divers Places

Whole cities have been destroyed in the Andes Mountains of Ecuador at the time of writing this report, and estimated deaths run over 10,000. The city of Ambato, population 17,000, was totally destroyed and surrounding towns were left mostly rubble. Fatalities ran fantastically high in some areas. For instance, in the little town of Pelileo only 300 were left alive out of a total population of 3,500. In the country, landslides wiped out roads and dammed streams. Rescue and relief operations were aided by Red Cross teams flown in, with supplies, aboard U.S. C-47's.

THE first of the three symbolic powers mentioned in the sixteenth chapter of Revelation as dominating the whole of mankind in the last days is "the dragon."

"I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon. . . ." Revelation 16:13.

So our first line of investigation must be to discover whether there is any correspondence between the "dragon" of symbolic prophecy and any of the "big" powers which control, politically and economically, the world to-day.

Who Is the Dragon?

The dragon as a prophetic symbol appears first in the twelfth chapter of Revelation. In that vision John records the appearance of two "wonders." The first "great wonder" which he saw was "a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." Verse 1. This he recognized as representing the true church of God from his day to the end of time.

As he gazed with rapt attention at the woman, he was startled by the appearance of "another wonder," this time "a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads." Verse 3.

A few verses farther on in the unfolding vision, the primary significance of the dragon symbol is explained: "The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan." Verse 9. So in its widest sense the dragon represents satanic activity against God and His people from John's day to the end of time.

Clearly, however, the symbol of the dragon has another and more limited application, for in later days the dragon is but one of three powers which carry out the behest of the archenemy. This secondary sense in which the symbol of the dragon is

used becomes clear when we read other verses of the vision.

"The dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a Man-child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne." Verses 4, 5.

We have here a symbolic description of the events associated with the first advent of Jesus. As a "Man-child" He was born into the world, and out of it He was "caught up" at His ascension.

What power sought to destroy Him at His birth? What power actually encompassed His death? And from what power was He delivered when He was carried up into heaven? The answer to all these questions is, of course, pagan Rome.

So when the dragon first appears it is as imperial pagan Rome.

This identification is confirmed when we note the subsequent history of the dragon in the thirteenth chapter. Here another symbol is introduced called "the beast." Like the dragon, this beast also has "seven heads and ten horns" (Revelation 13:1), suggesting that the mantle of imperial Rome was to fall upon it. It is specifically stated that to this beast "the dragon" gave "his power, and his seat, and great authority." Verse 2.

From other details of the vision, this beast is clearly identified as the papal Europe of the Middle Ages which did take the place of imperial Rome when that power was possessed by the barbarian invasions.

Without any question, then, the "dragon," as one of the agencies of satanic power and influence, was imperial pagan Rome.

Now, as the prophecy states, and as history confirms, when the dragon vacated the seat it had occupied in Rome for many centuries it did not disappear completely from the scene. It went elsewhere. So we must endeavour to strike its trail.

Where Did the Dragon Go?

The vacating of the imperial seat in Italy began as far back as the days of the Emperor Diocletian, who in order, as he thought, to supervise more adequately the far-flung empire, decided to have two capitals—one in the West at Rome, and another in the East at Nicomedia on the Asiatic side of the Sea of Marmora in Asia Minor.

He appointed Maximianus associate

"Augustus" and placed him in the western capital, while Diocletian himself established his court in the eastern capital.

The establishment of the senior "Augustus" in the East naturally began at once to detract from the prestige of the western capital, while the new seat of the dragon steadily increased in importance.

When Maximianus and Diocletian simultaneously abdicated in A.D. 305, six rival emperors strove for supremacy. Nineteen years later Constantine the Great emerged as the undisputed ruler of the empire, and following the example set by Diocletian he proceeded to build himself a new permanent capital in the East. His choice settled upon the existing city of Byzantium on the European side of the Bosphorus, which he enlarged, strengthened and beautified as the new seat of imperial government.

The "New Rome"

"To perpetuate the fame of its founder," says the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "it was styled Constantinople," while "to indicate its political dignity, it was named New Rome."—Vol. 7, p. 3 (Eleventh Edition).

This name has actually come down through all the centuries to our time, for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* goes on to say: "The chief patriarch of the Greek church still signs himself 'archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome.'"—*Ibid.* In further contrast to the old city of Rome in Italy, Constantinople was also designated in the

By

W. L. Emerson

literature of the period the "Second Rome." Thus in a letter from Alcuin of York to Charles, king of the Franks, in A.D. 799, when that king had practically all the nations of the West within his power, he was told by the learned monk:

"There have been until now three persons who were highest in the world. That is, the Apostolic Sublimity which rules as vicar the seat of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles. . . . Another is the Imperial Dignity, the secular power of the Second Rome. . . . The third is the Kingly Dignity in which the dispensation of Our Lord Jesus Christ has placed you as ruler of the Christian people. . . ."

This letter is particularly valuable for our purpose because it establishes two very important facts:

1. The Imperial Dignity had vacated the ancient seat of Rome in Italy and was now permanently es-

tablished in the New or Second Rome, Constantinople.

2. Another power was enthroned in the old Rome upon "the seat of St. Peter."

That the "seat of St. Peter" was also, to all intents and purposes, the seat of the dragon is indicated by the fact that a year later, in A.D. 800, the Vicar of Rome conferred the office of Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire upon Charles by his coronation in Rome.

Thus the prophecy that the dragon's seat would be occupied by another power which would exercise its authority within its domains was exactly fulfilled.

Vicissitudes of the "Second Rome"

Because the history of Europe from the fifth century onward was dominated by the new nations of the West and their competition with the developing Papacy for supreme power, the continuing story of the dragon power in its remote eastern seat in the New or Second Rome has tended to be forgotten, and only in comparatively recent years has its chequered story been recovered for us by historians. The fact is, however, that while the "beast" was consolidating its power in Western Europe, the dragon lived and reigned contemporaneously in the East for a thousand years after the fall of Romulus Augustulus, the last western Roman emperor, in A.D. 476.

A detailed recital of the vicissitudes of the Second Rome from the fourth century to the fifteenth is unnecessary to our present purpose, and it will suffice to mention that throughout this period the eastern emperors were hemmed in on all sides by enemies whose encroachments they were constantly seeking to hold back.

On the west the popes were inciting the Catholic kings to bring the East under their rule, and incidentally under the rule of the popes. To the north the barbarians were a constant menace, and in the East the new Sassanid Empire in Persia was an ever-dangerous rival. But by far the most serious menace came from the southeast and south, through the increasing pressure of the Moslem Arabs and Turks.

The Moslem Tide

Since Mohammed united the desert peoples of Arabia in the seventh century and launched them upon an incredible career of conquest, the Moslem armies had overrun Irak, Syria, Asia Minor, Egypt, and North Africa, and had penetrated into Europe both across the straits of Gibraltar and across the Bosphorus into the Balkans.

(Please turn to page 17)



BIBLE ANSWERS

by your Bible Answerman

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

Dear Bible Answerman: I understand that we are living in the "last days." May we therefore expect Isaiah 2:2-4 to be literally fulfilled in our time? R. K. H., Alberta.

Isaiah 2:2-4 is a particularly interesting passage, and before we can answer the question it will be necessary to quote the verses:

"It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all the nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Many religio-political leaders have been convinced that this passage would be literally fulfilled. William Jennings Bryan was so profoundly convinced of it that he had miniature plowshare paperweights made by the thousands and distributed everywhere. But that did not stop either World War I or World War II. The point of the interpretation of this passage is that most people fail to note the key sentence in it. It is the opening sentence of the third verse: "Many people shall go and say." It is the people who say this. It is the people who say that they will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks. In fact, they said it so literally following World War I that the United States scrapped millions of tons of military and naval equipment. That, however, did not prevent rearmament when the necessity arose.

From Joel 3:9-14 we see that God says the direct opposite of what the people say: "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: thither cause Thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be awakened, 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."

The Bible reveals that in the last days there will be two great parallel movements in the earth: the effort for peace, and the preparation for war.

We see this at present, and we have witnessed it for several decades. Peace conferences have been held by the score, and have all ended in failure. Men have been unable to agree, and I read not long ago that an international meeting was being advocated to see whether they could agree that they could not agree. Peace treaties and pacts, too, have been signed by the score, and it is evident that some, at least, of the signatories signed with no thought of sincerity.

The One who sees the end from the beginning tells us that the "last days" of the earth will be marked by more fierce wars and tumults than have ever before been witnessed. Daniel, in speaking to this point, says: "At that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1.

The wars, troubles, prejudices and misunderstandings among the nations of the last days finally result in the last battle, in which the armed forces of the East are pitted against the military might of the West in what the Bible describes as Armageddon. This culminating conflict, surpassing all others in its fierceness and magnitude, centres in and around the plain of Megiddo, which is sixty miles north of the city of Jerusalem.

Dear Bible Answerman: Will you please explain Matthew 10:23: "When they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come." Did Jesus come before the disciples had finished preaching in the cities of Israel? S. M., British Columbia.

Jesus, in this instance, did not have reference to His second coming, but rather to the time of His transfiguration. In His transfiguration He was represented as coming in His great power and glory, and this took place

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before the gospel had been preached in the cities of Palestine by the disciples.

THE LIVING CHRIST

(Continued from page 11)

raging Jew, Paul. He devoted his life to the extermination of all who followed Christ, and to the uprooting of the Christian faith. He sought and received credentials for the purpose of persecuting Christians to the death and went about "breathing out threatenings and slaughter."

Then suddenly Paul was completely changed. And he says the change was wrought in him because he had seen Christ alive, and talked with Him. He became a flaming firebrand for Christ, carrying His evangel to all the provinces of the Roman Empire. One of the profoundest intellects the world has ever seen was convinced that Jesus was raised from the dead, and he devoted all his life that remained to the preaching of this great truth to all who would listen.

Six Different Appearances of Christ

Paul lists six different appearances of Christ after His resurrection. After speaking of His death, he said, "He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures: and that He was seen of Cephas [Peter], then of the twelve: after that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." 1 Corinthians 15:4-8.

This testimony was given at a time when Paul was nearer to the time of the resurrection than we are to World War I. There were plenty of men alive who knew all the facts, and who, if Paul's account had been false, could have refuted him with ease. But there was no refutation. One was not even attempted. One has never been made.

Testimony of the Other Disciples

Not only Paul, whose writings compose a large part of the New Testament, but also the other disciples testify to the fact of the Lord's resurrection, and their account cannot be lightly swept aside. Indeed, one of them, Luke, is recognized as one of the most reliable historians in the world. He takes great pains to put in every fact that has any bearing at all on the subject matter of his story, and which will serve as a help to anyone who cares to check up on his statements. No man who is conscious

of writing falsely would begin his account as Luke does.

In this passage (Luke 3:1, 2) are twenty historical, geographical, political, and genealogical references in one sentence, any one of which can be either verified or proved to be untrue. The Gospels abound with such references. There are hundreds of them in the New Testament. And not one of them has ever been proved to be untrue by any or all of the enemies of the church from the beginning until now.

A man who knew he was going to write a lie would not have started in such a fashion. He would have known that he would contradict himself before he had gone very far, unless he left out references to facts which might be used to upset his statements. So he would have written vaguely, and dealt gingerly with known facts of any kind. Writers of forgeries avoid such things as names, dates, places, manners, customs, and every well-known fact.

But the writers of the Bible deal with such a wealth of facts that their story could easily have been verified when first given to the world, or proved to be untrue. It has stood the test of every assault that has been made upon it.

Luke, in the book of Acts, declares that "by many infallible proofs," Jesus showed Himself alive after His resurrection to His apostles, "being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Acts 1:3.

One of these "infallible proofs" of the resurrection is the utter failure of the enemies of Christ to account for the belief in His resurrection on any other grounds than that it actually took place. They see plainly that it needs explaining. They grant the fact that the belief in the resurrection is the only way of explaining the establishment and the development of the Christian church. But they are at a loss to provide any other explanation. Baffling every theory they can invent and overthrowing every hypothesis they have been able to advance, is an empty tomb outside Jerusalem. The only explanation that can be given for that empty tomb is the only explanation that is given for it in the New Testament. That is that Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of God, and is now the living Christ.

Proof for that I have already set forth. The records of the Bible are true. There is no more reliable book in the world than the Bible. But there is other testimony, and I cannot rest until I tell it. And this is the highest

of all evidence, and the most satisfying. Nothing verifies the ancient records of Holy Writ as this. I know Jesus was raised from the dead because I have evidence He is now alive. He, Himself, in His own blessed person, has brought forgiveness of sins to me. He has accepted me as His own. His life is in my heart. No one can have more satisfying, convincing evidence of His resurrection than that. And that evidence He will bring to the inner consciousness of every soul willing to receive it.

A DIVINE MEDIATOR

(Continued from page 3)

Mary as a mediator between God and the human race as well as angels.

This branch of the Christian church has done away with the one Mediator between God and man—"the Man, Christ Jesus," and has substituted in His place another saviour and intercessor before God's throne who has been exalted above the Son of God in the granting of mercy and pardon to sinners. Such an exaltation of a human being is not only blasphemous but is, as the apostle John rightfully said, "that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come."

No wonder the apostle John wrote that "if any man" should worship and adhere to this anti-Christian power which was to open its "mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven," and was to "make war with the saints, and to overcome them"; and was to exercise power "over all kindreds, and tongues and nations," "the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation." Revelation 13:6, 7; 14:10.

Paul called this branch of the Christian church "the mystery of iniquity," that "doth already work"; the apostle Peter called them "false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies"; the apostle John called those who taught this doctrine of Christ not coming in our "sinful flesh" "that spirit of antichrist," and he said that the church that taught this doctrine was represented by a woman that had the following name written on her forehead: "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH," and that this woman was "drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." Revelation 17:5, 6. This is a divine description of the church that teaches this blasphemous doctrine. Can you guess her name?



The DOCTOR'S VOICE

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



Rash

Question: A woman of fifty-nine has itchy rash ever so often on arms, legs and face. Eyes and lips swell. During the last eruption the hands became hard, rough and cracked. What causes this? Would you please prescribe.

ANSWER: The above description would seem to suggest an allergic reaction. Foods may be the offenders, such as pork, shellfish, milk, eggs, wheat and chocolate. This might be determined by a process of elimination. Skin tests are often helpful. Sometimes eczema in different forms is associated with other constitutional disease, as for instance impaired kidney function. Medical examination would rule out these factors. In any case, diet should be simple, with restriction of meat and fish, spices, chocolate and rich foods particularly during acute attacks. Any vegetable oil such as Mazola is soothing to the skin. Where this does not suffice, ointments as required would have to be prescribed by your local physician.

Overweight

Question: I am seventy-six years old and weigh about two hundred pounds. I have a heart condition with occasional bad spells. I eat cereals of all kinds, fruit, eggs, very little butter, milk soups, potatoes, beans (baked with butter), cheese, tomatoes, corn, peas, cake without frosting, whole-wheat bread, ice cream. No meat. How about nuts? I am trying to reduce, but it seems the more I try the fatter I get. I seem to go all to pieces if I cut out too much. Please advise.

ANSWER: The most important feature in a reducing diet is to reduce the calories to one half or one third the usual consumption and at the same time maintain an adequate protein intake. The latter can be accomplished by including one egg a day, four cups of skim milk and four tablespoonfuls of creamless cottage cheese. Fats are restricted to about one square of butter and cereals to about one slice of whole-wheat bread. There is no room for nuts, cake, ice cream, candy, etc.

Sodium Benzoate

Question: Is sodium benzoate that is put in margarine harmful to us?

ANSWER: The amount of sodium benzoate that is present in commercially available margarine is not considered to be harmful.

Enlarged Heart

Question: Would high blood pressure cause enlarged heart? Also, when blood pressure goes down, will heart go back to normal size again? I have discontinued use of salt at least 75 per cent, but my heart still pounds a lot, and I wonder if something else could be recommended to reduce the heart to normal.

ANSWER: High blood pressure is accompanied by cardiac enlargement. This at first is a normal response of hypertrophy of a muscle in response to increased work placed upon it. If hypertension were transient, as during several pregnancies, it is conceivable that there would be a tendency to return to normal. Where high blood pressure is maintained over a period of years, cardiac dilatation eventually occurs owing to overfatigue. Adequate rest is the most essential part of the treatment for this complication. Restriction of salt is helpful, also reduction of weight where it is above normal.

Cultured Milk

Question: Could you tell me of some other food that would take the place of Yoghurt cultured milk, as I have no way of preparing or keeping this Yoghurt on hand.

ANSWER: Lactic acid may be added to milk in the proportion of three to five drops for each ounce of milk. Canned lactic acid milk powder which may be reconstituted is available, as for example Borden's. Lactodextrin as put out by Battle Creek Food Company is a similar preparation and is used according to directions on the container. These modifications of milk are said to alter the intestinal flora to a more favourable type.

HOW often I have heard the complaint made by patients, "My stomach bothers me." Always I have felt like saying, "You are mistaken; your stomach is not bothering you, you are bothering your stomach, and your stomach is protesting."

The stomach generally is a much-abused organ. The wonder is that it so patiently bears for years the abuse which is heaped upon it.

Take an inventory, if you will, of a table laden with its luxuries, delicacies and irritants, and you will agree with me that there is no other creature that could be persuaded to eat what modern man eats. The savage would refuse what we in civilized lands regard as necessities. Savages will utterly refuse pepper, mustard, chowchow, pickles, and even cane sugar. The pastries, puddings and other delicacies, they will have nothing to do with.

The stomach becomes inflamed by crowding into it such substances. When it is in this condition, one of two things is necessary in order to keep comfortable: either restore it to a normal condition by treating it as we would any other inflamed member, and putting it at rest for a time, or use some narcotic medicine that will deaden the nerve terminals of the inflamed organ and hush its protests. By the latter means we are left in a state of blissful unconsciousness and ignorance of the actual condition the organ is in. Thousands are choosing this course. The boastful remark is made, "I can eat anything." Men who are able to do this, and who do it, may put on weight and appear robust. They may even be physically strong, but they are as a rule vitally weak. They die suddenly at an age when they should be entering upon the period of greater usefulness. Friends are surprised. These are the men with high blood pressure, or who later in life develop cancer of the stomach and other serious and fatal disorders.

A word of advice is sufficient on this point. Do not resort to narcotic stomach remedies when suffering with an irritable stomach. Give the organ the needed rest for a brief period, and then begin to eat moderately of wholesome, non-irritating foods, being careful to chew each mouthful well. Let nothing enter the stomach in lumps. Reduce everything to a creamy consistency, and the chances of a complete recovery are all in your favour.

An element which makes fruit one of the most desirable of all foods is the vitamins it contains. Animals may be fed with foods containing all the elements of nutrition, yet if there be lacking in the foods these mysterious somethings to which have been ap-

My Stomach

BY D. H. KRESS, M. D.

plied the names of vitamins A, B, C, D and E, they will develop deficiency diseases.

Vitamins are living principles found in living foods. Deprived of vitamins, foods are dead. This emphasizes the need of living more than we do on raw foods. Vitamins may be destroyed by prolonged cooking or baking. Soda placed in foods containing vitamins will also destroy them. All this has been determined by observation of food effects on animals. When cows are fed on green grass and other raw foods, their milk is well charged with vitamins, and their calves thrive on it. When they are deprived of these foods and fed merely on old hay or straw, containing all the food elements found in grass but lacking in vitamins, the milk ceases to properly nourish their young. This vital something may be destroyed by boiling, so that children fed on boiled cow's milk may sicken even though the milk should be rich in all the food elements. Orange juice must be supplied in such cases. One teaspoonful of orange juice contains as many vitamins as are present in a pint of milk.

The discovery of vitamins should not make more complicated the food problem. It should simplify it. It should teach us the need of getting back to nature, and back to nature's foods. It should emphasize the need of spending more of our time in the open air and sunshine, and eating more of our foods in a natural state. Animals allowed to roam at large in the open, exposed to the sun, and living on nature's food, served in the most natural manner, keep in the best health. It is the domesticated animals, deprived of green foods and sunshine, that develop tuberculosis and other deficiency diseases. Sunshine, pure air and nature's foods are the remedy for such. The same applies to human beings.



EWING GALLOWAY

The stomach is a victim of uncontrolled appetite. However, treated right it will respond and do its work in a remarkably co-operative way.

In countries where people live chiefly on the unsophisticated foods of nature, and spend much of their time in the open air and sunshine, cancer and other deficiency diseases are seldom found. Doctor McCarrison, who represented Great Britain as a surgeon in a remote part of India where the people live in this manner, tells us that during the nine years he was there he performed more than four thousand surgical operations, but that he never saw one case of cancer.

There are vitamin-rich foods that are especially suitable for creatures for whom they were especially designed. For instance, leafy vegetables are the most natural food for rabbits. They are the foods that nature designed for them. It does not follow, because rabbits thrive upon such foods, that they are in every respect the most desirable for human beings. All the experiments conducted by American food experts have been conducted with rabbits or with rats. Dr. Hindhele, health commissioner and food expert of Denmark, carried forward his experiments for years in his own country with men. On his visit to America he said during one of his lectures: "You in America carry forward your experiments with rats, while I experiment with men. If you want to find the foods best suited for rats, you must experiment with rats, but if you want to find the foods best for men, you must experiment with men." That rabbits thrive well upon raw cabbage, spinach, and other leafy foods rich in vitamins, is no reason why these foods should be recom-

mended for mankind to the exclusion of other foods possibly better adapted to man's needs. These are not the only foods that contain vitamins. Vitamins are present in all living or raw foods, and no foods are better adapted for man's needs than fruits. "Of every tree thou mayest freely eat" is voiced by inspiration and nature, of the fruit which hangs so temptingly over our heads.

THE DRAGON'S TRAIL

(Continued from page 13)

While the West was able to arrest the Moslem advance at the Pyrenees, the Eastern Empire failed to stem the tide, and in 1453 Mohammed II blockaded Constantinople by sea and by land with a vast force of 150,000 men. The siege began on April 7, and soon after sunrise on May 30 the Moslems forced an entry and the city fell — and with it the Byzantine Empire of which it was the capital.

The Dragon Escapes!

In terms of Bible prophecy it seemed as if the career of the dragon had also come to an end. This, however, was not to be. The dragon was to continue on down the centuries to become one of the "big three" powers in the very last days of earth's history.

What, then, became of it when it was cast down from its seat in the "Second Rome"? In the next issue of the SIGNS this question will be answered.

Heralds of the King

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

1. What is the day and hour of Christ's second coming?
2. How can we know when that great event is near?
3. Name five different realms in which are to be found signs marking the nearness of Christ's return.
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4. What question did the disciples ask Jesus?
5. Write false or true after each statement:
 - a. The sun and moon were darkened May 19, 1880.
 - b. The dark day was so dark that the farmers had to leave their work.
 - c. The stars fell sixty-three years after the dark day.
 - d. The stars fell as ripe fruit falls from the tree.
6. How many people are reported to have died from influenza?
7. Where have some of the worst famines occurred?
8. Give the place and date of five destructive earthquakes.
.....
9. Fill in the following blanks: "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles;
....., let all the men of war draw near, let them
come up:"
10. What movement is afoot among the nations at the time of the last-day extensive war preparations?
11. How long did it take Henry Ford to become a billionaire?
12. Ninety-five per cent of the wealth of the U.S. is controlled by what per cent of the people?
13. Complete the following sentences:
 - a. "Many shall run to and fro, and"
 - b. "For the time will come when they"
 - c. "This know also, that in the last"
14. What do the last-day scoffers say?
15. What do the last-day false prophets succeed in doing?

THIS world of ours is growing old. As with men, so with our planet; time's passage brings with it the marks of decline and decay. Each passing year leaves the world less and less habitable. It is well that this be kept in mind, for there are those who feel that terrestrial progress and unlimited permanence will mould and guide the shape of things to come.

Many there are, and many there will continue to be, encouraged and inspired by optimistic theorists, who will refuse to abandon the pleasant shelter of their fool's paradise. Attention is focussed by them on the rosy promise of material progress, but the fact remains, as the psalmist declared, that the earth "shall wax old like a garment." Psalm 102:26. No one needs reminding that time and wear soon rob a garment of its pristine strength and smartness, and eventually destroy its usefulness entirely. As with a garment, so with the world.

With incredible speed the world's substances are being taken and used. Coal, metal, oil and other important resources are rapidly being drained away, with no prospect whatever of being replenished.

According to the second law of thermodynamics, known as Carnot's principle, the energy of the world is becoming continuously unavailable. A state of final equilibrium — when, for all practical purposes, energy is dead — is the inevitable prospect. However, some visualize the approach of doomsday long before such a state of equilibrium is reached. As they see it, the use — or rather, misuse — of atomic energy will speedily hasten the day when life on earth will become untenable.

The progress of decline is furthermore recognized by the palaeontologists — those who study the fossil remains of animals, birds and fishes which once abounded on the earth. Many of these creatures are now extinct. They never survived the flood. Fossil ancestors of those which survive suggest that devolution — not evolution — has been the order of the day. "We live in a zoologically impoverished world," is the doleful conclusion of one eminent geologist.

And now, as if to intensify the gloom, there is launched upon the reading world an arresting book entitled, *Road to Survival*, by William Vogt, Chief of the Conservation Section of the Pan-American Union. This competent scientist sets out a masterly though alarming summary of world conditions and future prospects.

He deplores the purely extractive economy maintained by man in his

THINGS TO COME

Among other things to come, what of the judgment, in which every soul will be weighed in the balances of God's great law?

relation to the earth in the past centuries. Earth's bounties have been and are being mined, and little or no return is being made. He points out that to maintain a decent standard of living, each individual requires about two and a half acres of fertile land. Yet so vast is earth's teeming population that there is an average of only one acre for each person. This means that while some, as in this country, are fortunate enough to maintain reasonable living standards, multitudes, as in China and the East, are reduced to a starvation level. The dilemma is being intensified by the addition to the world's already teeming population of 50,000 people every day. Each year thus brings a net gain of well over eighteen million souls, yet, as this scientist points out, the world's agricultural land is actually shrinking. By wrong methods, and destructive systems of handling the land, fertile soil is being lost by erosion at an alarming rate.

Dr. Hugh Bennett testified before a United States Congressional Committee in 1939: "In the short life of this country we have essentially destroyed 282 million acres of land. . . . We are losing every day as the result of erosion the equivalent of two 140-acre farms. . . . It is gone, gone for ever."

Scientist Vogt declares that unless something drastic happens, "Mexico will be a desert within a hundred years; Chile in perhaps fewer years." And this process of soil erosion and destruction of fertility by wrong methods is, to a more or less extent, universally at work.

No wonder those who frankly face the facts find scant cause for optimism.

As the famous hymn writer put it: "Change and decay, in all around I see." The earth is wearing out "as doth a garment." It is becoming less and less habitable. This gives point to the apostle Paul's declaration that "the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together." Romans 8:22.

But what of things to come? Even supposing the nations discover the way to live amicably together, and

even supposing we find the way to remove the paralyzing threat of the atomic bomb, since the world's resources are diminishing and the population is increasing, doomsday cannot be indefinitely delayed.

Is a world-wide wilderness and final extinction of humanity to be the gloomy epilogue of this world's history? Will the inorganic principle of the tendency to physical equilibrium proceed with its sterilizing effect until life is no longer possible and the world is but an uninhabited desert? The materialistic and mechanistic conception of the world sees no alternative.

On the authority of God's Word, however, we deny that such will be the case. "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, *He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited.*" If the probable result of present trends were permitted to prevail, God's creation would indeed be in vain. His plan that this world should be inhabited would be frustrated. But we know that God will not be defeated in His purposes.

Continual deterioration and terrestrial decay, resulting as it is doing to-day in distress, floods and famine, will remain as a sign that we are in the last stage of the history of the world as we now know it. (See Matthew 24:7.)

We are, however, approaching the great consummation foreseen by prophets of old when the world is to be freed from the blight of disintegration and decay. Its pristine glory and beauty is to be restored. The vast deserts and wildernesses, terrifying in their lifeless barrenness, will be no more. Edenic fruitfulness will take their place. (Isaiah 35:1, 2.)

Our whole sphere is to undergo the most complete and radical change.

During the process of its re-creation, the very elements will melt with fervent heat. (2 Peter 3:10.) There will be no more inaccessible heights, and no more mighty raging oceans. "There was no more sea," said John, as he visualized this "new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:13.

Well might we ask how and when this will happen, and what will become of the inhabitants during this tremendous transformation. The Bible alone can unveil the mysteries of the things to come.

The first—and perhaps the most spectacular and vital—stage, will be that of Christ's return. Prophecy clearly indicates the nearness of this great event. When Christ comes, it is primarily to gather together His followers—both living and dead. They will all be immortalized and glorified at this time, and taken by the Lord to heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.) The saints thus taken to heaven will live and reign with Christ a thousand years. (Revelation 21:3.)

But heaven is not their ultimate home. At the close of this thousand-year period, they will descend again to this earth which is now about to be cleansed from everything pertaining to sin. John actually saw, in vision, the descent of the holy city, the New Jerusalem, to this earth. (Revelation 21:2.)

The earth will then be made anew, untainted by the slightest semblance of sin. (Revelation 21:5, 6.) And the rightful possessors of this eternal world, the ones who through the ages have been tormented and despised because of their inflexible determination to uphold righteousness and to abhor sin, will begin an eternal tenure of a deathless world with God's visible throne forever in their midst. As both the psalmist and Jesus Himself promised: "The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalm 37:11. (Matthew 5:5.)

Now is the time to prepare for these blissful things to come. To-morrow may be too late.

By
R. D. Vine

The birth of the infant Jesus - - the sweetest
story ever told



H. M. LAMBERT

A Christmas Story

By Martha E. Warner

WE HAD been watching the sunset, my friend and I, and as the last rays disappeared from the sky she said, "Oh, how my family loved a sunset. To them the sky was an ever-changing art gallery, and God, the Master Artist. Somehow, I always felt that the thrilling glorious beauty of it was an important factor in the bringing up of my nine children.

"Now do not get the idea that my youngsters were angels; far from it; but we did try to set before them an example of honesty and truthfulness, and we did teach them to be obedient, how to work, and how to bear disappointment cheerfully. And we did no greasing."

Smiling at my look of bewilderment, she continued, "In the words of Strickland Gillian, 'When family

prayer was banished from the home, the skids to degeneracy were greased for the second generation.' But we took no chances—we made family prayers a feature of our daily life. As in all families, we had our ups and downs, but through it all we were a happy group, and I am proud of every last one of them.

"I remember one especially lean year. Five dollars was all the money we had, and Christmas was just around the corner. As we talked it over, dad said, 'Use the money for the children, they need so much, and maybe Brown will pay me for that load of wood next week.'

"As I started my plans, I could not dismiss from my mind thoughts of the new family down the road—father out of work, mother sick, three

small children hungry, and all because a real-estate shark had got his hooks in this family just as soon as they landed in America. I felt we should do something about it; so I put the question to the children, 'What shall we do?' With one voice they said, 'Make Christmas for the sick lady,' and that is what we did.

"The children were unusually busy Christmas week, but I took no notice until Bob, our oldest boy, brought in a small tree. Then I reminded him that we were to have no Christmas that year. But he just smiled and said, 'That is what you think.'

"Well, the tree was trimmed with popcorn, and soon packages of all sizes and colours began to appear. From their own treasures the children selected gifts for others. But what to do for dad was a problem. So they came to me. I suggested a tiny letter which should read, 'We love you, Dad,' signed by each member of the family. I learned later that I, too, had a letter which read, 'To the best mother in all the world,' signed first by dad and then by the children.

"When the happy night came the children put on a little programme for us. After that came the presents, dad's and mine last. When we read them our hearts were full, too full to speak. Finally Ann started *Silent Night*, and we all joined in. After the singing, dad offered prayer, and then came bedtime for the little ones. Really, it was the happiest Christmas I ever spent. Dad's voice is silent now, but it is a comforting thought to remember that just before he left home on the fatal morning of the accident, we heard his voice in prayer, then with a cheery good-bye he was off.

"After we laid him away for his last rest, I was going through his things, and found the Christmas letter in a box where he kept his treasures. I put my letter with it, and added another saying, 'Love to the dearest children a woman ever had,' and signed 'Mother.' The children will find it someday, and I know it will gladden their hearts."

Then abruptly my friend asked, "Don't you like Strickland Gillian's quote?"

"Indeed I do," I told her, and because I still do I am sending it out this Christmastime with a little prayer, to the parents who are doing the banishing act.

