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Signs of
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ARMSTRONG ROBERTS

THE WORLD AS WE SEE IT

A Prophetic Interpretation of Current Events



★ The World Between the East and the West

THE Middle East is awake and awakening today. This is in fulfilment of Joel's prophecy, to "let the heathen be wakened." Joel 3:12. Arabs who never travelled faster than a camel's pace are today riding over shining rails, in air conditioned cars at sixty and seventy miles an hour. Other Arabs who never saw a railroad until the last few years are running trains today—and successfully.

The explanation of this is the discovery of oil, fabulous quantities of "black gold" beneath the sands of Iraq, Iran and other Arab states. It was there all the time. Camel caravans had travelled over it for centuries, but knew nothing of the unprecedented wealth beneath their feet. To be sure in bygone-centuries this oil had no value. But today, in this mechanized twentieth century, it is indispensable. This unbounded "lake of oil" lying beneath the sands of the "children of the east" is in high demand by the nations of the west. As a matter of fact, modern nations cannot survive in greatness without it. No nation dare risk a major war without oil to power its battleships, tanks and planes.

Russia which is short of oil eyes the Middle East reservoirs with desire. Great companies, supported by the United States and Great Britain, have moved in on the Arab oil, established refineries, built pipe lines and negotiated oil treaties with Arab rulers. Newspapers have headlined the "trouble over oil" between England and the Iranian government for many months.

All in all Ishmael's descendants are having it better because of oil. Railroads and roads are being built. Western foods are being imported. Education is on the rise. Alert Arabs have started their own contracting firms. And other thousands are employed by the western oil companies for hitherto undreamed of wages. Some Arabs are travelling abroad learning improved methods. Still others are learning at home. Agricultural experts from England and the United States are showing the Arabs how to make the "desert blossom as a rose."

The new nation of Israel, having advantage of better leadership, and foreign support has, as it is said, performed miracles with its barren, desolate land. They have built cities, roads, irrigated the desert, checked inflation and moved their capital to Jerusalem. That is, they have moved their capital to the new section of Jerusalem. The Arabs occupy the ancient city. The Jews say, and this writer conceives it to be true that, "Jerusalem has a meaning for Jews which no Gentile can understand."

Jerusalem is divided. The Jews are shut out from their Wailing Wall, and their other "holy places." All these are occupied by the Arabs. Although the Jews and the Arabs are blood brothers they do not live peacefully. Barbed wire entanglements run along the boundaries separating the two peoples. Gun fire is frequently heard. The shepherd of Israel, instead of carrying the traditional crook, carries a rifle.

The Arabs are the descendants of Ishmael, who was the son of Abraham by Hagar, Sarah's maid; while the Jews are the descendants of Abraham by his wife Sarah. The time was when Sarah cast out the bondwoman, Hagar. Hagar took her son, Ishmael and fled into the desert, and when the boy was about to perish from thirst an angel met Hagar and promised that God would make of her son a great nation. While Ishmael was not to be the progenitor of the promised Seed, still it was promised that he would be great in that he would be the father of a

great nation. We see the fulfilment of that promise in the millions of the Arab nations that occupy their ancient lands of the Middle East.

The descendants of Isaac, too, were to become a great nation, a prophecy which met its greatest fulfilment in the days of Solomon. However, because of disobedience ancient Israel was rejected by the Lord, and scattered among all the nations of the earth. But scattered though they were they have survived through the centuries. They have preserved their identity, and a Hebrew is as much a Hebrew today, no matter in what land he may chance to live, as were any of his ancestors. Although living among various Gentile nations he has not amalgamated with his neighbours. This thing in itself is a century old miracle that constitutes one of the most profound evidences that the Bible is true, and that the God of the Bible is true, knowing the end from the beginning.

Although exiled for centuries on end, the Jews have survived their ancient enemies. In the records of the Kings and Chronicles we read of their wars with the surrounding nations of the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Amorites, the Philistines, the Ishmaelites and others. Where are these nations today? They have ceased to exist, or have amalgamated with other nations and so lost their identity. Only the descendants of Ishmael remain in fulfilment of prophecy.

The Middle East is a troubled area, and there is no promise of respite. The Jews claim Palestine because God gave it to Abraham. The Arabs claim the same land because they have occupied it for more than a thousand years. There is no reconciling the two claims. The Egyptians have just undergone a revolution in which they ousted their king. They demand of Great Britain that she surrender the control of the Suez Canal, and of the great military base that has been built up there to protect the Canal and all the Middle East. This the British refuse to do on the basis that the Egyptians are not competent in skill to operate it.

This is another irreconcilable prob-

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A member of the Arab Legion desert patrol.



EWING GALLOWAY

lem—irreconcilable because both sides are right. However, the student of Bible prophecy does not look for peace in the Middle East. This is one of the "trouble spots" of the world, and is prophesied to be the site of the culminating struggle of the nations—the battle of Armageddon.

God chose Caanan (Palestine) as the home of His chosen people for the reason that it marked the "halfway" place between the east and the west. It was the centre of the Old Testament world, and it remains the centre of the world geographically speaking today. Because it is the centre of the world it has tremendous military value. Great military men from Napoleon to Eisen-

hower have recognized the importance of this diminutive land, militarily speaking.

As God indicated this land as the home of Abraham and his descendants, so has He indicated that it will be the place where the great nations of the east and west will meet to settle their differences in the end of the world. Speaking by the prophet Joel God said: "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." Joel 3:9-14.

A New Testament prophecy that enlightens us still more is Revelation 16: 12-14, 16: "The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

The causes of the final world conflagration—Armageddon are extant in the Middle East at this time. The causes may be enumerated as geographic, religious and economic. Suffice to say that nations have and will fight for the possession of a strategic piece of land such as is Palestine. Suffice to say that nations have and will fight for religious reasons, for "holy places" of which Jerusalem and Palestine have a monopoly. Suffice to say that nations have and will fight for economic reasons, for natural resources.

This barren, desolate desert and semi-desert of the Middle East has turned out to be fabulously rich in oil, but not only in oil. There is a lake in Palestine that has even more value than the lake of oil that underlies the sands of that area. I speak of the Dead Sea and its tremendous mineral content. True, the mineral wealth of the Dead Sea is principally untapped, but it is estimated that if all the minerals of this Sea were sold at present-day market prices their value would equal that of the entire United States of America.

God, as He always has, will bring to pass the culminating conflict of Armageddon in an apparently natural way. One nation will invade the land to obtain its wealth, and will be challenged by opposing nations and the war will be on.

Watch the headlines for news of the Middle East.



R. H. PIERSON

IN THE Orient there are thousands of secret disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is whispered that in one part of India there is an organization known as "The Society of Nicodemus" to which many secret believers in Christ belong. To these must be added still other thousands who have heard the call of Jesus, but who for the present, like Nicodemus of old, worship silently for fear of those about them. Those we know and have contacted personally are an earnest of what God can and will do before Jesus returns to gather out His faithful for the kingdom even in these heathen lands.

An elderly Brahmin gentleman in Poona attended all our gospel lectures in a public hall. Personal visits revealed a deep interest in the things of God's Word, and an earnest longing to follow Jesus. When appeals were made for men and women to accept Christ, his hand has been raised more than once, and tears have trickled down his cheek. "But," he said, "I must be one of the Lord's secret disciples for I am old, and for me to publicly accept Christ and be baptized would bring great trouble into my home." We knew from personal investigation that this was true.

Down in the beautiful isle of Ceylon, the parents of a young lady became very angry when they discovered that she was studying the Holy Scriptures through our Bible Correspondence Course. Secretly she continued her study in the face of threats. When she studied the lessons on baptism she felt she must follow her Lord in this sacred rite. She requested the pastor to baptize her secretly. Today she is praying for her family that they too may see the light.

One of our missionaries was preparing his morning meal at an out-station recently when he was informed that an influential and rich Brahmin had come to see him. It was announced that he

wished to have a private interview and that all other persons should be asked to leave the room. This was done in accordance with his wish and our missionary, receiving him, enquired concerning the object of his visit.

"I have a great desire in my heart to accept Christ," replied the man earnestly. "I am tired of all my past associations and religion. I have money and all other comforts but my heart is not at peace. I desire to obtain the peace I believe only Jesus Christ can give."

He was encouraged to take studies so that he could more intelligently take this serious step, but it is one thing to give such souls this counsel, and quite another thing for them to follow it. The moment some of their relatives suspect a leaning toward Christianity, persecution sets in. This man was afraid to accept a book to carry home with him to read lest someone should see it and suspicions thus be aroused. In this case he would be disowned by his people even before he had been recognized as a Christian by the church. This searcher for truth, must for the time being remain a Nicodemus.

A few days earlier this same gospel worker had a similar experience when he met a young Brahmin salesman in a railway carriage. The salesman confided that he desired to leave his old religion and was convinced that Christianity was the only true religion. He said he had studied deeply into Hinduism, but had failed to find the desired satisfaction in it. He was sure that Christ alone could bring this satisfaction.

In Pakistan a young Mohammedan commenced to study our Bible Correspondence Course. His parents threatened not only to send him away from home but to do him bodily harm if he persisted in his interest in Christianity. "I am fully convinced that Christianity is the only true religion, and I am determined to follow Christ regardless

Modern Nicodemuses

By

R. H. PIERSON

of the consequences," he wrote. "You may never hear from me again, but I want you to know that I am determined to follow Jesus." Today, because of circumstances, he may feel compelled to be a secret disciple, but tomorrow he may be one of the firmament of chosen ones!

A young Buddhist in Ceylon disclosed that he had accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour, but because of violent opposition in his family he must remain a Nicodemus. He asked for a picture of Jesus to carry with him secretly. "For," he said, "I love to look at Jesus' beautiful face. When I look at His face it gives me courage to do what is right."

A Brahmin from South India, after studying the gospel through the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence lessons learned to love Christ. Inwardly he accepted Jesus as his Saviour. "I do not pray to my gods any longer," he wrote, "but I am very sad that it is impossible for me to take baptism right now." He went on to tell of the trouble created in his home when his wife suspected he had leanings toward Christianity. Secret today, but who knows—at the foot of tomorrow's cross he may be another Nicodemus.

Many of these Nicodemus stories have happy endings. I knew a high government official here in India who for many years was a secret believer. Quietly he helped in every possible way

How the natives are helped.



R. H. PIERSON

to forward the work of God, but because of personal problems, he found it difficult to step out publicly. He supported the work financially and was a fine Christian character. Years passed. Imagine my joy when passing through England recently I visited one of the churches for the morning worship service and found this friend of mine a baptized member and a leader in the church.

In some of the beautiful hills of South India two young people—a brother and sister—studied our Bible Correspondence Course lessons. They became deeply interested but feared the wrath of their parents if they should step out and accept Christianity. For many months they followed Christ secretly through fear. Later they decided they could conceal their true feelings no longer so boldly and openly declared themselves on God's side. To their surprise and great joy, the parents reacted favourably, and today they too are studying God's Word and preparing for baptism.

It may be difficult for a western reader to grasp what it means for one in

THY WORD—A CANDLE (Job 29:3)

May the light of this Thy "Candle,"
Shining o'er my head,
Shelter me thro' deepest darkness
Safe and surely lead.
May it glow through me to others,
Showing them the "Way";
Light the path from grace to glory,
Till the perfect day.

—Mrs. M. H. Cooper.

an eastern country to accept Christ openly. Where is the courage a follower of Christ should have? If we are ashamed of Christ now will He not be ashamed of us on the last day? These are questions which naturally spring to the mind.

As these infant believers in Christ, fresh from the deceptions, superstitions, and fears inculcated by heathenism, struggle toward the great light of salvation which is dawning on them, it is wiser for us not to pass judgment too harshly. He who has the greater light and the more favourable environment will be held to greater account. Thousands in these lands are longing to accept Jesus, and to those of us who have spent any time in Southern Asia particular consolation is derived from that text concerning the gentleness with which Jesus deals with such souls: "A bruised reed shall He not break, and smoking flax shall He not quench till He send forth judgment unto victory."

MAY, 1954



BIBLE ANSWERS



Do you have unanswered Bible questions? If so, you are invited to send them to the EDITOR, Box 398, Oshawa, Ontario.

There is a great deal of controversy about Luke 23:43. Please explain it so I can understand it.

This is the place where Jesus said to the dying thief: "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise." Many take this to mean that Jesus went to paradise the day He was crucified and that He took the thief with Him. That evidently is not the case of it.

To begin with the thief did not ask to go to heaven that day. He asked to be remembered in Christ's kingdom *when He came into it*. "He (the thief) said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." Did Jesus come into His kingdom the Friday He was crucified? No, He did not. Has He come into it yet? No. When will He come into His kingdom? This will be when He comes the second time. And then it is that the thief will come into Jesus' kingdom. That is what he asked for and that is what he will receive.

Further proof that the thief did not go to paradise that day is that he did not die that day. "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was dead already, they brake not His legs." John 19:31-33.

This was a custom of the Jews—no criminal could hang on the cross over the Sabbath day. For that reason they requested Pilate to break the legs of those who were crucified that morning that they might not escape. Pilate consented to this and the soldiers carried out their work. But Jesus was dead when they came to Him, so His legs were not broken. However, the two thieves were not dead, so their legs were broken. How, therefore, could the good thief have gone to paradise that day when he did not die that day?

Still another reason why we know that the thief did not go to paradise that day is that Jesus did not go. He said to Mary three days later that He had not:

"Jesus saith unto her, Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God." John 20:17.

What is the meaning, then, of Luke 23:43: The meaning is that Jesus made the promise to the thief that day, the day He hung upon the cross as a condemned-to-death criminal, that when He came into His kingdom the repentant thief would be there. If someone were to say to you, "Give me a thousand dollars when your ship comes in," and you would reply, "All right, I'll promise you now, today, that when that happens, I'll give you a thousand dollars." Does your friend get the thousand the day the conversation takes place? Not at all. When does he get it? When your ship comes in. Just so, the thief will be remembered when Jesus comes into His kingdom.

I know that some prophets are true and some false. How can they be distinguished one from another?

This question is not as pertinent now as it would have been two or three thousand years ago. Nevertheless it is a good question. There are several answers. One is found in these verses: "The prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him." Deuteronomy 18:20-22.

According to this all you have to do is to *watch*. Watch to see if the prophet's predictions come to pass. If they do you may be assured that they are from the Lord. If they do not, then by the same tokens you may know that they are not from the Lord. God knows the end from the beginning, and He is able to foretell what is to come. When He chooses to do that the thing does not fail.



STAR NEWSPAPER SERVICE

The world has known but one theocracy—that in the days of ancient Israel.

The Only True Theocracy

By

CARLYLE B. HAYNES

only Ruler, their only Lawgiver. This was a church organization, separate from every idea of a state. It is called in the New Testament "the church in the wilderness." Acts 7:38. A nation that was a church.

The legislative, judicial, and administrative powers of this theocracy were not in Moses, or the rulers, the judges, the kings, who at different times were placed in office. These were merely agents of God. They were to carry out the duties of their office in His name and by His authority. His authority extended over everything.

Nor did the rejection of God and the establishment of a government like the nations when a king was chosen change these principles on which the Hebrew nation was founded. It did not make the Israelites less the people of Jehovah than before. The king was chosen by the Lord, and endowed with kingly gifts by His Spirit; he was the Lord's anointed, and ruled in His name.

It is plain, therefore, that a theocracy is a government which derives its power directly and immediately from God. Not from "the consent of the governed," not from the people, not from the monarch, not from parliament, but a government of God was the Hebrew nation. They were His people, created by Him, delivered by Him, saved by Him, sustained by Him, and in covenant relations with Him.

By signs, by wonders, by mighty miracles, God had delivered them from the slavepens of Egypt, had saved them from destruction at the Red Sea, had led them through the wilderness, had fed them miraculously, had protected them from destruction by their enemies, had driven heathen nations out of their promised land, had established them in its possession. They were His people. He was their God.

He ruled them by judges "until

BY THE solemn conclusion of the covenant at Sinai, Israel became the people of God, and He became their King. It is from this relation, for which Josephus (Against Apion ii. 17) introduced the name *theocracy*, that the whole conception of the kingdom of God has arisen. Accordingly it is of great importance to understand rightly wherein the theocracy in Israel really consisted.

It did not consist simply in the nation having no human king; for while Gideon (Judges 8:22, 23) and Samuel (1 Samuel 8:6, 7) regarded the proposal to appoint a king as inconsistent with Jehovah being their king; nevertheless, afterwards, when kingly government was established in Israel, it was not held that the theocracy had ceased. In the Psalms and prophetic books written long after the nation had become a monarchy, God is still spoken of as the King of Israel; and the Book of Deuteronomy, which emphasizes so

strongly the theocratic idea, makes provision for a human kingship in Israel. The constitution of the theocracy was indeed modified when the monarchy was set up, and it may be called, as it is by some writers, a *basileo* (kingly) theocracy, instead of a pure theocracy; but the kingdom of God continued in spite of that change.

The government of the Hebrew nation was unique in human history. It was the only true theocracy ever existing on earth. Jehovah never intended that this people, His people, should be formed into a kingdom, or state, or government, like the people of this world. It was to be distinct, peculiar, different, separate, not like the nations about it. These people were to be separated unto God, "from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." Exodus 33:16. "Lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations." Numbers 23:9.

God was to be their only King, their

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Samuel the prophet." Then the people asked that they might have a king. He allowed this, but God chose the king, and Samuel, God's prophet, anointed Saul king of Israel. Saul failed to carry out God's will, and as he rejected the word of the Lord, so God rejected him from being king.

God then commanded Samuel to anoint David to be king. Samuel did so. And David's throne God established forevermore. Solomon succeeded his father David on the throne, and the record is: "Then Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord as king instead of David his father." 1 Chronicles 29:23.

So David's throne was the throne of the Lord, and the kings who sat on it in David's line from David to Zedekiah ruled in the name of the Lord over the earthly kingdom of God.

The Revival of the Theocracy

That kingdom, that government, that theocracy, that direct rule of God, no longer exists on earth. No, it has not come to an end—it has been removed from earth. It is to be re-established—and before long.

Zedekiah was made subject to the king of Babylon, as were all the other nations of earth at that time, God directed in this. Nebuchadnezzar was called by God, "My servant." (Jeremiah 27:6, 7.)

The theocracy, the throne of the Lord, was given into the hand, placed under the control of Nebuchadnezzar, and the reigning king was made his captive. And Zedekiah entered into a solemn covenant before God that he would faithfully render allegiance to the king of Babylon. (Ezekiel 17:12-14.)

And in fulfilment of the word of God, Zedekiah was taken to Babylon and there he died.

But the kingdom, the theocracy, the throne of the Lord, what of it? God does not leave us without an answer. To the covenant-breaking king Zedekiah, God said:

"And thou, profane wicked prince of

Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, thus saith the Lord God: Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: *this shall not be the same*: [a change is to be made in the kingdom] exalt him that is low [the king of Babylon], and abase him that is high [the king of Judah, Zedekiah]. I will overturn [the kingdom], overturn, overturn, it: *and it shall be no more*, until He whose right it is; *and I will give it Him.*" Ezekiel 21:25-27.

So the kingdom was made subject to Babylon. That was the removal of the diadem and the taking off of the crown.

Babylon fell, and Medo-Persia succeeded. That was the first overturning.

Medo-Persia fell, and Greece succeeded. That was the second overturning.

Greece fell, and Rome succeeded. That was the final overturning. But it was not the end of the kingdom of God, the throne of the Lord. "It shall be no

more, until He whose right it is; and I will give it Him."

David still has a Descendant who will be seated "on the throne of the Lord." David's greater Son is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is His right to reign on that throne which has been removed from earth.

Thou "shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:31-33.

God's Kingdom Not Now of this World

The night of His betrayal Christ declared, "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36. He is not reigning in this world now. But He will reign. There is no nation on earth which is His kingdom. But there will be.

So the throne of the Lord has been removed from this world, and is "no more, until He comes whose right it is." Then it will be given Him.


And *that time* is the end of the world. *That time* is the beginning of "the world to come."

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, *then* shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations." Matthew 25: 31, 32.

Until *that time* the kingdom of God, the throne of the Lord, is not on the earth. His kingdom is not of this world. His followers, until *that time*, are to account themselves "strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Hebrews 11:13. Until *that time* "our conversation is in heaven: from whence we look for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians. 3:20.

Not only is His kingdom not of this world, and not only is He not of this world, but His true servants also are not of this world. "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John 17:16.

Therefore, their relation to this world is simply the relation of aliens, of foreigners, of pilgrims and strangers. They are always in the minority. They have no expectation of prevailing by numbers. Questions of right and wrong they cannot settle by the suffrages of the crowd. Their principles are not settled democratic procedure of inquiring what is the will of the majority, but by the Christian principle of inquiring what is the will of the Lord. To that revealed will they adhere. On that foundation they are built and there they abide with firmness, whatever forces may be brought against them.

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Milestones in Prophecy

WHILE the world is contemplating the apparent failure of the Four-Power Conference in Berlin and looking forward to the Five-Power Conference in Geneva, it would be interesting to view the situation through the fourth dimension of Bible Prophecy.

The people of Central Europe looked toward the Berlin Conference with hope for some relief from foreign supervision and tension. After nine years of waiting, even this dim flicker of hope seems to have died.

At the Berlin Conference four nations gathered to decide the fate of a fifth and a sixth nation. But the underlying problem really concerned themselves: "To be or not to be. . ."; and the solution to this problem was postponed.

The debt to the new generation is morally so great that its contemplation is staggering. In Central Europe, children in ages from nine to twelve years, who have known nothing of the era which ended in 1945, were born into a world filled with billions of bricks. Some bricks in structural form, but most in silent heaps of rubble. These children have already lived about one-sixth of their lives. They have known neither war nor peace, neither complete starvation nor satiety of bread. To them the older generation is leaving not only a heritage of physical chaos but also a heritage of political distress and oppression.

Thinking men and women today are people in perplexity. "... fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. . ." Luke 21:26 R.S.V. Perplexed people are not happy unless they can look to a higher source for hope and help. One of the early followers of Christ was a physician who knew the relationship of anxiety to mental ill-health. In looking down to the present time, he quoted a prescription from Jesus Christ: "Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Luke 21:28 R.S.V.

Paul also remained hopeful in this way. He said, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by

By HAROLD E. KURTZ

encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." Romans 15:4 R.S.V.

The Kings of the East

The Occident has never before throughout modern history, experienced more than a temporary fright from its Eastern neighbours. A theologian, philosopher or statesman who from pharisaic or neurotic compulsion happened to peruse the book of Revelation, previous to A.D. 1800 could never adequately bring himself to understand the reference to the kings of the East in the sixteenth chapter. Paradoxically to him, that which was written to reveal history, was a closed book. Today we can easily find use for the statements in the writings of John the beloved disciple. Indeed, has a Bible commentator written that not all will be understood "... until the unrolling of the scroll. . ."—E. G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 17.

To anyone present at the Berlin Four-Power talks, it became more and more

clear that the world finds itself separated into two camps with political, cultural, educational and religious barriers stout and apparently insurmountable. As a representative of a section of the Western religious press, I was politely received by members of the delegation of the Eastern Bloc. We are invited, I was told, to send teams on tours to view the culture of certain Eastern countries as it is, providing no mission stations shall be established by the roadside of the tour.

The Western strategy in Berlin was to prevent a split in the Atlantic Bloc. The Eastern strategy was to split that Bloc. This split was miraculously prevented. But what did John the Revelator say in regard to this?

In Revelation 16, John speaks of the time when world history shall stand very near its culmination point, when many events of the time of the end shall have already occurred.

The Sixth Angel

"The sixth angel poured his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water

The Big Four Foreign Ministers convened for the first time in the East Berlin Soviet Embassy building to begin their second week of the big global problems, pin-pointed particularly on the question of uniting Germany.



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was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings of the east." Revelation 16:12 R.S.V.

John's statement relating to the kings of the East causes little speculation. The Eastern kings represent Eastern powers or nations. On this point all agree. But on the meaning of the River Euphrates and the drying up of its waters, there have been almost as many theories as scholars. But this much can be clear to any prayerful reader who knows the value and meaning of an algebraic equation: the River Euphrates and its water symbolize those factors which stand in the path of the advance of the Orient against the Occident, whatever those factors are to be. That much is obvious and is admitted by all. That waters refer to people in Bible symbolism, and rivers refer to political powers, because these invariably grew on the shores of water, is also clear.

The significant fact is that John the Revelator saw in vision that the day would come when the way of advance for the East Bloc would be opened. The opening of this way, or the drying up of the water of the river is a process which when completed is thought to lead to Armageddon. The Berlin Conference produced a factor in the process of the drying up of the water of the river.

An attempt to accelerate the process was made in magnifying differences of opinion among the several powers of the Occident. This attempt failed in that the three Western powers stood shoulder to shoulder in solidarity. In the seventh chapter John the Revelator speaks of seeing four angels who hold the powers of war and destruction in their hands and who are in close liaison with the Ruler of the universe. These angels have in their hands the power to hold back any acceleration of his-

Soldiers standing at attention at entrance to East Berlin Russian embassy at start of second week of Big Four Foreign Ministers' Conference. Earlier sessions were held in West Berlin.



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torical happenings before the time appointed by God, before the earth has been enlightened by the final gospel message.

On February 16, 1954 in the International Press Center, Kathreinerhaus, Potsdamerstrasse, Berlin, the Syrian Minister Plenipotentiary M. Gamal E. D. Farra held a well attended press conference in which he openly avowed friendship with West Germany and the West Bloc in general. Mr. Farra also represented the entire Arab League at the Berlin Conference and has since been approved as the ambassador of Syria to West Germany.

To those holding the opinion that the River Euphrates refers to the peoples of the local geographic area, this Arab League-West Bloc friendship is significant, especially if viewed in the light of a revitalized Turkey.

The events at the Berlin Conference therefore show a definite pattern in the process of the drying of the River Euphrates, as well as a divine control of that process through the agency of the four angels of the seventh chapter of Revelation.

The River Euphrates symbolically is an inhibitory barrier to the East Bloc. This barrier can be said to consist, at this moment, of a united Atlantic Pact Bloc coupled with a friendly Arab League and a revived Turkey. These latter nations are in the geographical vicinity of the Euphrates, the cradle of civilization in the fertile crescent. A weakening of the factors constituting the barrier may begin to fulfil the prophecy of Revelation 16:12.

Thus we see that God keeps a steady hand on the flow and ebb of nations. Therefore, we need not tremble in perplexity and anxiety, but lift up our heads in hope and confidence, knowing that "at the time appointed" shall be our redemption.

Turkey, sitting astride the "strategic Straits," and supported by stronger powers, has long been an obstacle to Russia's ambitions.



REVIEW AND HERALD

Dainties and Delicacies

Are they Good for You?

By D. H. KRESS, M.D.



Highly refined "dainties" decrease the appetite, and rob the body of much needed food elements.

IN AMERICA a meal is not considered complete without having at the close some delicacy. The admonition given in Proverbs 23:1-3 reads: "When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee . . . Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat."

There are many who have made some reforms in eating, known as vegetarians, who eat freely of dainties. Usually the delicacies are eaten at the close of the meal, when possibly a sufficient amount of food has been eaten. This encourages over-eating.

Delicacies should not be eaten freely at any time. They seldom combine well with other foods and are likely to encourage fermentation and the formation of irritants. They also tend to pervert the palate by creating a disrelish for wholesome foods, and so they may become an active cause of digestive disturbances and impairment of health.

Fermentation, we know, *sours the stomach*, and a sour stomach and a sweet disposition are not associates. Frequently unanswered prayer for a sweet disposition may find the explanation here. To have the prayer for a sweeter disposition answered, all that we need to do many times is to eat less sweets. *God answers prayer for patience by calling attention to the causes of impatience*; hence we are admonished to add to "faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge and to knowledge temperance;" and then the next step is easy, "to temperance patience." 2 Peter 1:5, 6. The prophet said "Eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." Isaiah 52:2. Leanness of soul may sometimes be traced to the free use of dainties. Referring to ancient

Israel, who were determined to have food that God in His wisdom withheld, we read, God "gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul." Psalm 106:15.

An inspired writer on temperance says, "Far too much sugar is ordinarily used in food. Cakes, sweet puddings, pastries, jellies, jams, are active causes of indigestion. Especially harmful are the custards and puddings in which milk, eggs, and sugar are the chief ingredients."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 302.

The desire for sweets is, however, a normal and a natural one. Hence, nature has made provision to meet this desire. Even the infant at the mother's breast receives milk that is sweetened. The sweet in the milk makes the other food elements it contains attractive. The well-ripened fruits, of which it is said, "Thou mayest freely eat," is served sweet. The sugar makes the fruit, containing tasteless elements, attractive. The sweets, however, found in milk and in fruit, furnish a form of sugar that is well adapted for human consumption. It is practically ready for absorption and assimilation. This is not true of table sugar, commonly served in delicacies. The sugar found in milk and fruit is not a one-sided food, as is cane sugar. Fruit serves other food elements with it and also the much-needed vitamins.

From infancy palates are perverted by the use of delicacies, and a disrelish is created for wholesome foods. John Burroughs, observing this, said: "Man's dominant impulse as a baby is to put into his mouth everything he can see. . . The impulse to feed is strong, but it is also blind. The young of no other

animal is such a blunderer . . . All other species seem to know their proper food instinctively."

There is no doubt whatever that civilized man is still feeding upon many things that are injurious to him, a dietetic mistake that the lower creatures seem never to make. Each species knows its proper food, and all individuals of that species thrive equally well upon it. For this reason, nearly all individuals of the same species live to the same age, be that long or short. There is no infant mortality among them. John Burroughs continued:

"It is a theory of mine that nearly all our ailments and distempers come by way of the mouth, and if we can keep this portal properly guarded, we might experience the same immunity from disease that the lower creatures do and live our appointed days. If we only knew just what to eat, the doctor and the druggist would soon be bankrupt. If our stomachs were properly fed, there would be no appendicitis, or liver complaints, or rheumatism, or kidney troubles, or premature old age. Overwork still might claim its victims and excessive grief destroy the over-emotional, but there would be fewer of these. It is probable, even that cancer would finally disappear from a race properly fed. *But we go on just as we did when we were babies, putting everything into our mouths, even tobacco and alcohol.* Dining with us is a fine art, but if it were a perfect art, we would touch nature again, and we would do the same as the birds and the squirrels do. We should not corrupt nature, but follow her. *With adult man his appetite is not a safe guide any more than it is while he is still a baby.*"

To the first pair in their Eden home, God had to tell them *what to eat and what not to eat*. Satan made Eve believe, however, that she was capable of determining what she ought to eat and what she ought not to eat. The food presented to her by the tempter was attractive. It appealed to the eye and it also appealed to the taste. She demonstrated to her own satisfaction that the food God had forbidden was to be desired. If it was necessary for man in his sinless state to be governed by God's

Word in the selection of his food, it is certainly necessary today.

To redeem the human race, one of the first temptations that came to Christ was on the point of appetite. Having conquered man at the beginning on this point, Satan hoped to conquer Christ.

He met him with the infallible weapon, "It is written." The palate cannot be trusted. Experiments conducted in laboratories, whether upon animals or man, cannot be wholly depended upon. The Word of God is the basis of all true science. At a council of educators I heard a leading scientist say, "The Bible is all right, but there are oceans beyond." What he meant was, the Bible had its place, but the knowledge of present day science goes far beyond anything found in the Word of God. Evidently he was one of mother Eve's converts. Some feel that in presenting the matter of diet, scientific statements must always be quoted to confirm the Bible, instead of presenting the principles of health from purely a Bible standpoint to confirm science.

There are those who say, I will not believe unless I see the matter demonstrated by science. The words spoken to Thomas, the doubter, when he said, I will not believe that Christ is alive until I have the evidence before me, were, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" John 20:29. We should be so well acquainted with the Word of God that we may be able to meet the tempter as did our Saviour with, "It is written." No matter how well informed we may be on science, we will never reach the point where we shall not need the guidance of God's Word.

Redeemed man will have the law of God written in his heart, then it will be a delight to do the Lord's will. The food of God's choice will throughout eternity be the food of man's choice. For the present there is only one way of determining whether the food of our choice is the food of God's choice, and that is by the Word of God. To ascertain whether our tastes are dependable can be determined only by going "to the law and to the testimony." Isaiah 8:20.

It is not necessary to have a university, a college, or even a high school education in order to know what to eat and what to drink. Science alone is not dependable. All the light we need is found in the Word of God, magnified and more clearly brought out through the testimonies of His Spirit. It will eventually be demonstrated before the universe that "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans

6:23. Man will then have access to the Tree of Life. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life." Revelation 22:14. Books of science have their place. We read: "Of making many books there is no end; and much study

is a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12: 12, 13. The sole purpose of the plan of salvation is to make commandment-keepers.



The Other Fellow's Dollar

By HELEN GREGG GREEN

"WHEN I take my nephew to dinner," said a chance acquaintance, "he orders the most expensive meal on the menu. Last week it was *escargots bourguignonne*! The boy likes to impress me with his French, and he knows so little about money."

It occurred to me that, in many families, the young people of today know little about money. There was a time when children learned its value and use naturally. They saw that Dad's hard-earned income—wisely apportioned by Mother—was spent *carefully*. They were permitted, when they went to the grocery store, to pay for the marketing, and they observed the thought that went into expenditures.

I remember my father, a successful lawyer, handing Mother five dollars each week to "run the house" and telling her, with a flourish, that she could have what she saved for pin money. And, mind you, just about every month Mother did end up with pin money to put into the chocolate-pot bank! It took "a bit of planning," but it taught me the extravagance of spending a large sum for food when delightful meals could be provided for a small sum. However, no one else could make an inexpensive cut of meat taste as delicious as Mother could!

When a family is going to dine out, if the mother cautions beforehand, "Dad wants us to enjoy our dinner, but let's be considerate and think about prices," she is using wisdom that will be appreciated not only by Dad but, also, by future hosts. There is no doubt about it! No one likes to feel a guest is ordering expensively simply from a lack of information. Be sure your young people understand the difference between *a la carte* and *table d'hote*. Then tell them, straight out, "If you want to be well liked, remember your host's pocketbook! Do not order a *la carte*, if a full-course dinner is contemplated,

when there are table-d'hote meals on the menu!"

Our hospitable friend, Aileen, invited a dozen friends to a farewell dinner for her young cousin, who was on her way to college.

"What will you have, my dear?" the hostess asked Betty Ann.

It was a warm night; the guest of honor decided she would have orangeade with her dinner. All the girls liked the idea!

"Now orangeade was not on the menu," my friend relates, "so the dinner cost six dollars extra because of Betty Ann's whim."

Does this make good sense to you? Should not some alert youngster have shown independence by setting an example and saying, for instance, "There's milk with the dinner. I'll take that!"?

We want our boys and girls to be well-mannered, gracious, and considerate in personal relationships. But, know-how does not come ready-made. It must be taught. Mothers often discuss, even rehearse, the proper etiquette for Bill's or Karen's first dining-out—entering, being seated, table procedure, who orders, and so forth—but the practical exhortation, "Think of your host's pocketbook," is usually left unsaid.

When dining in a hotel or restaurant, Susan, an observant young person, asks, "What are you having, Mother? And you, Daddy?" And then she orders for herself a meal of comparable price. If she is not with her parents she asks her host, using his reply as her guide. Her tendency is to order even less than he does.

Is it not better to have friends and relatives think our children appreciative and thoughtful rather than just clever and "sophisticated"? Besides, who really wants those expensive delicacies, anyway? — National Kindergarten Association.



The DOCTOR'S VOICE



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

Bronchiolectasis

I am a man 61 years of age, a carpenter, and have had bronchiolectasis for eight years. Lung resection has not been considered because of my age. I am in fairly good health otherwise. Is there anything that could be done to improve the situation?

Bronchiolectasis which is essentially a dilatation of the terminal air sacs and retention of mucus which may become infected, is very resistant to treatment. Postural drainage has some merits. One way of doing it is to lie across the bed with the shoulders on a low stool or on the floor if the bed is low, for about thirty minutes first thing in the morning. Some specialists vary the position slightly according to what part of the lung is involved. Another way, perhaps better, is to elevate the foot of the bed about twelve to eighteen inches. This allows accumulating secretions to drain out during the night. Tobacco smoking is taboo.

Penicillin inhalation was used when penicillin first became available, but since the disease is chronic and sensitization to penicillin is a possibility it is used only for complications. Avoid colds as much as possible. A glass of orange juice, fresh or canned, daily, is beneficial to the mucous membranes because of its vitamin A content.

Vitamin E

For what conditions is vitamin E useful?

Vitamin E as far as we know has a very slight vasodilator action (tendency to dilate the blood vessels), thereby reducing blood pressure to a limited degree, and also has a beneficial effect in coronary artery disease. It has been recommended in treatment of varicose ulcers of the legs. The effects are by no means so dramatic as to cause much enthusiasm among the medical profession at large. Hence vitamin E seems to be somewhat of a luxury as it is rather expensive.

Sore Mouth

For almost a year now, I have had trouble with my mouth, sore and cracked at the sides. Please suggest what I may do.

Cracks at the sides of the mouth are usually due to vitamin B deficiency. Vitamin B is present in whole-grain cereals, legumes (peas and beans), nuts (including peanut butter), wheat germ, prunes et cetera. If due to faulty absorption of vitamin B, symptoms persist, then liver extract by injection would help. Dr. G. S. Sharp has made the interesting observation that patients with pernicious anemia who have oral symptoms, sore tongue in particular, are benefited by the administration of dilute hydrochloric acid or preferably a slower acting acid in tablet form called Normacid. Take one tablet before each meal. In any case it would be well to have a blood count, and if your doctor recommends it your gastric acidity could be checked.

Epilepsy

I suffer from epilepsy. I am using Dilantin, taking two one and one-half grain capsules daily. I just had an attack which comes once a year. I used to get them once in two or three years. If there is anything you can do for me will you let me know. It takes so long to get over a spell.

Most authorities feel that once a year is too often to have attacks. Dilantin is a standard remedy and is quite effective. It has to be taken regularly. The use of alcohol or other excesses will sometimes break down one's resistance, or even lack of proper rest. If epilepsy first develops in childhood there is a tendency for it to diminish as one gets older. In your case you may have developed a certain tolerance to the Dilantin, in which case your local physician might wish to increase the dose.

Salivary Duct

What is the cause of a stone in the salivary duct beneath the tongue? Is inflammation of the salivary glands a serious affair?

Inflammation of the salivary glands in an elderly person has always been considered to be serious. The newer antibiotics have made treatment more effective. A stone in the salivary duct is usually due to vitamin A deficiency. Vitamin A is found in citrus fruit juices, tomato juice, greens, berries in season, butter, and fortified margarine. This condition usually comes on during the winter when fresh vegetables are more scarce. Cod liver oil is a good supplementary source of vitamin A.