

Our TIMES

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS

FEBRUARY



THE

THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE (SEE PAGE 13)

Come Now-- Let Us Reason

ISAIAH 1:18

By R. E. KALFUS

THROUGH the prophet Isaiah, Jesus invites you to come. Will you accept? But to what kind of meeting is this invitation? He says, "Come now, and let us reason together." Isaiah 1:18. When two people, or an executive committee, meet for a specific purpose, it is to reason through the things for which they have come together. There may be much discussion for and against certain issues. The side presenting the weightier arguments usually prevails, the other yielding to reason or sheer force of numbers.

But what is embraced in this invitation of the Saviour? He says, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Surely there should be no argument here. What man or woman, boy or girl, who recognize their sinfulness, would not gladly accept such a proposal? Why turn deliberately from an opportunity to enter a state of happiness and peace, to remain in a condition of restlessness and trouble? "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." Isaiah 57:20.

The invitation is worded with such insistence as to be almost a command, "Come now, and let us reason together." Is this an invitation to engage in an argument with the Lord? If so, what hope could we have of the mastery? No, no, the call is of an entirely different nature. From the temptation and fall in Eden the posterity of Adam and Eve have been sinful, "There is none righteous, no, not one." Romans 3:10. And since "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), we are heading straight toward our penalty. We are bound over to appear before the judgment bar of God to receive sentence, from which, when it is pronounced, there can be no appeal.

But Jesus says, "Come now." "Now is the accepted time." 2 Corinthians 6:2. In the courts of the land, when one is charged with an offense, he must have legal counsel to present his case before the human tribunal. The judge listens to the testimony, hears the arguments of the attorneys, may question the defendant, but the case of the offender is presented by his counsel. Both before, and during the trial, the defendant and his attorney may consult together, but the attorney addresses the court.

Jesus says, "Let us reason together." In speaking of our sins (Isaiah 43:26) we hear His gentle voice, "Let us plead together." It is as though He whispers, "We will go together before 'our Father' the 'Judge of all the earth.' Come with Me, I will be your Advocate, your Attorney. Indeed, I am your Substitute, I have paid the penalty for you. All you need do is accept My sacrifice in your stead. When we go together to plead before 'Our Father' your case is won, you need have no fear, for you can depend on the surety of My promise."

There is no qualification whatsoever to the promise of Jesus. It is absolutely certain. The only way we can fail of its realization is through non-acceptance. To all mankind the invitation is given, "Come now, let us reason [plead] together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Will you accept His invitation? "Now is the accepted time, . . . now is the day of salvation." 1 Corinthians 6:2.



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You cannot afford to let your subscription run out without making a renewal. Ministers, teachers, and laymen everywhere say that OUR TIMES is invaluable to them in the benefits derived from its biblical interpretation of the news. In this day of unusual world happenings it is important for us to know what the Bible explanation is for these prophetic events. Keep abreast of the times, read OUR TIMES.

THE STUDY of geological questions involves the problem of the age of the earth. In spite of the simple record of Genesis, the world has quite generally accepted the evolutionary philosophy which attributes long ages of time to the history of the earth. Three lines of reasoning are presented in support of this viewpoint.

The most common argument for the great age of the earth is the supposed necessity of making room for the geological formations. It seems impossible for men to believe that thousands of feet of stratified rocks could have been formed in one year, as suggested in the Genesis record of the Flood. Therefore, in the early history of geology, the theory of long ages, separated by a number of catastrophes, was introduced. In its early form this theory was known as "catastrophism," or "diluvialism," and the Flood of Genesis was supposed to be simply the latest of these catastrophes. By adopting the theory of catastrophism the geologists thought they were maintaining the harmony between geology and Genesis. Eventually, however, uniformitarian geology destroyed the earlier interpretation and the past 50 to 75 years have seen the adoption of a thoroughly consistent evolutionary background for geology.

The second reason for the acceptance of the theory of great age for the earth is a method of exegesis that teaches that the rendering of Genesis 1: 2 should be, "and the earth became without form, and void." According to this theory, which has a large following among certain Christian scholars because it seems to give a satisfactory harmony between geology and Genesis, God created the earth at some dim and distant time. In the course of time, Lucifer, who, with his followers, was placed upon the newly created earth, sinned, and a curse was pronounced upon the earth. For millions of years it lay in a state of partial chaos, until God decided to reconstruct it. This theory, known as the "ruin and reconstruction theory," is merely another compromise to allow for the geological ages, while still pretending

to believe in Genesis. It is neither Scriptural nor scientific.

The third reason, and one that has a considerable degree of influence even among conservative creationists, is the evidence from the disintegration of uranium to lead. According to this theory, the amount of "uranium-lead," lead that has come from the disintegration of uranium, is an indication of the age of the rocks in which it is found. Crystals of igneous rock are examined, as it is known that the heat of their production would have destroyed any lead previously in existence, leaving them to begin the disin-

tegrative cycle at the time they were poured out of the earth.

Figures obtained from determination of the uranium-lead ratios in various rocks do give surprisingly accurate correlations with the supposed age of the rocks. The Archaean rocks give figures of the order of 1500 million years, and igneous rocks from other layers of supposedly younger rocks show decreasing amounts of lead, indicating, the geologists assert, that they are correspondingly more recent.

Convincing as the evidence appears to be, it may be pointed out that several difficulties are encountered in this method of determining the age of the rocks. In the first place, it must be assumed that all the rocks originally contained the same amounts of uranium, unmixed with any of the intermediate products between it and lead. Also, it must be assumed that no conditions in the past could have modified the rate of change. Neither of these two assumptions can be proved.

Furthermore, in experiments which measure the rate of disintegration of uranium, the intermediate products are removed as they are produced. There is no proof that a mixture of all the products from uranium to lead would not modify the rate of change.

Another element of uncertainty enters because of the fact that the temperature at which granitic rocks melt is close to the critical point of the volatilization of the lead compounds. There is a possibility that the conditions

under which igneous rocks were formed may have partially or wholly destroyed the lead. Thus there might have been introduced into the problem an element of uncertainty or a situation that has been erroneously interpreted by the geologists.

After considering all the possible factors in the radioactivity theory, as this uranium-lead problem is called, we are left with so many uncertainties and so much possibility of error in the interpretation of results, that it cannot be assumed that this line of study in any way makes it necessary to accept the idea that the earth is very old.

(Continued on page 7)



The beauties of nature reveal the creative handiwork of an omnipotent God, who, as the Bible says, created the earth in six days and rested on the seventh.

The AGE OF THE EARTH

Is It Millions of Years Old?

By HAROLD W. CLARK

What Is a Christian?

Can He Be Recognized?

By CHARLES L. PADDOCK

Christianity is something that cannot be hidden. Joy, peace, longsuffering, and kindness are a few of the evidences that one has experienced conversion. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Matthew 7: 20.



ONE MORNING, as a young wife was getting ready to go to church alone, she said to her husband, "Jerry, why don't you join the church too? You ought to be a Christian. It would be so much more pleasant for both of us. I don't like to go to church alone. Why don't you?"

He hated to see her go off to church alone and he did not like staying at home by himself.

After a moment of silence he said to her, "Helen, I did think seriously for a while about joining the church, but I have decided I won't."

She asked him why he had made that decision.

"Well, dear," he said, very seriously, "I can't see an awful lot of difference between church members and those who make no profession. You belong to the church, but I don't. You go to dances, and so do I. I play cards, and so do you. We go to the movies together. I drink a little now and then, and you drink with me. My temper gets the best of me once in a while, and I notice you fly off the handle too. One of the members of your church cheated me in a business deal, and some of them do dishonest things I wouldn't think of doing. I can't see why I should bother with religion. If it doesn't

change my life, why join the church?"

That young husband asked a fair question.

Just who is a Christian anyway? If I have my name put on a church roll, does that necessarily mean I am following my Master?

You cannot make an individual a Christian by just pinning a tag or a label on him. It is disappointing to find that a good many people think that that is all it takes, so they join the church, get themselves tagged, and then live like worldlings. That is why some others do not want to join the church, and why they feel there is nothing but sham and empty profession to Christianity. Some people feel that if they go to church once a week and pay a few pennies toward the preacher's salary, they can do almost anything on the other six days of the week. Labels are often disappointing. But religion is more than a mere round of ceremonies.

A curio collector in the eastern part of the country bought an old mansion, furnishings and all, near the Atlantic seaboard. He felt sure he would find many valuable antiques in this ancient castle. When the papers had been signed, giving him possession, he hurried into the house and began to explore the place. From cellar to attic he went, examining every

piece of furniture. Up in the attic he found an old violin. Throwing up the window blinds, he looked it over carefully. Imagine his happy surprise to find a Stradivarius label inside. This would make him rich. The violin alone was worth many times what he had paid for the property. He hurried to the city and sought out an expert violin maker. He asked what the instrument might bring and was surprised again when told that it was not a Stradivarius, but a cheap imitation with a genuine label. It takes more than a label to make a Stradivarius violin.

What is Christianity?

If some one had asked me as a boy what religion was, I might have said, "It's going to church, and sitting for a long, long time listening to a dry sermon you can't understand, and reading the Bible when you would rather be out playing." In my teens my definition might have been, "Religion means to have a long face, to pray long prayers, to go to church once a week, to act sanctimonious when company is around, and never to have a good time."

Ask a dozen adults today what Christianity is, and you will get some peculiar answers. The general idea is that it means joining some denomination, going to church once in a while, paying a little toward the minister's salary, mingling with

the better class of people, reading the Bible occasionally. It's much like belonging to a lodge or a social order.

But to be a real Christian means more than that. Of course, a Christian will belong to a church and be faithful in attendance and in supporting the church with his dollars. But Christianity really means to be like Christ. It has much to do with an individual's inner experience. It changes men and women, inside and out.

Christ Changes Men

A wood dealer in a certain community had a change of heart, so he said, and joined the church. He had cheated almost every one in town by cutting the wood he sold a few inches short. His cords were never 128 cubic feet. When people heard of his becoming a Christian, they went out to measure the wood he delivered, and sure enough it was a full four feet and a little more in length. His heart was changed and, of course, that changed his outward life too.

A husband who had been selfish and unkind was converted. Some one asked his wife if she thought it was genuine. "Well," she said, "he got up and built the fire in the kitchen stove this morning, for the first time since we were married, and he carries the water from the well. He even suggested we ought to have water put into the kitchen. Yes, I think Jim is really a changed man."

A Christian will be different in his home. He will be Christlike, kind, sympathetic, tender, helpful. His wife and children will know if he is a Christian. And if he cannot be a Christian at home, I do not think much of his religion.

A minister was one time preaching on this subject and spent quite a bit of time telling how a Christian should be kind and helpful, patient, thoughtful of others, etc. Two women were sitting side by side down in one of the pews. One nudged the other and said, "I wonder if he lives that kind of life."

"Yes, he does," the other replied. "I know he does, for he happens to be my husband."

Christianity will keep a woman from finding fault, nagging, and criticizing. And the more sincerely she is living within, the more it will show in her dress, her face, her talk, her actions.

When we yield our lives to Jesus and He comes into our hearts, we will see some changes. We will begin doing some things we never thought of doing before, helping others about us, doing good. We will quit doing some things that are unchristian. The change may not all come about instantaneously. The Christian life is one of growth. The Good Book says that when

Christ returns to this earth His followers are going to be "like Him." (1 John 3:2.) You and I should be adding the Christian graces to our lives as the days come and go. By God's help we can grow more like Him each passing day. If Jesus is really in our hearts, we will be like Him seven days in the week.

A little girl who had been playing in the attic on a rainy day, in ransacking through an old trunk found her mother's church letter which she had valued so little she had not presented it to the church in the new location. Hurrying down the steps as fast as her little feet could scamper, she cried joyfully, "Oh, mother, I have found your religion upstairs in the trunk." Too many of us keep our religion in cold



I Only Know

By Inez Brasier

I know not why God's love for me,
His tender care along life's way,
I only know this love is true,
Enfolding me from day to day.

I know not why His healing touch
On pain and grief, life's hurt and smart;
I only know that it is true
And feel His peace within my heart.

I know not why, but this I plead:
That all His love and care I've known
Will hold me fast the weary way
Till I shall stand before His throne.



storage, and even our families might not know we are Christians. But if we have Christ in the heart, the whole family will know it; our neighbors will know it; people with whom we have business dealings will be conscious of it. There will be something different about us, refreshingly different.

Some people think Christianity is an overpowering emotion, a wonderful, flighty feeling that sweeps over us, impelling us to do right; and which, at last, sweeps us right through the pearly gates. A Christian does right because it is right and not because he feels some grand and glorious soul-thrilling emotions.

The daily life is the best index to one's

Christianity. It has been said, "There is an eloquence far more powerful than the eloquence of words in the quiet, consistent life of a pure, true Christian."

There is no shortage of creeds, doctrines, forms, ceremonies today; but what our old world needs is more real Christianity. We sing about it, we talk about it, we read about it, we print books about it. But do we live it? Sinners today see too many counterfeits. Too many are wearing a Christian label who are not following in the footsteps of our Master.

Full of Good Works

Genuine Christianity is Christ in the life, a principle that will be revealed in character and manifested in good works, lifting the fallen, comforting the discouraged, feeding the hungry, speaking the kindly word, lending a helping hand to our fellow travelers.

The man who makes no profession, the worldling, the man of the street, is not much interested in sermons. He seldom goes to hear one. But he does pay heed to the sermons lived by professed Christians. And he believes, not so much what the minister preaches, as what the members live. If the minister preaches to us from the pulpit or over the radio about the Golden Rule, and the next day one of his members takes advantage of us in a business deal, just how do we feel about that kind of religion?

Because some church members are not Christians, some people say they do not want to be Christians, they will not join the church. That is a poor excuse. One morning I was sitting in the lobby of a Winnipeg hotel waiting for a friend to come down from his room. As he left his key at the desk, the clerk said, "You are late to church this morning, aren't you?"

My friend replied, "You didn't go to church either."

"No," the man replied, "I never go to church any more. There are too many hypocrites there. So I just stay away."

I thought my friend gave a very good answer: "But that's the reason I go to church. Where there are counterfeits, one usually finds the genuine." The fact that we find some one now and then who does not live up to his profession should not turn us away from Christianity, but cause us to look into our own lives to see if we are building according to the blueprint Jesus left us.

If you and I get into the kingdom of heaven it will be because we followed in the Master's footsteps, because we tried by His help to live as He lived here below. Most of us have the Christian label; we make a profession of Christianity. May the Lord help us to live it.

AS THE CROWD grew larger and drew near the city, a thousand voices swelled the cry: "Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest." Matthew 21:9.

With joy and expectation His disciples saw Jesus riding into Jerusalem in the manner in which former kings had begun their reigns. Could it be that Jesus finally was to set up His kingdom? Their anticipation was shared by the throng that surged along and shouted the praises of the Saviour. They visualized the Roman armies expelled from Jerusalem; they saw once again their nation become a leading power on earth.

Their hopes were shattered a few days later as Jesus was crucified, but this disappointment was largely their own fault. Old Testament prophets had told of the Messiah's suffering, but national pride caused the Jews to overlook these scriptures. In national pride, the Jews pictured a powerful Messiah restoring their liberties, rather than buying their redemption by a death on the cross.

They misapplied prophecies such as this: "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter." Daniel 2:44, 45. They expected such a kingdom to be set up at Christ's first advent.

Even today there exists a danger of misapplying the prophecies of God's kingdom. The prophet foretold that the stone kingdom, the kingdom of Christ, would be set up. We question, "When and how?"

"Would that I had the power," spoke John D. Rockefeller, Jr., before the Protestant Council of New York City recently, "to bring to your minds the vision as it unfolds to me.

Rockefeller's Remarks

"I see co-operation, not competition.

"In smaller places, instead of half a dozen dying churches competing with each other, I see one or two strong churches, uniting the Christian life of the town. . . .

"I see it literally establishing the kingdom of God on earth."

Let us examine the Bible to see if we, too, can see this kingdom being set up.

The term "the kingdom of God" or "the kingdom of heaven" needs to be

Christ's Two Kingdoms

The Danger of Confusing Them

By JOHN W. BOYD

understood by the context of its use, for it really includes two phases, or two kingdoms: (1) the kingdom of grace, and (2) the kingdom of glory. Let us first consider the kingdom of grace.

A king must of necessity have a throne, and the one upon which Christ is now seated is brought to view in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Paul explains, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8, 9.

The kingdom of grace was given, or promised, at Eden when the human race fell into sin. The promise of redemption was given to Adam (see Genesis 3:15), and by faith he looked across the centuries to the Saviour's death, and was granted forgiveness by the infinite grace of God. This kingdom was confirmed, made sure, at the cross. When Jesus cried, "It is finished," grace and pardon were made secure to the repentant sinner.

One has written of this kingdom of grace in the following words: "Not by the

Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem was preliminary to His death on the cross and subsequent to the establishment of His kingdom of grace.



decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly great men, is the kingdom of Christ established, but by the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit."—E. G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 509. Paul speaks similarly of "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27.

Christ's kingdom of grace that is established in the hearts of His followers will not be set up by human laws or great churches, or by co-operation between government and religion. It will be established individually as a person opens his heart to Christ and lets the Holy Spirit work a transformation. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:21.

Just as Christ's first advent established the kingdom of grace, so His second advent will establish the kingdom of glory. We read, "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." Matthew 25:31. Paul was "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13.

This kingdom of glory is more than something in our hearts. It is more than humanity having fellowship with one another. It is more than a matter of minds where evil thoughts are excluded from the thinking. It is far more than all of these, for "the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God." 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Far exceeding the colorful pageantry that accompanies the coronation of an earthly monarch will be this scene, for "the God of heaven [shall] set up a kingdom." Daniel 2:44. The "Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him." Matthew 25:31.

This future kingdom is not now being prepared by any mighty nation on earth with the purpose of turning the world over to the Son of God at His return. In Daniel's prophecy of the establishment of this kingdom, God pictured the nations of earth as portions of a great image in the form of a man. This image was struck upon its feet by a stone which represents the kingdom of God. Note the result:

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The Age of the Earth

(Continued from page 3)

Various lines of study, such as the computation of the rate of sedimentation, the rate of the accumulation of sodium in the sea, etc., are open to many errors and uncertainties, and are all so directly based on

the assumption of uniform action in the past, that they prove nothing.

Among creationists there are various shades of opinion as to the time and manner of creation. Some regard the earth as very old, having been brought into existence at the same time as the rest of the universe, or at some other far-distant time. Others think that the solar system was a unit in creation. Still others maintain that the earth was a unit, created independently of all the rest of the universe, except that the moon, as a body to light the earth, must have been created with it.

The belief that the matter of the earth is coexistent with the rest of the universe is an inheritance from two ancient notions: (1) that matter is eternal, and (2) that matter is independent of the continuous and immediate agency of God. It should be pointed out that unless matter be eternal, having been in existence since remote antiquity, there is no reason for believing otherwise than in the creation of the matter of this globe on the first day of creation. If it had been lying in space for ages, "without form and void," it could have served but one purpose, to maintain the gravitational balance of the universe. But it is impossible for any mathematician to prove that the presence of this world or even of this solar system is necessary to keep in balance a galaxy so vast that the nearest fixed star is over 25,000,000 miles away.

God Could Do It

How could an earth like this one, with all its complexity, come into existence within the space of six 24-hour days? Only by the miraculous, supernatural power of an Almighty, Infinite Being. There can be no scientific explanation for creation. Creation is as incomprehensible as God Himself, for it requires the exercise of power that is measured only in terms of infinity. Nothing now going on in nature gives us an explanation of the processes involved in creation, although the forces released in atomic fission show us something of the terrific power locked up in matter.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1. This opening statement of Genesis is a simple declaration that *in the first place*, or to *begin with*, God created the earth; it did not arise by any natural processes, as the philosophers taught.

Modern critics have wasted much time in discussing the problem as to when "the beginning" really was. They have done this because of a wrong emphasis; the emphasis is not on "the beginning," but on "God created." The first verse of Genesis, therefore, is best understood as a plain,

simple statement of the basic principle that, to begin with, God created the earth; that is, it did not come about by natural processes.

"And the earth was without form, and void." Verse 2. Here is a simple statement of the condition of the earth as it came into existence. It was not created in an instant, perfect and complete; it was brought into existence as an organized mass, void of life and of all those refinements that make life possible.

The interpretation of Genesis here suggested may be designated as the ultra-conservative view. Not all creationists accept it in all points. In spite of differences of opinion, however, it is well to recognize that one who chooses to regard the matter of the earth as having been brought into existence at the beginning of "creation week," must be regarded as equally scientific and equally orthodox theologically with those who hold diverse views.

The Important Point

After all, the most important point to recognize is that expressed in the following statement:

"The most essential difference is that creationism accounts for the members of the series by emphasis upon forces or causes outside the series working in, while evolutionism accounts for the later members of the series by emphasis upon forces or causes working inside the series. In other words, creationism emphasizes the operation of initiating and intervening causes; evolutionism emphasizes the operation of inherent causes. . . .

"It should be noted that the differences between creationism and evolutionism just mentioned are differences of emphasis. We said that creationism emphasizes initiating causes, or an initiating or First Cause, usually said to be God, but evolutionism, properly speaking, is not concerned with initiating causes, and may leave such questions open, confining itself to emphasis upon inherent causes."—Conger, G. P. *New Views of Evolution*, p. 17. New York, Macmillan, 1929.

In the end, the question resolves itself into a choice between one of two alternatives: (1) the strict Scriptural view that God created the earth in a miraculous manner at a comparatively recent time, some 6000 years ago (or thereabout), or (2) that the matter of the earth was brought into existence at some unknown time long ages ago, and only finished up at the time of "creation week." Because of the simplicity of the former view and the pagan associations clustering around the second, the writer prefers to hold to the former. Each reader must make his own choice.

Christ and Satan AT WAR!

The Controversy Nears Its End

By W. ROBERT FRENCH

THE FALL of Adam brought sadness to the angelic host and woe and misery to our world. A king had fallen; a kingdom had changed sovereigns; Satan had become prince of this world. Who should recover the lost dominion and wrest it from the usurper's grasp? A gleam of hope was inspired in the heart of earth's fallen monarch by the words of God to the serpent: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15. This was a declaration of war to the death; Satan was to be fatally wounded by a man child who was to be born to the human family.

A blood feud was begun in our world between Satan and his seed on the one side and the woman and her seed on the other. At the time God said this, there was only one woman in the world to become the mother of all living, to become the mother of Satan's seed as well as the mother of the Seed who was to bruise the serpent's head.

This controversy between the two seeds began with the birth of the first two male children of Eve, Cain and Abel, and resulted in the murder of Abel by Cain, who in turn was sentenced by God to become a vagabond in the earth. Cain was sent out from the presence of God and his parents, and he became the father of the seed of the serpent. God then gave to the woman another seed instead of the one who had been killed. When Seth was born, Eve said: "God hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew." Genesis 4:25. This was the mother's earliest recognition that the promised man-child deliverer should come through the family of Seth.

From this time forth two families were recognized in the earth, the descendants of Seth and the descendants of Cain. They

The victory of Christ over Satan in the wilderness presages the complete defeat of the adversary in the controversy that has been raging since the foundation of the world.



were known as "sons of God" and "daughters of men." (Genesis 6:1, 2.) Satan sought by intermarriage between the two classes of humanity to break down the enmity existing between the two and by so doing fuse them into one kingdom. The Flood came and destroyed them all, except Noah and his family of the line of Seth.

Now, again, the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman must spring from a very limited number of women, to be exact, from the three daughters-in-law of Noah, who were the wives of Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The Bible says, "And by these were the nations divided in the earth after the Flood." Genesis 10:32. It was soon manifest who were the children, or seed, of the serpent, and who were the seed of the woman. Ham and his sons soon lined up under the banner of evil, and God said of him shortly thereafter: "Canaan [Ham's son] shall be his [Shem's] servant," and "Japheth . . . shall dwell in the tents of Shem." Genesis 9:26, 27.

Thus, early after the Flood and in

primeval history, God made known who were the seed of the woman. The reader will here take notice that it was not birth or nationality that distinguished between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent. Works, not birth, were, and still are, the determining factor. At the first only one mother must be the progenitor of both. Obedience to God and His law is the characteristic of the children of God (1 John 3:8-10), and disobedience to God and His law has all along characterized the seed of Satan. "In every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him." Acts 10:35. God is no respecter of persons; but He is a respecter of character.

The two classes began to diverge more and more after the Flood, as men multiplied upon the earth; and soon the seed of Satan were busily engaged in erecting a tower as a focal point to bind them together upon the earth. Their effort again was brought to nought. The tower of Babel was destroyed, and the confusion of tongues separated them, thus scattering

them upon the earth. This dispersion took place about 100 years after the Flood. The seed of Shem settled in the valley of Mesopotamia. Subsequently God chose Abraham and separated him from his people and placed him in Palestine at the crossroads of the nations.

Now, again, we must look to one woman to mother the promised seed; but this woman (Abraham's wife) was barren. Barrenness is no obstacle to God, neither is sterility produced by age. When Abraham was 100 years of age and Sarah 90, God told them that Sarah should have a son. Sarah laughed; but through divine interposition Isaac was born. Thus, early in the history of the world, God began to reveal the divine origin of this seed of the woman and to foreshadow the virgin birth. Isaac was the first and only son born to his mother. One day God said to Abraham: "Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, . . . and offer him." Genesis 22: 2. The record of Holy Writ says, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac; and he that had received the promises offered up his only-begotten son." Hebrews 11: 17.

The Promised Seed

Thus early in human history John 3: 16 was made known to men. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Abraham doubtless thought that Isaac was the promised seed; but God showed him in Mt. Moriah that another was to be offered "in the stead of his son." Genesis 22: 13. Thus was the gospel preached to Abraham. (Galatians 3: 8, 9.) It was on the same occasion that God revealed to Abraham that through his seed (Christ, Galatians 3: 16) all nations of the earth were to be blessed (Genesis 22: 17, 18). Isaac was not to be the promised seed; for while Isaac was there present, God promised to Abraham a Seed who should possess the gate (kingdom) of His enemies—Abraham's Seed on the one side, "His enemies" (Satan's seed) on the other side.

At the time of the above experience Isaac was unmarried. Abraham, seeing now that he must look for another seed instead of Isaac, sought for a wife for Isaac. Rebekah was found, but alas, she like Sarah was barren. Again, foreshadowing the virgin birth, God divinely interposed, and Rebekah gave birth to twins. (Genesis 25: 21.) They struggled before birth and after birth. (Verses 22-34.) It was early evident which of the twins was the seed of the woman. In the choice of occupation, in the sale of his birthright,

in the choice of a wife, Esau soon made known that he was of the evil one. (Genesis 25: 27-34; 27: 34, 35.)

When the twins were 77 years old, the conflict between the brothers came to a climax; Jacob received the birthright blessing and Esau pledged to kill him. Jacob was saved by flight. In the land of his refuge 12 sons were born to Jacob. Which of the 12 should have the birthright and be the progenitor of the promised seed? Due to their works, one after another was eliminated, Reuben first, then Simeon and Levi, and the others. Judah, by nobly espousing the cause and assuming the care of his younger brother, succeeded in securing to his lineage the birth of the promised seed. (Genesis 44: 18-34; 1 Chronicles 5: 2.) As death drew near, Jacob blessed his sons (this means the dividing of the inheritance, Judges 1: 13-15), at which time he predicted that Christ would come of the seed of Judah. (Genesis 49: 10.)

Later it was predicted that the promised Seed should be born to the royal family of David, who belonged to the tribe of Judah (2 Samuel 7: 12-14), and Bethlehem, the native city of David, was named as his birthplace (Micah 5: 2). In making the promise to David God emphasized both the human and the divine origin of the seed of the woman. God told David: "I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels." 2 Samuel 7: 12. And again, "I will be his father, and he shall be My son." Verse 14. This prophecy and the fact of His divine-human origin was what was emphasized by the angel Gabriel in the annunciation of the coming birth of Christ to the virgin Mary, whom God chose to bear the divine seed. The angel said: "God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David." Luke 1: 32. And again, "That holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." On the human side the seed of the woman was "the son of David" (Matthew 22: 42); and on the divine side the seed of the woman was the "only-begotten Son of God."

The Word "Messiah"

The word "Messiah" means "The Anointed One." John 1: 41, margin. Jesus of Nazareth was not the Messiah until He was anointed. Prophecy had said of the Messiah: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me: because He hath anointed Me to preach." Isaiah 61: 1. This prophecy was fulfilled at His baptism, when Jesus was 30 years of age. (Matthew 3: 16.) At that time God anointed Him and announced His Sonship in the words of the title formerly held by Adam. God

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TERSE TOPICS

WHY GO TO SCHOOL?—Chancellor Robert M. Hutchins of the University of Chicago believes that the education of children in the hope of saving the world is, according to his own words, "highly unrealistic." It is his expressed belief that the education of adults is the most urgent need today.

SOAP FROM HUMAN FLESH—"Any Polish housewife shopping for soap looks carefully at the brand which usually is stamped on top of the bar. For sometimes she will come across a dark brown, rather good cake of laundry soap bearing the three letters RIF, which means *Ruhe in Frieden* or Rest in Peace. This is the soap the Germans made from human flesh and bones in their factory in Danzig."—*Harper's Magazine*, November, 1946.

MESSAGE FOR AMERICA—Gandhi, in a recent interview, revealed that his belief that he would live to be 125 years old has been shaken. He attributed his uncertainty to a loss of "equanimity," or loss of self-control. When asked if he had any message for America, Mr. Gandhi said: "Dislodge the money god called Mammon from the throne and find a corner for a poor god. I think America has a very big future, but, in spite of what is said to the contrary, it has a dismal future if it swears by Mammon."

PRAYER DISSIPATES HURRICANE—The hurricane that was recently forecast as heading for Florida, never did eventuate. Newspaper offices and weather bureau received a flood of letters from individuals who stated that they had prayed that the storm would not strike



THE SERIOUSNESS of the frightening atomic age is driving men to, or back to, the Bible. With a dark, or at best vague, future to face, the word of God alone supplies the vision and the stamina to face it. It outlines the future in view of the past.

Hence those parts of the Bible which should be most thumbed and worn by those who would delve into the times

upheaval would result! Fit symbol of the swirling, pitching, clashing, recoiling of titanic armies in battle and war. Said another seer who used the same symbol, "I will bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, . . . and I will send the sword." Jeremiah 49:36, 37. So winds as a prophetic type represent war.

The outstanding effect of war is the rise and fall of nations. Hence we may expect

Babylonia. The Assyrian was the lion monarchy of ancient times. And another Hebrew prophet said of Nebuchadnezzar's horsemen, "They shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat." Habakkuk 1:8-10.

But alas, the wings that hastened to conquer were plucked, lionheart weakened to the craven heart of an unarmed man, the "beauty of the Chaldees' excellency" was smirched, and the first attempt at "one

ETERNITY-- BY WAY OF

THE OUTLINE OF HISTORY

ahead of us are the prophecies. One of the most vital of these divine predictions which apply now may be discovered in the seventh chapter of the prophecy of Daniel. For Daniel saw our day—and beyond.

A most assuring aspect of this utterance is that two and a half millenniums ago it gave a foreview of world history from that day to this; and great events down through the centuries since that far day have fulfilled the forecast to the smallest detail mentioned. But, more, this same prophecy has a startling residue to be fulfilled beyond A. D. 1947; and we may be equally as sure of its accurate fulfillment as we are of world events already past.

In the seer's inspired vision, "the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea." Daniel 7:2. We have seen a huge volume of water pouring from a tank through a small vent. How like a great crowd of people surging out through the gate of an amphitheater! When a crowd sends up a mighty cheer, it sounds like Niagara. People are like water. And so water is the symbol which Bible prophecy uses to represent people. "The waters which thou sawest, . . . are peoples." Revelation 17:15.

We have seen a strong wind driving billowing clouds across a wintry sky, like serried ranks of men marching into battle. Imagine strong winds from the four points of the compass striking the surface of the ocean at one time. What a terrific marine

next to see figures of some kind to represent nations, emerging from the storm-tossed waves. And true to expectation, the prophecy continues, "Four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another." And the angel of interpretation later explained to the prophet, "These great beasts . . . are four kings," or "kingdoms." Verses 17, 23.

In their selfish interests, their predatory aggressiveness, and their utter ruthlessness in time of desperate warfare, the nations of earth, now as anciently, may be appropriately symbolized by ravenous beasts of prey. What crimes are committed in the name of nationalism! And even today proud nations are fond of picturing themselves as lions, bears, eagles, or dragons.

So let us be on the alert to these beasts of prophecy. "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it." Verse 4.

The king of beasts with the wings of the king of birds—a fitting symbol of the majesty and might and glory of the Babylonian World Empire (606-538 B. C.), the first of global nations, which dominated the earth when this vision was given by God to Babylon's eminent premier, Daniel, the statesman. Monoliths of lions stand out most prominently in the archeological excavations made today in the ruins of old

government" passed into oblivion before the onslaught of the next beast.

"Behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh." Verse 5.

The successor to Babylonian universal rule, Medo-Persia (538-331 B. C.), fits this animal figure exactly. The dual monarchy of the Medes and the Persians, under the Persian Cyrus the Great, overthrew "the glory of kingdoms," but Darius the Mede was allowed to rule first; "it raised up itself on one side." Then Cyrus took over. The three ribs doubtless symbolized the rapacious conquest of the three provinces of Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt. But after two centuries of world rulership, the lordly Persians also passed. And another beast power dashed into view from the political storm.

"After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it." Verse 6.

A swift leopard leaped up the shore of the symbolic sea, and was given world dominion. And in it we see the rapid conquests and lightning blows of the man



who traditionally "conquered the world and wept because there were no more worlds to conquer"—Alexander the Great, of Greece. Grecia (331-168 B. C.) followed the Persians in universal sway.

After the four wings of their double speed carried the Greeks under their intrepid leader to the utmost bounds of civilization in the short space of eight years, Alexander went down to individual

beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns." Daniel 7: 7.

Language falters, and strange combinations of beast and bird fail, as the prophet struggles to discern and depict the symbol of the fourth universal empire. History says it represented the "iron monarchy

Exactly true to the forecast, on the breakup of the once steel-strong and flourishing Rome, which had boasted proudly of being "eternal," 10 "barbarian" nations trampled and settled its territory. History names them, but our chief concern here is that Rome was "divided" and was no more.

THE TIMES

PROPHETIC SYMBOLISM

By ROBERT BRUCE THURBER

defeat and death before his passions and appetites. His will was that "the strongest" should succeed him, whereupon his leading generals resorted to the wage of battle. But no one of them, nor two, nor three, proved strong enough to wield his scepter undisputed. After three decades of strife, exactly four rulers divided his wide territory among them.

The leopard had four heads. Seleucus reigned in the East over Babylonia and Syria; Ptolemy in the South over Egypt; Lysimachus in the North over Thrace and Asia Minor; Cassander in the West over Macedonia and Greece. How snugly the facts of history drop into and fit the places provided for them in the every-whit-as-trustworthy facts of divine prophecy.

But another great ground swell sweeps to the shore of the sea of the prophet's vision. A fourth world power gripped his attention: and this was the grand and fearful climax of global supremacy.

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the

of Rome" (168 B. C. to A. D. 467). Like a mechanical robot of our modern age, its "great iron teeth" mangled and rendered powerless all beasts before it, and its stamping claws ground them into the earth. Never before or since did political power dominate mankind as did this crushing might of Rome. Explained the angel, "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces." Daniel 7: 23.

Here horns are introduced to the list of symbols. And the divine interpretation is, "The ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise." Daniel 7: 24. The expression "out of" indicates that Rome was to fall finally, and that on its ruins ten nations were to come into being.

H. G. Wells says in his *Outline of History*, "No vestige of the Western Empire, the original Roman Empire, remained as a distinct and separate political division."

So departed universality of world empire, as of men's might, for the last time. And right here we are passing from fulfilled to unfulfilled Bible prophecy. In the space of 11 centuries, from 606 B. C. to A. D. 476, four universal empires successively ruled the earth's people. Then for 15 centuries every attempt—and there were many—to repeat the feat ended in ignominious failure. It was sure to be; for the unerring prophecy had continued with the next momentous event in the history of mankind, in the words, "The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be

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MEET THE NEW EDITOR!



THE VOLUME of literature issued by the Southern Publishing Association, publishers of *OUR TIMES*, has increased by leaps and bounds in recent years. This has augmented the burdens of the editorial office so much that its responsibilities must be shared with other help.

Anticipating this need, the publishers several months ago secured the talents of Mr. Stanley C. Harris, who has been serving since as associate editor of this magazine. Now we are happy to turn over to him the full editorial responsibility for the periodical, and with pleasure introduce him to you as its new editor, beginning with the next issue.

Brother Harris comes to us young, full of vigor, and consecrated. A graduate of both Madison College and Peabody College, in Nashville, Tennessee, he has had a profitable experience in teaching school and in public evangelism. As we welcome him to his new office, we wish him God's blessing and much success, and at the same time desire for the readers of *OUR TIMES* a better and more helpful magazine than it has been before.

ROBERT LEO ODOM.



Military Research

THE GOVERNMENT of the United States is carrying on a research program in 18 agencies, with 81,000 researchers, and \$1,613,000,000 in available funds for the fiscal year.

Scientists are troubled over the fact that 84% of the funds have been appropriated for the Army and Navy military research programs. This monopolization means a tremendous concentration of effort in the fields of fire-control mechanisms, guided missiles, germ warfare, and atomic energy, just to mention a few.

In the *United States News* (November 29, 1946), it is stated that, "Government expenditures on a vast scale are necessary if this country is to keep up in the race with Russia and other nations for military power."

With the eastern and western powers dividing into two distinct military camps, and with an armament race already at its heat of competition, does it not seem evident that Armageddon is in the offing? In the following prophetic revelation can be seen the startling evidence that such is the case: "And 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." Revelation 16: 12. It further states that the "spirits of devils, working miracles, . . . go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. . . . And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." Verses 14, 16.



Paralyzing Strikes

ANOTHER WAVE of paralyzing strikes has started rolling that could very well strangle the nation's industry and further add to the hardships and shortages so seriously affecting the country. New houses, automobiles, and the vast list of consumers' goods that the public is in need of, are still being held up. Transportation, manufacture, and public utilities have been feeling the impact. Hunger, hate, and bloodshed are the result.

The *United States News* (November 29, 1946) makes a sobering statement regarding the labor unions' attitude toward the Government in the recent coal strike crisis.

The statement reads as follows: "Both the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations have attacked the Government's court action against Mr. Lewis. Threat of a general strike could follow this united front. If such a strike were successful, the Government would collapse."

The threat of a general strike in the showdown battle that seems to be brewing between labor and the Government brings to mind the Bible prediction that "in the last days perilous times shall come." 2 Timothy 3: 1. The possibility of dissension and strife grows more likely as tension increases. Are we soon to be plunged into the scenes described by Daniel when he said: "There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time"? Daniel 12: 1.



Antarctic Climate Was Once Mild

"IN CONNECTION with the current South Polar expeditions, scientists have pointed out that nature's southern ice chest was ruled . . . years ago by warm and perhaps even tropical weather. There were plants and trees including a species like the sequoia of California."—*The New York Times*, December 3, 1946.

These scientists sailed with the Navy's huge antarctic expedition to the frozen

Poverty and hunger still prevail on an unprecedented scale in Greece today as this picture so strikingly reveals.





This monstrous tank is one of the new destructive military weapons that has been developed in the present interlude of peace.

wastes of the South Pole region in search of valuable mineral deposits. It seems evident from reports that a search for uranium will be made. In fact there seems to be somewhat of a race among several nations to get there first. No doubt the atomic bomb that fell on Hiroshima now threatens to break through the frigid mysteries of this once beautiful and mild country. Perhaps the scientists, while searching for minerals, will find many evidences of the flood that it is believed was responsible for the change in the climate and surface of the earth. The fact that the Antarctic was once warm, and was abundant in beautiful trees such as grow in California today, is evidence that supports the truth of a world catastrophe that the Bible tells us was a flood. It will be interesting to learn of the findings of this expedition that will further support the teachings of God's word.

"THE SCRIPTURES fix no certain time when the Lord's supper is to be observed. The Passover was celebrated once each year on the anniversary of the deliverance from bondage. The Jews were especially commanded to observe this feast annually. Some churches observe the supper every Sunday, others monthly, some quarterly, etc. Since no definite date is set for its observance, and no command is given as to how often it is to be observed, it would seem that the individual churches may each decide when it will be celebrated."—Judge Chester D. Adams, teaching the Sunday School lesson for December 8 in the Ashland Avenue Baptist, (Lexington, Ky.)

OUR TIMES, FEBRUARY, 1947

THE PROSPECTS for PEACE



THE FUTURE of our homes and our children, yes, of the whole world, is at stake in the efforts that are being put forth in behalf of peace. The representatives of the nations that are members of the U. N. have convened in New York to consider and solve, if they can, the tremendous problems that have to do with peace. Can they do it? Will they succeed in welding the nations into a unified, friendly, and co-operative state of being? Are they able to settle social, racial, and nationalistic differences? Can selfish desires for territorial expansion be subdued? Will the hatreds resulting from the war and the consequent desire for revenge be overcome? What about the military might that is growing among some powers? Must force continue to be the rule of the day? Real peace largely depends upon what the answer to these questions will be.

In *The New York Times* (November 11, 1946), is a report of a speech made by John Foster Dulles, who declares that the U. N. must heed the moral law or fail. "Only the moral law can provide the necessary unifying force to keep the United Nations from disintegrating as the League of Nations did," said Dulles. This statement reaches to the core of the whole problem. Adherence to the moral law would be the solution to the questions raised above. But how many nations are ready to embrace God's law?

At the very time that peace plans are being promoted we cannot help but note the striking news notices of the great advances that are being made in the development of bigger and better bombers, more powerful tanks, unprecedented high-speed combat planes, bacteriological and chemical methods of warfare, and the increasingly larger stock piles of atomic bombs. It almost seems that men speak soft words of peace, while at the same time they carry knives behind their backs. We read in *The New York Times* (November 9, 1946), that General A. G. L. McNaughton is advising the production of more atom bombs for defense. "Continued production and further improvement of all special weapons of great power, including the atomic bomb, is vital," says General McNaughton.

How strange the situation! And yet to the student of Bible prophecy it all makes sense. The Bible clearly reveals that "in the last days it shall come to pass, that . . . many nations shall come, and say . . . they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Micah 4: 1-3. Notice that the nations will say that they are going to scrap their weapons and cease going to war. But God says that they will do just the opposite, as we see by the following words spoken by Him: "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong." Joel 3: 9, 10.

THOUGH an occasional serious wound may occur in home emergencies, the great majority are little wounds, that cause almost no pain and because they seem to be unimportant are neglected. We are all guilty of this neglect, and in most cases it works all right, as our natural resistance to ordinary infections is quite high. But there is an ever-present danger that there will be germs that are much more powerful and active than ordinary, and these may land on us, and our defenses may be lower than usual. Hence the only safe thing to do is to assume that all wounds, small ones included, are possibly dangerous, and protect ourselves by simple but efficient treatment, every time one occurs. Such precautions may easily become an established habit and when consistently carried out, prevent many serious or even fatal results.

Infections of unusual intensity and power are sometimes very rapid in action, the so-called "blood poison" cases, or "septicemia." In such cases the germs quickly enter the blood and are able to overcome the defensive forces that usually quickly destroy them. Then these germs may lodge in many parts of the body at the same time and cause such dangerous poisoning that either a very serious, long battle rages before the patient recovers, or the germs win, either rapidly or after a long fight, and death follows. Fortunately we now have some very active and powerful medicines that usually help us win the battle. But it is much better to destroy these invaders before they can really get started.

Any one of us may scrape a little skin off the back of the hand, or the youngsters may fall down and skin knees or shins. Usually we pay little attention to these wounds except to wash off the small amount of blood, and they quickly heal. But occasionally an abscess results. Hence the wise and very simple thing to do is to paint the wound area with tincture of iodine or one of the bright-colored mercurial preparations such as mercurochrome. These will destroy most of the germs on the skin that are likely to cause infection. The same treatment should be used for small cuts and scratches of various kinds, especially by cats.

Small wounds that are more likely to cause trouble are those that carry germs under the skin. Of these, splinters are probably the most common causes. Wood does not ordinarily carry any great collection of germs but may have been in contact with something that does; therefore, splinters should always be removed as quickly as possible, using a needle that has been passed through a flame to sterilize it. If it has a little soot on it, no damage will



Cuts and bruises demand immediate and efficient attention to protect against possible infection.

So, You've Cut Yourself!

EMERGENCY FIRST AID IN MINOR WOUNDS

By COL. GEORGE A. SKINNER, M. D.
Medical Corps, United States Army, Retired

result. After the splinter has been removed, a little tincture of iodine will do much to destroy the germs that may remain in the wound. If the splinter is large, it may be necessary to have a surgeon remove it. This is the kind that youngsters get from sliding down boards, trees, and not-too-smooth playground slides.

The "rusty nail" has long been something that everyone fears, when it causes a wound in a bare foot. The rust has nothing to do with the danger, but the fact that it is rusty usually indicates that it has been in contact with the ground and hence may carry the deadly "lockjaw," or tetanus, germs, which are mostly in moist soil, especially around barnyards and gardens. Hence a nail wound of the foot, if it is deep and does not bleed, should at once be cared for by a competent doctor,

and the only safe thing to do besides the treatment of the wound is to receive a "shot" of tetanus antitoxin, which will practically always protect the injured from this almost universally fatal disease. Once tetanus is developed, there is little chance of a person's surviving.

Jackknife wounds do not ordinarily cause infection, as the wound is usually on the hand which is very rich in blood. The bleeding is a great protection against infection, because the blood is quite free flowing for a short time and washes out much of the possible germ danger. Light pressure above the wound will stop the bleeding, or possibly a very hot water compress for a few minutes; then a cleansing of the surrounding area with soap and hot water and a light painting of iodine will usually quickly render harmless such a

wound. A sterile dressing should be placed in contact with the wound, a rather snug bandage to keep motion from breaking the clot, and there will be nothing left usually but a line scar. If the wound is large, it is usually best to sew it to prevent a large scar.

The knife wound that is likely to be most serious in the ordinary home emergency is the one inflicted on the housewife by herself with a slipping kitchen knife, when she is cutting meat. Such a wound is likely to carry infection and should always be treated as if it did. The "holding" hand should be behind the knife if possible, or else protected by a heavy towel (several thicknesses). A slipping knife will not ordinarily cut through such a protection. Most such wounds are due to hurry, carelessness, or both, and are easily prevented.

In Treating Cuts

Another common and easily serious wound is that made by a hand's slipping when opening a tin can. The most serious wound here is that on the back of a finger where the tendon is often cut where it lies very close to the surface. If it is, an immediate operation to splice the tendon is the wise thing, even though it may seem a serious operation for a slight wound. However, the last joint of the finger is often left useless unless this is done. When not possible, immediately bandage the finger to a perfectly straight piece of wood so that the finger cannot be bent at all. This will sometimes give a fair result as far as movement goes, but will usually leave the finger somewhat crooked.

Another common cut is from glass. This may take place by falling through glass doors or windows, by glass dishes of various kinds breaking in the hand, or in attempting to pick up glass that has been broken on the floor. Broken glass has a very keen sawlike edge, and will cut as readily as the sharpest razor. Unless glass is embedded in the wound it is like any other cut.

A minor, but sometimes annoying wound, is caused by a needle which breaks off under the skin. It is astonishingly difficult to find such a fragment, and often it can only be done by the X-ray and the skill of the surgeon. The fragment should always be removed as soon as possible, as it may come in contact with a nerve and cause severe pain.

In the hobby shop the most dangerous tool is the circular saw. The modern saws revolve so rapidly and are often so quiet, that one may put his hand into a revolving saw thinking it is still. Such tools should always be protected or left unconnected with the source of power. The wounds

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Replies to Health Queries

This information for the readers of OUR TIMES is supplied by Owen S. Parrett, M. D., a physician and writer of wide experience. Address questions to the doctor in care of this magazine.

I have sinus trouble and have been told by a friend that it can be cured by spraying the nostrils with penicillin. Is this true?—J.K.

Acute colds, commonly called "sinus trouble," are usually caused by virus infections. Penicillin is of little value in virus diseases. However, within 48 hours other germs usually follow and add to the cold, and these may be susceptible to the penicillin. Some doctors report much help from penicillin nose and throat sprays, hence they are worthy of a trial, but are not cure-alls and should be accompanied with a correct diet and other appropriate measures. Since all nose and throat sprays are somewhat irritating, they should not be continued too long.

Will diet help in any way to ease nervousness in an extremely nervous person?—D.L.G.

My answer in this case would be yes. I was shown a rat in the laboratory of Professor E. V. McCollum of Johns Hopkins University that was so nervous and irritable that the attendant had to pick it up with wooden forceps to avoid being bitten, whereas other rats in the laboratory were tractable and easily handled. I learned that this particular rat was being fed a diet lacking in calcium, which caused it to be so jittery. Nervous persons often show low blood calcium and high blood sugar. A diet without coffee, tea, meat, and peppery spices and condiments tends to diminish irritability of the nerves, and greatly increases the endurance. The diet should be well balanced and include fruit, juices, vegetables, and whole-grain cereals together with some milk and perhaps an occasional egg. Sun bathing or using vitamin D helps the body to utilize and appropriate the calcium found in our foods. Milk, whole-grain cereals, and vegetables are all excellent sources of calcium. The so-called acid-forming or acid-ash foods, such as meat, tend to diminish the body alkali reserves including calcium. Even in a zoo it is noticeable that the animals that use meat are, as a group, more irritable and nervous than those subsisting on a vegetable and fruit diet.

Is it safe to give a small child frequent enemas? What foods can be fed to a child of two years to induce normal bowel activity?—K.N.

To begin with, let me say that as a rule enemas are less damaging than are cathartics. There are no good cathartics. They are all bad, but some are worse than others. Because cathartics are made from herbs, some think certain ones are harmless. Strychnine is also an herb and is often used in cathartic pills.

Let me suggest a method to follow in overcoming this tendency to constipation. First, be very regular with all the meals and allow nothing between the meals unless it be a glass of fruit juice. A little prune juice taken the first thing in the morning and followed with some drinking water may be helpful. This juice may be diluted somewhat to increase the fluid intake. Much constipation is caused merely by too little water drinking. You should have a coarse

cereal for breakfast such as Roman meal, or 40% bran flakes, or a mixture of shorts and middlings with a little wheat germ added. Such a meal is sold around Los Angeles under the name of Cal Tech Wheat Germ, and it is very rich in the vitamin B complex, which is a laxative vitamin. Give the child no white-flour bread or other products but only 100% cereal foods and bread. Give it fruit at least twice a day in large amounts, using fresh fruits when possible. Have a habit time, and let the child sit at this same time every day. If unsuccessful, take a little hand bulb and give the child one or two bulbs of water as an injection, or insert a small glycerin or soap suppository and let him sit a little longer. Lastly, avoid many desserts and fancy foods. Give the child only plain simple foods in the most natural state possible.

If a laxative must be used, let it be a mechanical one and not a drug or chemical cathartic. Such laxatives as plain petrolagar, metamucil in water or juices, or brewers' yeast powder might be helpful and would at the same time be harmless. Constipation is usually only found in human beings who feed themselves worse than we feed our animals. Quite frequently dogs who "eat under their master's table," and partake of the same foods, are found to be suffering from constipation.

What are the causes of excessive acidity of the stomach?—L.A.F.

Plain nervousness may cause hyperacidity of the stomach just as it may cause gastric ulcers. There are two kinds of acid which may be found in the stomach, namely: the hydrochloric acid of digestion, and the acid of fermentation, which is more liable to be present in cases where the normal acid is lacking or diminished below normal. A test meal may be required to determine which kind of acid is in excess. According to the work of the late Professor Pavlov, normal digestive acid is greatly increased by a good appetite, and the thorough mastication of dry foods such as bread, and the use of meat in the diet. It is diminished by a poorer appetite, the use of liquids such as milk, and the taking of a little oil at the beginning or during the meal, in which case olive oil should be especially advantageous.

I am inclined to think that the questioner may have too much hydrochloric acid, in which case I would use a little pure olive oil at the beginning and during the meal. Although you may have a good appetite and do thoroughly chew your food to insure correct digestion, you should drink some milk with your meal to dilute the digestive acid somewhat. Watch your combinations, and make your meals simple and plain but varied. Try to relax a few minutes before eating, and if possible give yourself a little time after meals before plunging into intensive mental effort. It might be well to employ this time in taking a short walk and at the same time breathe deeply and rhythmically. If medicine must be taken, avoid baking soda, for it has a terrible effect upon the stomach. Take instead one of the new hydroxides of aluminum, which are comparatively harmless.

THERE IS nothing we love quite so much as life, and there is nothing we dread so much as death. When I visit a hospital and see a person under the oxygen tent, I know that everything possible is being done to keep that person alive. Wealthy people spend thousands and thousands of dollars to put off the hour of death, and poor people mortgage everything they have to keep the spark of life burning a little longer.

I have seen the grief caused by death in various places. I have seen the Chinese go into their groaning sorrows. I have seen Dusuns of Borneo go through their incantations, throw in coins for the dead, and then take the bodies out to the jungle.

Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another." Job 19: 25-27.

David, in Psalm 17: 15, says: "As for me, I will behold Thy [God's] face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied when I awake, with Thy likeness." The psalmist looked forward to a glorious day in the future when he would awake. He did not believe that he would be translated to heaven at death, or that some part of him would then flit off to the glory world.

The heathen make a great fuss over a loved one who dies. In Singapore a corpse

the spirit world, he will have wives enough. At midnight, when the priest arrives, fire is set to the whole thing, and it goes up in smoke. So it is thought that in the glory world of spirits man will lack nothing, for he will have a mansion in the skies. The hope of many individuals is pinned upon a man-made doctrine just that shaky.

But we must take God's word, and His word alone. He says: "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence." Psalm 115: 17. More than that, in Psalm 146: 4 it is written concerning man: "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." What happens to a man

Passing On or Passing Away?

Where Do We Go When We Die?

By FORDYCE W. DETAMORE

Finding the highest tree on the highest hill, they place their dead in it. Whether in a heathen land or in a Christian country, I find the same cry of sorrow, "Where are the dead?"

Calvin Coolidge said when his son died, "All the glory of the White House is gone." The Grim Reaper is no respecter of persons. He takes his toll from every family.

I do not know from personal experience what is on the other side of death, and neither do you. But we can take the Bible and know where the dead are. Paul says that God "is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords: who only hath immortality." 1 Timothy 6: 15, 16. Yet we often hear individuals say that man is immortal. You can look from Genesis to Revelation, and you will never find a text that says that man *now* has immortality. The Bible says that God alone has immortality.

Job says of death: "If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." Job 14: 14. "Man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep." Verse 12. The dead will not rise from their graves and live until the latter day, at the appearing of Jesus.

When will come the change mentioned by Job? He answers: "I know that my

has to be disposed of immediately because of the terrific heat. Word is sent for the loved ones to come. As they gather, they have their drinks and offer sacrifices to their gods. They shoot off firecrackers to drive away the evil spirits. At midnight they draw up a large paper cart, the size and magnificence of which depends on the wealth of the person who has passed away. But it is a complete mansion, a beautiful work of art, all made of paper. There are little paper servants inside, and also paper beds. It is even provided with paper rickshaws. Inside are several paper women, so that when the man reaches

The question that is uppermost in the minds of many is, "Where are the dead?" Monuments and memorials are established in honor of the deceased, but men still grope for the answer to a question that only God can answer.



when he dies? The Bible says that "he returneth to his earth," and that "in that very day his thoughts perish."

When David died, he did not go flitting off somewhere. Peter says of him: "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day." Acts 2: 29. He tells us also that "David is not ascended into the heavens." Verse 34. David is resting in the grave until the resurrection day.

In Ecclesiastes 9: 10 the Lord says: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." How could language be clearer? Where are the dead? "In the grave, whither thou goest."

Even more emphatic is this other verse about the dead: "Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." Verse 6. And here is a still stronger statement: "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything." Verse 5. Could language be clearer than that? The living know that they shall die—they live in the expectancy of death—"but the dead know not anything."

Paul says: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4: 15-17.

Not Immortal Now

In 1 Corinthians 15: 13, 17, 18, Paul makes it very clear that we do not now have immortality: "If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is not Christ risen. . . . And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; . . . then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." If there is no resurrection, then the dead remain forever in their graves.

But Paul adds: "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 saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15: 51-54.

This statement by Paul clearly proves that we do not possess immortality now, and that it will not be possessed by the righteous until the resurrection day.

Do men really believe it when they say that the dead are conscious? You have heard it said over and over at a funeral that the dead are alive and conscious in heaven. Let us illustrate the idea.

The Wayside Seed

By EDNA CURTIS ROSS

The sower of seed went forth to sow
In the world's great needy field.
He meant to sow in the fertile soil
And see what the harvest would yield.

But some of the seed which the sower dropped
Fell by the wayside bare.
And the birds of the air, in search of food,
Came down and found it there.

The sower thought that the seed was lost
Which fell by the wayside dead;
But a loving Father saw it fall
And he knew that His sparrows were fed.

We must sow good seed in the fertile soil
As we pass through this world of strife.
But we mustn't forget to drop kind deeds
By the side of the way of life.

Perhaps we may feel that we've little done
To lessen the world's great need;
But none can tell till heaven is reached
The yield of the wayside seed.

In my childhood I was traveling with my mother and my sisters on the ocean. I slept in the upper berth, and my sisters slept in the berth below me. The sea was rough, and the ship was rocking and pitching. During the night my mother and sisters heard a bump. I had been hurled out of my bunk, and I struck my head on the corner of a steel trunk. During the rest of the night I did not know anything. They worked over me, and I did not recover consciousness until morning. According to the popular idea, if they had called in a mechanic to hit me on the head with a hammer hard enough to kill me, I would have known everything.

A man crossing a busy street is struck by an automobile, and it knocks him so

unconscious he knows nothing. A moment later a truck comes along and crushes him to death, and he knows everything!

A doctor friend of mine in the Orient performed a major operation on a Chinese woman one day, and invited me to come in and watch it. I held the patient's wrist to keep note of her pulse. While the doctor operated, the patient was unconscious. But according to popular doctrine, if he had cut an artery so as to kill her, the patient would immediately have been plunged into consciousness and bliss.

Is It Reasonable?

Does it make sense? If death is the gateway to heaven, then why weep and sorrow at a funeral? Have you ever thought of that? At funerals people sorrow and weep, when they ought to be the happiest people in the world, if they believe their dead are in heaven. In a newspaper I read some time ago that a Sunday school teacher, who was a deacon in a church, was held for the murder of his wife and little children. When he was questioned, he said, "Well, I just thought it would be better for them to be rushed on to the glory world. I couldn't bear to think of their going through the trials of this life."

When Jesus was out with His disciples on a long trip, word was sent Him that Lazarus of Bethany was sick. But He did not hurry to the bedside of His friend Lazarus, and the disciples were puzzled. Finally Jesus said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said His disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead." John 11: 11-14.

When Jesus came, He asked that the stone be rolled away from the entrance to the tomb. When they had rolled back the stone, Jesus said: "Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go." John 11: 43, 44. Lazarus had been in the grave four days (verses 17 and 39)—not in heaven—and it was from the tomb that he was brought to life.

The Saviour has said: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5: 28, 29. Thus Christ pointed people forward to the day of the resurrection. He said that
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Christ and Satan at War!

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said: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Verse 17. This title, "Son of God" had been held by Adam. (Luke 3:38.) Thus God proclaimed that this Jesus of Nazareth was the Seed of the woman, who had been foretold by the prophets.

As soon as this announcement had been made, there was war between the Seed of the woman and the serpent. After 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, Jesus was approached by Satan, who disputed his claim to be the "Son of God." He asked Jesus to prove His claim by creating bread. This Jesus could not do without admitting a doubt as to the announcement of His Father. He stated to Satan: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. God had spoken and that was final. Then Satan attempted to bribe Jesus to render him the worship which belongs alone to God by offering Him all the kingdoms of the world. Jesus refused. He could not accept a proposed messiahship under Satan.

In the end of the temptation Jesus commanded Satan to depart, and he obeyed and left Him (Matthew 4:10, 11); but he was not yet prepared to cease the struggle for supremacy. When Christ would not yield to him in the slightest degree, he then got Him betrayed, sold, and crucified. However, Satan received slight satisfaction from the death of Christ; for he had succeeded only in bruising Christ's heel. Christ received His life back in the resurrection, and Satan then knew that the time would come when his own head must be bruised—his own destruction was decreed. Christ's death had won him the power to destroy the devil. (Hebrews 2:14.) Jesus ascended up on high and "sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting [waiting] till His enemies be made His footstool." Hebrews 10:12, 13. Then Christ will reign as God's Anointed One, the Messiah, forever and ever. According to Isaiah 53 and Daniel 9:26, the Messiah was to be cut off. He was cut off that he might destroy the devil, "and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." (Hebrews 2:14, 15.)

Satan's Ultimate Defeat

While Jesus is waiting for that day of His final and ultimate triumph over Satan, Satan is also waiting for the day of ultimate defeat, when his head must be bruised; but he is not sitting in idle expectancy of that event. The Scripture says: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of

the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:12. And further it says: "When the dragon [Satan] saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child." Verse 13. This persecution was carried on during the Dark Ages—just a continuation of the age-old enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.

As long as Satan is permitted to exist upon this earth he will never admit defeat and relinquish the struggle. His last and final effort against the seed of the woman is foretold in the words of Revelation 12:17: "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." The church will survive this war and come forth from Satan's prison house, the grave, through her Messiah, with a mighty shout of victory over death and Satan.

Christ's Two Kingdoms

(Continued from page 7)

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Daniel 2:34, 35.

Great Britain, France, United States,—all nations will be broken, dissolved, and done away with at the setting up of God's kingdom.

David wrote of this kingdom of glory: "They shall speak of the glory of Thy kingdom, and talk of Thy power. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." Psalm 145:11, 13. Oh, to be a citizen of that kingdom!

But the Holy Scriptures declare: "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 15:50. How, then, can we have a share in the future glory? The Scriptures continue: "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." Verses 51, 52.

Only those who have welcomed Christ into their lives and been partakers of the

pardon and cleansing from sin afforded by the kingdom of grace can be citizens of the kingdom of glory. So today, may you open your heart to the Son of God, with this promise of reward: "The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." Daniel 7:27.

Eternity--By Way of the Times

(Continued from page 11)

given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." Daniel 7:27.

So the next global empire after Rome will be the heaven-wide kingdom of Christ and His people, and it shall stand forever. This is especially significant in view of the strenuous efforts now being made to cement the world into a "United Nations" organization as the only way to international peace and to security from atomic obliteration. If that means domination under one head, it shall not be. Christ's is the one total rulership left to the race.

Passing On or Passing Away?

(Continued from page 17)

then "all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth."

Our hope of being restored to life after death has been made possible "by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Timothy 1:10. This hope will not be realized until the last day, when He shall come the second time, to raise the dead from their graves and judge them according to their works.

So You've Cut Yourself

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are usually very serious and require skilled treatment.

There are a number of minor wounds in which the skin may not be broken. Such are the bruises or "contusions" caused by falls, hammer blows, blows from balls or bats during games, from boxing gloves, etc. These are the familiar "black and blue spots," which are the result of the force breaking a number of little blood vessels under the skin. Usually there is considerable tenderness for a few days, the color gradually turns to yellow and then slowly

disappears. But with serious bruises an abscess sometimes forms from germs getting through the skin; so if the pain lingers and the color does not fade, it would be better to have professional care. Especially if a chill and fever arises, infection is very likely to be the cause; and all infections are dangerous.

Finger and toenails are occasionally damaged by being caught and suddenly turned back. This may partly tear them from their "bed" or break the nail so that a part or all of it may have to be removed. This leaves a pretty tender place for some days. Gradually the nail is rebuilt. Sometimes the tear from the blood supply is just enough so that the whole nail dies and gradually turns black, though it may remain in place. In that case, keep it in position as long as possible, as under it the new nail is forming and it will be spared pain if protected by the old nail until the new one begins to harden. This is a slow process and often takes several months before the nail is restored. It may then be slightly deformed but will serve its original useful purpose. The present practice of wearing long nails on the fingers greatly increases the danger of their being damaged accidentally.

Scalp wounds, torn ears, damaged eyelids, split lips, and broken teeth, etc., may take place, but these are serious wounds and require the immediate attention of a surgeon if the best possible results are to be obtained, so are not considered here.

Minor wounds are almost inevitable in daily living, and our bodies are marvelous in the way they make repairs. But we should not expect too much and should give all the help we can and thus prevent or limit further damage.

Light Ahead!

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the darkness of sin with its hate, selfishness, and sorrow.

Not one of earth's children is free from the danger of being swept away by Satan's stream of sinful temptations. Every conceivable device is employed by him to hold us to him. His purpose is to see us struggle in our own strength and then conclude bitterly that there is no way of escape. He would have us remain helpless.

But there is a way of escape, a gleam of hope for guidance and encouragement. The Bible is this light. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105. This wonderful book tells of a provision which the Father and the Son agreed upon by which fallen beings, weary with their struggle with sin, may escape death. In every soul God

sees possibilities of eternal worth. Humanity chose to learn about sin and to their sorrow found that its wages are death. But "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16. "He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him." Hebrews 7:25.

When we have struggled and failed to break loose from sin and lie helpless and panicky, calling for aid, the Father sends renewed strength and peace of mind. Our extremities are His opportunities. Even now He is at the other end of sin's pipe line with arms of love, longing to draw us to Him. He is shining the gospel light to guide us onward. Share it with others and follow its guiding and you will become refreshed in spirit. You will find it ever so much easier to inch your way along day by day making use of the light which indicates His nearness. We are worming our way along the last portion of the last block of human history. Heaven's shining glory awaits us at the end of the line. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised." Hebrews 10:23. "For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Hebrews 10:37.



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The geography books teach that the earth is round, but the Bible teaches that it is square. What is the explanation for this?—F.G.

The Bible does not teach that the earth is square. The truth of the matter is that God's word revealed the shape of the earth long before Columbus and others found out by such strenuous effort. If the early explorers, who varied in their opinions of the shape of the earth, had only read Isaiah 40: 22, they would have been spared much trouble. Here is what it says: "It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers."

No doubt the Bible reference to the "four corners of the earth," as found in Revelation 7: 1, has led our questioner to believe that the Scriptures teach that the earth is square. This, however, merely refers to the four general directions: east, west, north, and south.

Why did God make the devil?—M.B.R.

God did not make a devil any more than He did whisky, beer, or cigarettes. The one who is called the devil today was once a beautiful and perfect angel. His name was Lucifer, and he was sinless. However, he rebelled against God and was cast out into the earth, and he is here today spreading his rebellion against God's law and government. In Ezekiel 28: 15 we read of him as follows: "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Notice that he was perfect at his creation. In Revelation 12: 9 we read of his being cast out of heaven because he became iniquitous. Does a mother give birth to a drunkard? No. Her baby was pure and innocent. So was the devil at one time.

Does the Bible teach that the seasons will be changed before the coming of Christ?—J.M.

"While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Genesis 8: 22.

I HAVE JUST been re-reading a favorite story and pondering some of the thoughts it suggests. A huddle of small boys were faithful witnesses to the daily progress made on a sewer line down a certain city street. Their eyes were wide with curiosity and admiration as they fastened their gaze on every movement the workmen made. The ditches were about eight feet deep and in them was laid tile about fifteen inches in diameter.

One evening after the line had been covered over with dirt, except for a portion at street intersections, the boys decided to get a better view. Into the ditch they clambered and enthusiastically examined the sewer line.

"Say, gang," commented one, "wonder what it would be like to crawl through that pipe to the opening at the next block? Sure would be exciting. Harry, how about it? I dare you to crawl through this pipe to the next street."

Harry was a normal twelve-year-old fellow, and his pride would not allow him to refuse such a challenging dare, even though the pipe looked small and dark and the destination a long way off.

"O. K., fellas, I'll do it if you follow behind me." They agreed.

In the leader crawled, hands first, worming his way slowly through the dark and narrow enclosure. Now and then he called to his comrades for encouragement and received in answer ghostlike voices of assurance from a distance behind. This was pretty good sport he decided, and after a while he again called to his buddies. There was no answer. Horrified and frightened for the first time, he concluded that they had backed their way out of the sewer and left him to crawl through by himself. Should he, too, turn back? He reasoned that he must be about halfway through and it took much less effort to crawl forward than backward, so on he went, like an earthworm burrowing through the soil. The pipes grew colder and his morale was very low. He yelled and

screamed, then tried to calm himself.

Suddenly he was confronted with another cause for alarm. A bulge of mortar, holding pipe sections together, caught his coat. Frantically he struggled to free himself, but the more he tugged the more the coat twisted on his aching body. The tunnel seemed to grow smaller, but his body and fears increased in size. Exhaustion and sheer desperation filled him. He was trapped, helpless! Why had he allowed himself to accept such a foolish challenge? The Bible words, "as a fool dieth," flashed through his mind. His mind's eye envisioned the next morning's newspaper headlines: "Boy Caught in Sewer—Drowned Like a Rat." He sobbed and tugged and twisted, but to no avail. Then he prayed to God for strength to break loose. From a

distance there flashed a light and a familiar voice sounded, "Harry, I'm here." His father! Renewed strength filled his body and he lunged forward, tearing his coat loose from the cement. In a short time he arrived safely at the opening. (Adapted from *Mammon and Mars*, by R. B. Thurber.)

Many years ago our first parents became curious about another sewer line—sin's sewer. They crawled in, enticed by Satan, and found that there was no turning back, that they were trapped to be swept away by a flood of wickedness. Through the ages doomed souls have been elbowing their way through the tunnel. Earth's inhabitants are entombed, gasping for spiritual breath, longing for a gleam of light, a hope for a better world. But around them many see only

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Light Ahead!

There Is Deliverance From Darkness

By ESTHER L. BRASSINGTON