

THE WORLD AS WE SEE IT

A Prophetic Interpretation of Current Events

* 100 Years

IN THE town of Goshen, Vermont, Edward D. Blackwell recently celebrated his one hundredth birthday. On that occasion hundreds of his friends helped him to celebrate it.

It is no small achievement these days for a man to live one hundred years. Only a few do so. Yet the time was on this earth when men lived nearly ten times as long. That was in the days be-fore the Flood. At that time man's natural force had not abated. Sin and its results had not yet overthrown man's natural constitution.

When God created man He had no plan that he should live only one hundred years, or one thousand years. It was God's plan that he should live forever. Decay and death are entirely foreign to the nature of God. God is the source of life and in Him is no death at all. As we view the earth and its inhabitants we see disease and death everywhere. This blight and decay are the result of sin. Sin, which is the breaking of God's law, had its entrance into the world about 6000 years ago.

In due time Christ came to this earth to make the supreme sacrifice-the sacrifice of Himself in behalf of man. It was the only way by which a sinner might live. During Old Testament times Jesus' death was foreshadowed thousands of times in the offering of the sin offering and in the morning and evening oblation.

Christ fulfilled all these types when He died upon the cross. He made this incomprehensible sacrifice of love that men might live longer than did Mr. Edward D. Blackwell of Goshen, Vermont. It is God's plan for the redeemed

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that they never die. Immortality will be given the saints at Christ's coming, and never again will they suffer shortness of life. "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saving that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting: O grave, where is thy vic-tory?" 1 Corinthians 15:51-55.

It is a good thing for the heavenly aspirant to remind himself of the "no sorrow," "no tears," "no death" promises given of God in the closing chapters of the Bible. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His peo-ple, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:1-5.

★ Death Dust Bombs

WE HAVE promised ourselves not to be surprised at anything. And, we suspect, most of our readers have consciously or unconsciously done the same thing. So many new and terrible deathdealing machines have been produced

that many have adopted a fatalistic attitude - an "eat, drink and be merry" attitude, "for tomorrow we die.'

It is a little hard to understand the mental processes of the scientist who works feverishly to produce the atom and hydrogen bombs and then becomes evangelistic in pleading with the world not to use them. Were his evangelism to take on a bit more of realism, we conceive that it would stop him short in his production of these horrible devices.

With the dropping of the A-bombs on the two defenceless Japanese cities, thinking people in all the world were appalled — and frightened. It became immediately clear that if we could drop such deadly weapons on our enemies, it would be only a matter of time until our enemies would be in a position to retaliate. It seemed that the A-bomb reached the acme of awfulness. But we had hardly become adjusted in thought to it until we were told about the Hbomb, an instrument said to outclass its



U.S. JOINT ARMY AND NAVY TASK FORCE The increasing arsenals of the nations indicate that Armageddon is drawing near.

> Signs of The TIMES IT THAT I

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little brother in destructive power a thousand to one.

Now scientists are telling us of the possibilities of a still more destructive agent – the "dust bomb." The destructive possibilities of the "dust bomb" are even more fearful than those of the hydrogen bomb. In this latter case a hydrogen bomb would be used to spread the death-dealing dust. A cobalt wrapper would be placed around the H-bomb, and when it was exploded the radioactive neutrons would be absorbed by the cobalt which would form a poison dust that would be deadly for years to anyone who i n h a l e d or swallowed enough of it.

We know from the Bible that the world is going to be destroyed and depopulated. This destruction will be effected by the glory and brightness attending Jesus' coming. The wicked cannot endure the awful glory of Christ as He comes in His own glory, in the glory of His Father, and in the glory of all heaven's angels. They call out for the rocks and mountains to fall on them. At this time destructive earthquakes in all the world break up the surface of the earth - cities are shaken down, populated islands sink beneath the surface of the sea. The wicked are put to death and the righteous are taken to heaven.

Doubtless Jesus will not need the help of the "dust bomb" or any other destructive device in destroying the wicked. However, it seems clear that scientists and governmental leaders are bent upon doing some destructive work on their own account before Jesus comes. This, too, is indicated in the Bible. There is the battle of Armageddon, which will be in progress when the Lord makes His appearance. According to the Bible, representatives of about all the mations of the world will be present at that final and fatal conflict.

The increasing arsenals of the nations indicate that the time of Armageddon is drawing near. The atom, hydrogen, and dust bombs, together with other destructive machines, will be used. Their use will be preliminary to the greatest event in the history of men – the return of Jesus in glory.

***** Deception

Do you like to be deceived?

I don't, and neither did the widows of Eugene Wood.

Wood's dual life was not detected until he was accidentally killed in a truck crash. Then it was found that he had two families, living in towns sixty miles apart. Seven years ago—when he married his second wife without the formality of a divorce from his first wife—Wood began to father and main-



God is keeping books, in which are recorded all our deeds, good and evil.

tain two separate families, keeping one in ignorance of the other.

But Eugene Wood's life was not so much different from that of many others. There is a great deal of the "hypocrite" in most of us. You are acquainted with the family that tries to "keep up with the Joneses"—the family that pretends to be better off than it is, and lives beyond its means in an effort to create an impression. You have met the man who boasts of his deeds of valour—deeds which exist only in his own imagination. Or the man who tells of the fortunes he has won and lost, or the famous people with whom he is intimately acquainted, or his one-time athletic powers.

Some are more skilled in the "art of deception" than others. Generally speaking it is not difficult to deceive in some

Friendship

Blessed thought of friendship, To every heart most dear, Brings comfort to the needy To every soul good cheer. Expressed in words and actions, Rich blessings will attend Each deed of loving service, From one who is a friend.

Not alone for loved ones, But neighbours far and wide, This true and loyal friendship Should in our hearts abide. Then let us live for others, For this is God's own plan To bless the world around us "And be a friend to man."

-Mrs. C. R. Hyatt

degree our neighbours, our friends, and even our families. Some succeed in their chosen form of deception for years. But

"Be sure your sin will find you out." You may deceive your closest friends, and perhaps your wife will not catch up with you; but there is One who is not deceived by a hypocritical pose.

God, the omniscient, eternal Father, knows more about you than you know about yourself. Eugene Wood's secret, kept from even his respective families, was known to God. Most people, in trying to hide some reprehensible thing, underrate God's ability to know that which is done in secret. The Bible tells us that all our steps are marked before God, and that He numbers the very hairs of our heads.

God is keeping books in which He records all our deeds, good and evil. In these books of the records, God has made entry of those things we did in the corner, under cover of darkness. In that day of final reckoning we shall face those supposedly "secret" things. "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:12.

God's bookkeeping works to the advantage of the righteous. Record is kept of their good deeds, and their holy thoughts. "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name." Malachi 3:16.

THE TWO CORONATIONS

REAT preparations are now being made for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June. Hosts of her subjects will thrill to see the solemn act performed; other hosts will thrill to see her as she rides to famous Westminster Abbey; and still others will thrill as she enters and leaves the place of coronation. It will be a time and a scene long to be kept in memory.

Attendance at the ceremony is by invitation only-and this is an invitation not to be politely declined. These invitations are greatly prized by those who are so fortunate as to receive them, and many no doubt will find places of permanent display, framed and hung on walls of homes, libraries and offices.

Naturally not all who would be delighted to attend, can attend-it is a physical impossibility. And, of course, there is no possibility of a "repeat performance." A coronation is done once and for all.

The coronation of an earthly monarch is not a thing to be taken lightly. Attendance is a high privilege-one which you or I would thoroughly appreciate, but which is most unlikely to be ours to enjoy.

Those who plan to attend are giving most careful attention to the coronation robes-for they must be properly attired for the occasion. There is little question that all who are there will be in appropriate attire, for one improperly dressed would fail of gaining entrance. It would doubtless be considered an affront to the dignity of the occasion.

Important as will be the coronation in June to the British Empire and to the world-when the Dean of Canterbury solemnly places St. Edward's crown on the head of Elizabeth II and crowns her queen-there is to be another coronation that is even more important. Sounds audacious, even impossible, does it? That I admit. Nevertheless, it is certainly true.

That coronation will be the crowning of the King of kings and Lord of lords, whom we know as Jesus Christ. He is coming again, according to promise: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2, 3.

The date of His coming has not been definitely given us as has the date for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. But

we know He will come. And while months of time have been provided for the necessary preparations for Elizabeth's coronation, He has given us our lifetime as a period of preparation. There are great differences as well as

great similarities in the two coronations. One of these differences is resident in



BABON FROM MILLER

Important as will be the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, there is another to which every-one is invited—the coronation of Jesus as King of kings.

the period of time given to prepare and to be ready. One allows months; the other, the life span.

One of the similarities is the coronation robe. The New Testament speaks of the "wedding garment." Matthew 22:11. The following verses make it clear that the "wedding garment" is the robe of character possessed by the guests. And John sees a great group of them later "clothed with white robes." Identifying them further he says, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him." Revelation 7:14, 15. Robes are important. These are robes of character

By ELTON A. JONES

Do You Plan to Attend?

woven on the loom of day-by-day mundane experiences, under the watchful and helpful direction of "Him that loved us." Revelation 1:5.

May I point out another great difference in these two coronations and the proper attire for them? The Queen has, we are informed, made it as easy as possible for her subjects to acquire the proper robes. That is generous, gracious, and good.

The "white robes" are represented as being provided by Christ for all those who love Him and who are earnestly making preparation to be at His coronation. He is shown as the Forgiver of sin and the Great Bestower of righteousness. He Himself lends His power to His loyal subjects, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28:18. Surely here is power in its fulness. But let us take a further step: "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12.

The picture is this: Christ loves His subject people so much that He gave His sinless life that they might eventually live in a sinless world. He made provision that their lives of sin might be blotted out and covered by His perfectly obedient life-and so provide for them the "white robes" suitable for His coronation. And in addition to all this He adopts every such one into the royal family of heaven, to become a son of God. Great as the privilege would be of being adopted into the British royal family, this is a higher and greater one. In view of this it is not strange that one of His names is Wonderful! (Isaiah 9:6.)

Another difference in the coronation is that one is limited in capacity. The heavenly coronation will have room for every person who really desires to be present. We have an intimation of it: "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." John 1:12. To this coronation all are invited: "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth, say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17. So if you really want to be there, there is your invitation. It is an occasion for which the entire universe has long waited, and it must not be slighted.

And here let me point out still an-

other difference. Those who receive the engraved invitation to the Abbey will be there, health and life permitting. No petty excuses are accepted-and none are offered. But to this greater coronation you, the recipient of the invitation, may say, "I'm not interested," or "I am busy with affairs of my own," or "I don't feel like getting ready." BUT-and it is a great big terrible but-that excuse which you make now, whether oral, written, or simply mental, you will meet another day, when He who is crowned will sit in judgment on those who have slighted His offers of mercy, rejected His offers of help, and spurned His love. No one with his own best interests in mind will fail to accept Christ's invitation.

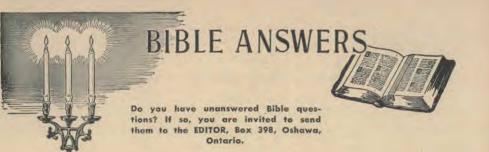
St. Edward's crown, which will be used in the coronation in June, is a thing of consumate beauty. Its value is great. It is an honoured crown. And we are told that it weighs some thirty pounds.

Here is one other difference. The crown of King Jesus is not described in such complete detail as is the British crown. We are merely told that "on His head were many crowns" (Revelation 19:12), and we are left with that much information. But of this we may be certain: Christ's is a crown worthy of the King, of His kingdom, and of His countless subjects.

Still another difference is in the fact that after the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II her subjects will again go to their usual occupations: the labourer to his work; the accountant to his adding machine; the shopkeeper to his merchandise; and the cabby to his cab.

But those who attend the coronation of King Jesus are made members of the royal family in heaven, and as such are crowned also. The psalmist sings in anticipation: "For Thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt Thou crown him." Psalm 5:12, margin.

It would be quite unnecessary to ask one who had an invitation to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II what he was going to do about it. But I am sure that it is not unnecessary to ask you what you will do about this invitation to Christ's coronation. Will you be there? The coronation robe is provided. Will you wear it? Even the crown for the newly adopted member of the royal family of heaven is provided. Will you accept it? If you do not, another will, for "behold, 1 come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Revelation 3:11. The invitation, the robe, the crown are all provided-provided for YOU. Will you be there?



What is the purpose of God's law?

God's law cannot save people, as some think. It does not oppress, as others think. It is an expression of God's great love for the human race. God is love, His government is a government of love, and His law is a law of love. To some the law of God is a "yoke of bondage." They feel that it is restrictive, oppressive and tyrannical—they hate it. But God's law is none of these. God gave it in its present form as an expression of love for His people.

It sets forth principles of right, governing human and divine-human relationships. It is an eternal principle of right that one man should not kill another. Also there are certain right principles that govern relationships between God and man. These are contained in the first four commandments. God knows that it is for our best present and eternal good to obey His law. Therefore, He gave it to us in love that we might get the most out of this life and that we might inherit eternal life.

It is an instrument neither of salvation nor of oppression. Christ is the Saviour. The law is intended as a sin detector. As a mirror reveals the clean or unclean condition of one's face, so the law shows the condition of the heartwhether it is clean or unclean, righteous or sinful. It is a necessary part of the plan of salvation, and is not in any degree opposed to grace or to Christ. The law and grace are the best of working companions-working together for man's salvation. Christ and His Father's law are in perfect agreement. Jesus declared in no uncertain terms that He had not come to destroy the law. He came to perform it, to carry it out, to show us how it should be obeyed.

Does the Bible support the idea which so many have today of allowing children to have their own way?

Indeed not! The Bible upholds discipline in child training. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Some people have the idea that you cannot start training a child until it reaches the age of understanding. But if you wait that long you have waited too long. Habits, good or bad, are formed early, even when the infant is in the cradle, and that is the right time to begin the programme of discipline. Infants are quick to learn. Pick an infant up a few times and he will cry to be picked up. He learns that crying gets him attention, so he cries. Reverse the procedure. Let him alone when he cries, don't pick him up—and in two or three times he will learn that crying won't get him what he wants, so he will stop.

Here are other texts from the Bible: "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." Proverbs 29:17. "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Verse 15. "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." Proverbs 23: 13, 14.

What does the Bible say about gossip?

The Word of God says a great deal against this wicked practice. "He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour." Those that carry out these instructions are those who will occupy a place with God in eternity. Heaven has no place for gossipers, backbiters, makers of trouble.

"The law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Galatians 5:14, 15. "I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults." 2 Corinthians 12:20.

Are the 144,000 all that will be saved when Jesus comes the second time?

If you will read Revelation 7:9 you will see that there is a great multitude of the redeemed in addition to the 144,000.

A Sign in the East Fulfilling Bible Prophecy By PHILIP MOORES

THERE is a sign in the East that looms large on the horizon, proclaiming earth's last battle and the coming of Christ. Jesus said, "Of that day and hour knoweth no man." Yet speaking of the prophecies concerning these events He said, "When ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors." The prophecies of the "sign in the East" emphasize the truth of these words.

The prophet John foretold a climactic movement in the East that would take place just before the curtain would ring down on human history. Revelation 16:12-16 tells us about it: "The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Immediately after this, in verse 17, the voice from the throne says, "It is done." Here is the last battle of earththe battle known as Armageddon. This is the battle that winds up human affairs.

The sign in the East looms largest in the Far East, but the trouble there is only part of the sign that is arising over all Asia as the "spirits of devils" go forth unto the kings of the earth, and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. The way of the kings of the East is being prepared all over the continent of Asia. Nations are being prepared to move toward Armageddon.

The vast, remote and complex civilization of Asia is being stirred to arise against the West. Many intricate and grave situations are being created that will lead to all-out war. Realistically, China, the most powerful country of Asia, is at war with the West. China is unified as never before. Rarely has so much been accomplished with so little.

The sign stretching away to the southeast is seen clearly in the revolt against the French in Indo-China. The British, with an army in Malaya far larger than the force in Korea, has found it impossible to control the revolt among an Eastern people who once fought side by side with them.

The Western grip has been shaken off by India and other countries of the East. The restless tide is sweeping across Asia and the sign in the East grows more and more ominous. More than that, trouble around the Suez Canal has brought the sign in the East very close to the place called in the Hebrew tongue "Armageddon." Unless som e means is found to stay this rising tide, earth's last battle will soon come. The time is at hand when the kings of the whole world will be gathered to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

The sign in the East could not be seen five hundred years ago. Then it was impossible to assemble the kings of the whole world. Some nations were not yet born. Communication and transportation were not sufficiently developed. Even one hundred years ago America was young, Africa was dark, and Asia was sleeping. Armageddon at that time was impossible. But not so today. The world is now small and Armageddon in the land of Palestine is at the crossroads between East and West. It is in the right spot to become the storm centre of the last days. Great powers covet this territory for military and economic reasons. The Jews claim it as their homeland; the Mohammedans count it



The climax of history is fast approaching. It is time to accept salvation, to watch and be ready.

Signs of The TIMES

sacred to them; and the Christians call it the Holy Land.

Palestine has always been the world's geographic centre and consequently it has been the great racial, religious and cultural centre of the world. It was to this centre of world influence that God sent His Son. The prophet John points to Palestine as the place where the world's last battle will be fought and where the Lord will appear to judge the nations.

Several other prophecies indicate that there will be an awakening among Eastern nations just before the final battle of Armageddon. Joel 3:9-14 says, "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 wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

This graphic forecast, with its view of "the sickle," "the harvest," and the "day of the Lord," shows that this prophecy will be fulfilled just before the second coming of Christ. Jesus said, "The harvest is the end of the world." Matthew 13:39. The heathen say, "I am strong" and feel that nothing can stop them in their race for destructive supremacy. Modern generals believe that the best place to meet and throw back Asia is called Megiddo, or on some maps, Armageddon.

The Holy Scriptures indicate that the area around Jerusalem will become the storm centre in the world's last conflict. Note such quotations from the Bible as "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle." Zechariah 14:1, 2.

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the



Oshawa, Ontario, Canada

people of the earth be gathered together against it." Zechariah 12:2, 3.

The kings of the earth and the whole world will be gathered in this area. They have an appointment for a final settlement with God. They will come from the East and from the West, small and great, weak and strong-gathered by the spirits of devils to earth's last conflict.

The Lord will be there. "A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations." Jeremiah 25:31.

Nothing on earth can or will stop the mad rush of the nations toward earth's last war. Powers beyond human control keep East and West racing for military supremacy to protect their political, territorial and commercial interests. Many do not realize that mighty spiritual forces are at work, driving the kings of

Every Knee Shall Bow

Six-thousand years of age, this world is now.

- Its military programmes, Satan rules.
- The nations think these constitute their might;
- Their strength depends on force and violence-
- Atomic weapons of destruction; so
- That nothing is secure now, here below. But Satan soon shall face an angry
- Providence Who will cut off this whole world's violence.
- When that wrong principle for aye must go;
- Just when 'twill dominate all nations through
- And reach its pinnacle! Yes, thence
- It is, God plunks it in the sea,-that's right.
- And, from that moment on, the Maker rules
- For evermore! And-every knee shall bow!

-Lulu May Andersen

the whole world to Armageddon. But those who study prophecy know that the heathen have been awakened and are being stirred by evil influences. These evil influences under the inspiration of devils, defying God, move the nations on to their final destination.

The sign in the East shows first, that Bible prophecy is true; secondly, that the end is near; and thirdly, that the world needs a Saviour. It shows that the Christians can have complete confidence in God's Word. His promises are as true as His prophecies. His promises offer hope of deliverance as found in Psalm 91:1-10:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fort ress: my God; in Him will I trust. . . . Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. . . . There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling."

The sign in the East proclaims the time. It is time to trust the Saviour. It is time to accept salvation. It is time to watch and be ready. The climax of history is rapidly approaching. The sure word of prophecy is being fulfilled and must be heeded or men will be lost. Peter states the case clearly: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the Day-star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19.

"Until the Day-star arise in your hearts" to give power, victory, joy and happiness amid rising troubles. The Day-star in the heart will be the complete cure for those who are fearful because of the sign in the East. THE theological definition for the word "probation" in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary is, "A state or period, in this life . . . in which man has opportunity to avail himself of the grace of God and become qualified for a happier state. In various Methodist bodies, a trial of a convert's fitness, required as a preliminary to reception into full membership."

The law dictionary defines "proba-

By C. S. LONGACRE

Again, Paul in writing to the Christians at Rome said: "For He [God] will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." Romans 9:28.

The Lord has told us in His prophet-

[trumpet], when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants the prophets." Revelation 8:2; 10:1-7.

This seventh trumpet angel was to announce the finishing work of the gospel of salvation, the final judgment work of God, and the setting up of the everlasting kingdom of Christ. When the gospel work was finished and the

PROBATION CLOSED

tion" in this way: "In modern criminal administration, allowing a person convicted of some minor offence (particularly juvenile offenders), to go at large, under a suspension of sentence, during good behaviour."

The Bible does not use the word "probation" in the English translation. But it does teach that every sinner is given a period of time during which he has an opportunity to repent of his sins and accept salvation. And more than that: the Scriptures teach that the whole human race, and the world itself, is given probationary time in which to accept salvation.

The Scriptures expressly declare: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. . . . God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work." Ecclesiastes 3:1, 17.

There comes a time when each individual's probation ends. This fact is clearly stated by the apostle Paul: "He [God] limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Hebrews 4:7. (Compare with Psalm 95:7, 8.) The period of time called "Today" is aptly defined by Paul: "But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:13. Again, the apostle Paul writes: "For He [God] saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6:2. Christ Himself stated that there was a definite time limit set to the day of salvation: "I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4.

The Door of Mercy Still Ajar

ic Word just when the gospel work of salvation is to be finished. Amos said: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets." Amos 3:7. God sent an angel down from heaven to the apostle John and revealed to him just when the gospel work of saving men was to be finished. Said John:

"I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. . . And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, . . . and he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, and cried with a loud voice . . . that there should be time no longer: but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel

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judgment work in heaven was completed, John says: "The seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices *in heaven*, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever." Revelation 11:15. The apostle Paul, time and again, designates "the mystery of God," as the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. See the following texts for proof: Romans 16:25; Ephesians 3:3-9; Colossians -1:23-26; 1 Timothy 3:16.

For one hundred and twenty years Noah preached the gospel of salvation and righteousness to the antediluvian world, warning them of the coming Flood. Their probation closed when "the Lord shut him [Noah] in" and shut out the rejectors of God's mercy. Jesus says: "And as it was in the days of Noah . . . even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is re-vealed." Luke 17:26, 30. Christ is now the "Advocate" for sinners, but the day is coming when the door of mercy will be shut upon this present evil world. This solemn fact is definitely stated by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, thus: "And they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut." Matthew 25:10. Christ states that sometime He will cease to be our "Advocate" and that His Father in heaven will give Him "authority to execute judgment." John 5:27.

That solemn hour is described by Jesus as follows: "When once the Master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and He shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in Thy presence, and Thou hast taught in our streets. But He shall say, I tell

Signs of The TIMES

you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out." Luke 13:25-30.

After the probation of this world has closed and every case has been settled and fixed forever, when the records in heaven have been investigated, then it will be too late to obtain forgiveness of sin and be saved. Then the unsaved inhabitants of this world, who rejected God's offer of mercy through Jesus Christ, will say: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jeremiah 8:20. At that time the lost, who during their lifetime gave themselves over to the pleasures of the world, to self-seeking, to the indulgence of fleshly lusts, and who despised the Word of God, will fulfil this prophecy of the Lord:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, and they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." Amos 8:11, 12.

The prophet Isaiah advises, "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon Him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:6, 7.

Before the "executive judgment" referred to in the Bible takes place, the books in heaven are to be opened. Then the records of every person in this world are to be examined. This will determine who shall be saved and who condemned, as it is written, "They that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, *in that day when I make up My jewels.*" Malachi 3:16, 17.

jewels." Malachi 3:16, 17. There comes a "day" when the Lord begins to go through His "book of remembrance" to "make up His jewels." The apostle Paul says: "He [God] hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness." Acts 17:31.

The beginning of the investigative judgment in heaven is graphically de-

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scribed by the prophet Daniel. Said he: "I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was Ancient of days did sit: His raiment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool; His throne was fiery flames, and the wheels thereof burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousands of thousands [of angels] ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him [God]: the judgment was set, and the books were opened." Daniel 7:9, 10, A.R.V.

Christ, our "Advocate," next appeared before the throne of the Ancient of days, known as "the throne of grace," where He as our "High Priest," in "the heavenly sanctuary" intercedes for us. The books are opened and each case is considered and its destiny decided for weal or woe. Daniel describes the scene and tells us the results of the examination of the books:

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven [the angels of God], and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages [of the redeemed saints], should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:13, 14.

Christ made the promise to everyone who confesses his sins, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed



REVIEW AND HERALD T. K. MARTIN, ARTIST When the records in heaven have been investigated, then it will be too late to obtain forgiveness of sin.

in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels." Revelation 3:5. All those who accept Christ as their Saviour, and whose names are "written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world," are reckoned as God's "jewels," and are "accounted worthy to obtain that world [the world to come], and the resurrection from the dead." Revelation 13:8; Luke 20:35.

The time of this investigative judgment was shown to the prophet Daniel. God told him when it was to begin in the inner sanctum, the holy of holies, in the heavenly sanctuary, as stated by the angel Gabriel: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days [prophetic years]; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14. This 2300-year prophecy, we are told in Daniel 9:24-27, was to be reckoned "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem," which was lying in ruins in Daniel's time. The fufilment of this commandment and the commandment itself are recorded in the seventh chapter of Ezra. The date recorded in that chapter is 457 B.C., and therefore the 2300 years must naturally end in A.D. 1844. At that time the heavenly sanctuary was to be cleansed by the blotting out of the sins of the people.

For more than a century this judgment work has been going on in the holy of holies in the heavenly sanctuary. When it is finished the divine fiat from God's throne will go forth: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:11, 12. After this severe pronouncement, Jesus hastens to add this comforting statement for the benefit and encouragement of those who are finally at Jesus' coming to enter the heavenly Jerusalem, the Paradise of God: "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gate into the city." Revelation 22:14.

The time is coming, and that in the near future, when the work of salvation will be finished, when the last sermon will be preached, the last appeal made and the last sinner saved.

Will you be among those to whom Christ will say: "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"? Matthew 25:34.

MEDICAL

M EDICAL science and religion should never be divorced. What God hath joined together should never be put asunder. In God's great plan of lifting mankind, the two are united. Medical science is, in fact, shorn of its locks without religion, and religion is weakened without medical science. In the ministry of Christ the two were combined. To the palsied man the Great Physician said: "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee," before He said, "Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thy house." The mental and spiritual condition had to have attention in order to make physical healing possible.

Others who appealed to Him He healed of their physical maladies first. This paved the way to help them mentally and spiritually. After healing the man who was blind from birth, He said to him, "Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" and he said, "Lord, I believe. And he worshipped Him."

The apostles recognized this. So closely were the two associated in their ministry that in reading the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, it is difficult to determine which was written by the physician and which by the evangelist. Both were sent forth to minister to the mind and to the body.

and to the body. In His work Jesus helped the mind through the body, and He helped the body through the mind. This was God's original plan of ministry. Among the children of Israel, the priest was also their physician. He gave directions as to what to do in case of sickness. Through their splendid organization of leaders over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, it was possible to instruct the people so fully that they would be recognized as a kingdom of priests, capable of teaching the world. Gradually a separation took place between religion and medicine so that in the time of Christ the priest and the Levite passed by the sufferer by the wayside. It was left for the Samaritan, a commoner, to minister to his bodily needs.

In many instances disease is traceable to a wrong mental condition, in others it is traceable to wrong physical habits. To the man who was healed by Christ of his physical malady at the Pool of Bethesda. He said: "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee," showing that sin and disease bear to each other the relation of cause and effect. Much of the despondency, impatience and ir-

SCIENCE

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ritability is traceable to wrong physical habits.

A very noted preacher came to me for a physical examination. On Sunday night he was invited to talk to the sanitarium family of patients and workers. It was a good gospel talk. The next morning during the examination, to my surprise, he said: "Doctor, I am the most miserable man in the world. I get spells of despondency that make me fear I may at some time do something desperate. What is the matter?"

In the course of the examination we

By D. H. KRESS, M.D.

discovered that he was the victim of autointoxication, resulting from the decay and fermentation of foods in the alimentary tract. This man's mental condition had to be reached through the stomach. When he had been placed upon a correct dietary and had taken some simple treatments, these horrible symptoms gradually disappeared. The poisons formed in the alimentary canal



In God's great plan of lifting mankind, medical science and religion are united.

are just as real as are the poisons that are dispensed over the saloon bar, and they may even be more injurious.

To the priests anciently the command was given not to drink wine or strong drink, that they might be able

and RELIGION

to discern between the sacred and the common, between the clean and the unclean. Even when used in moderate doses, alcohol tends to place a man on a lower spiritual and moral plane. Many of the immoral acts are traceable to a mild form of intoxication. The intoxication may be due to alcohol taken at a social gathering, or it may be due to alcohol formed in the alimentary tract from the fermentation of foods. We read: "Blessed art thou, O land, when . . . thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!" Ecclesiastes 10:17. Yes, it is possible to become drunken from the food you eat.

It is practically impossible for a man to have a sour stomach and a sweet disposition at the same time. God sweetens the disposition of such an individual through sweetening the stomach by correcting errors in diet. Many of the family quarrels which end in divorce may be traceable to the foods prepared by a well-meaning wife. To my mind, nothing would go farther toward solving the divorce problem than the education of women in the preparation of nutritious, wholesome, palatable, and attractive foods for the table. The nervousness and stubbornness of children frequently are due to wrong feeding. It was when Eve gave to Adam the wrong kind of food that God said: "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow."

Many an innocent wife is unconsciously playing into the hands of the saloonkeeper and neutralizing her prayers by feeding her husband and children the kind of food served in the saloon to create the craving for beer. A confirmed drunkard said to Dr. Lauder Brunton of England, when admonished to be a man and give up drink, "You good people have a good deal to say about my drink, but you say nothing about my thirst."

In leading the children of Israel out of Egypt toward the Promised Land, God designed to make of them a healthy and holy people and a kingdom of priests to evangelize the world. To bring this about it was necessary to withhold from them the foods to which they had become accustomed while living with the Egyptians.

Addressing God's people today, the prophet said: "By returning from your ways, shall ye be saved." The gospel was not designed to save men *in* sin, but *from* sin, and in saving them from sin to save them from its results. Jesus came to proclaim liberty to Satan's captives.

Referring to the hopeless moral condition which existed before the Flood, Jesus in calling attention to its causes said: "They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage." The causes of divorce in these days could often, with a little study, be traced to the food served in the home.

Henry Ward Beecher gave an admirable illustration of the influence of diet on the spiritual life. He said: "I have known men who praved for the grace of good temper in vain until their physicians told them to stop eating meat. . . . So long as they ate animal food they could not control themselves, they were so irritable. But as soon as they began living on a diet of grains, fruits, and vegetables, they were able to keep their temper. They sought in prayer relief from their irritableness. Their physician by the aid of science revealed to them the cause of that irritableness, and their prayers were answered.'

Later he added: "They were not unwise in praying, but they were wise when to their prayers they added medical advice. It is quite in vain for you to pray for a tranquil, congenial, hopeful spirit, when your organs of digestion are at fault. Not that one who is sick should not pray for help, but prayer is to be joined to diet. . . It is folly for a man to pray for common morals and still more for spiritual graces and then take no heed to the way, humanly speaking, by which these graces are achieved. . . You are to work for it not without prayer and you are to pray for it not without work."

Diet and Health

Our bodies are built up from the food we eat. There is a constant breaking down of the tissues of the body; every movement of every organ involves waste, and this waste is repaired from our food. Each organ of the body requires its share of nutrition. The brain must be supplied with its portion; the bones, muscles, and nerves demand theirs....

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Those foods should be chosen that best supply the elements needed for building up the body. In this choice, appetite is not a safe guide. Through wrong habits of eating, the appetite has become perverted. Often it demands food that impairs health and causes weakness instead of strength. We cannot safely be guided by the customs of society. The disease and suffering that everywhere prevail are largely due to popular errors in regard to diet. In order to know what are the best foods, we must study God's original plan for man's diet. . . . Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator. These foods, prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most bealthful nad nourishing. They impart a strength, a power of endurance, and a vigour of intellect, that are not afforded by a more complex and stimulating diet. - E. G. White.



Hamsters As Pets

WHEN Cynthy Godwin's parents moved to the city, they were dismayed at having to live in a tiny apartment above a store in the business section of the town.

"This is no place to bring up a child," complained Andy Godwin bitterly. "Right now there seems to be little choice, however."

"We'll soon find something better," said his wife consolingly. "The only thing is—I'd promised Cynthy a pet when we moved and I don't see how we could possibly manage a dog or cat here."

Andy Godwin sighed. "She wants a puppy. When I was her age I had a dog I wouldn't have sold for a million dollars. A pet means more than toys or money to a child."

"Cynthy will be so lonely. It's too bad."

Andy suddenly brightened. "Say, I just thought of something! One of the men down at the shop said he was raising a small animal called a hamster. He said that they were of so little trouble and expense that in London they called them the 'Austerity Pet.' I'll ask him about it today."

That night Andy was late for dinner, but when he came in he carried a small pasteboard box with holes in the top. "It's your new playmate, honey!" he announced to his daughter. He laughed as Cynthy danced excitedly about. "Take off the cover very carefully."

Inside the box sat a little bright-eyed ball of golden-brown fur. It gazed up at them expectantly, its whiskers twitching with excitement.

"It's a baby Golden Hamster," Andy explained. "It will grow to about seven inches in length and become very tame. Look!"

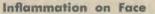
Everyone began laughing, as the young hamster suddenly decided to clean up. He sat squirrel-like, washed his hands and face thoroughly, even managing to reach the back of his neck with tiny, almost human hands. Cynthy could scarcely take her happy eyes from the box.

"I'll make a cage for him so you can keep him in your room," promised her father. "Hamsters are very clean, and you can care for him yourself, Cynthy."

Norbert, as they named the pet, went to kindergarten that year with Cynthy, and his bright, friendly nature made Cynthy a very popular young lady. The teacher placed Norbert's cage in the very front of the room and told the class much about the Golden Hamster—how it had been developed from a single pair found in 1930, and how thousands of them were now being used as domestic pets all over the world.

"He fills his pouches so full of food at feeding time," Cynthy told the children, "that he looks as though he had three heads. Then he runs to his nest and buries most of it. He eats nearly any kind of food, though dad says it's natural for him to eat green vegetables, lettuce and carrots—like a rabbit. We feed him scraps from the table, and mother says that what is good for me is good for Norbert!"

"I find that the A.S.P.C.A. seems to be of the same opinion, and that makes hamsters easy to feed, doesn't it?" said the teacher. "We think you're a lucky girl, Cynthy, to have found a pet as fascinating as Norbert, the Golden Hamster."-Bertha Younkin, in National Kindergarten Association.



Question: I have a breaking out on my face on the bearded area. It becomes red, inflamed and itchy at times, and sore.

ANSWER: Folliculitis, or an inflammation of the roots of the hair in the bearded area, is the usual cause. It would help if you could use an electric razor for a time. You could take codliver oil in some form for vitamins A and D, and a teaspoonful daily of Mazola oil for vitamin F. For local application any shaving lotion would be satisfactory, followed by vanishing cream if the skin were too dry.

Migraine Headache

Question: What is the cause of migraine headache, and is there any cure for it?

ANSWER: Migraine headaches are caused essentially by a spasm of the blood vessels of the head followed by an abnormal dilation. The headache at first is sharp and stabbing and then becomes throbbing in character. In the initial phase heat may be applied to the side of the head to obtain relief; in the later stages an ice bag is applied to the side of the head and a hot-water bottle to the feet (a hot foot bath may be taken to even greater advantage). The autonomic nervous system has to do with the calibre of the blood vessels. Various drugs have been used to modify the headaches, ergot in particular, which causes contraction of the blood vessels, but the sideeffects are often more unpleasant than the headache itself. In the early stages nicotinic acid, a vitamin, may sometimes relieve by causing a generalized flush, thus dilating any spastic

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JOCTOR'S VOICE

blood vessels. Its benefit, however, is unpredictable.

Undue fatigue, worry, anxiety, and in fact any emotional stress of sufficient severity may bring on an attack of migraine. If one continues to be intemperate in his habits of living and is lacking in self-control the headaches may come on more frequently and with increased severity. The basis of permanent cure is therefore the taking of adequate rest, refusing to be worried or unduly disturbed by anything, taking regular outdoor exercise, and having a firm trust in divine power. Commonly used drugs which adversely affect the autonomic nervous system would have to be discarded. These include the caffeine of tea. coffee, and cola drinks in general, as well as the nicotine of tobac-CO.

Pain in Shoulder

Question: Would you kindly explain the difference between rheumatism, neuritis, and arthritis? I have a pain and a crackling noise in my shoulders when moving my arms to the opposite shoulder. Do you recommend exercise or rest? I am seventy-four.

ANSWER: Rheumatism is a general term and as generally used may include muscular rheumatism and arthritis (rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis). In the shoulder other somewhat related conditions have been described such as bursitis, tendinitis, and periarthritis. If there is pain and limitation of motion of gradual onset and long duration we recommend exercise. The following exercises are useful: Put hands behind the neck and shove the elbows back as far as possible.

Touch the opposite ear over the top of the head, raise the arm forwards, backwards, and sideways, then touch the tip of the shoulder blade on the same side from below. Do this five minutes every hour. At first the pain may be increased, but if one persists with the exercises relief is obtained. X rays sometimes reveal calcium deposits in the bursae which may be syringed out. This would be more likely to be present in a younger person.

Hearing Aid

Question: Is there anything besides a hearing aid to help declining hearing? The hearing aid does not help much; it makes the sound louder but not more distinct.

ANSWER: For nerve deafness a hearing aid is about the only solution. Elderly people tend to retain salt in their body fluids. Hearing may sometimes be distinctly improved by restricting salt in the diet. Some benefit may also be gained by taking extra vitamin A as in cod-liver oil and vitamin B as in wholegrain cereals, nuts, and legumes. They may also be secured in vitamin concentrates.

Increased Height and Weight

Question: I always weigh 145 pounds and I want to weigh 165. I am 5 feet 8½ inches tall, and I want to be 6 feet tall. Can you help me?

ANSWER: If one is underweight a general physical examination is indicated to endeavour to find the cause. However, in your case your weight would seem to be close to normal. Heredity, of course, has a lot to do with one's height.