

APRIL . . . . FIFTEEN CENTS

# *Our* TIMES

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS



**Paradise -- the Glorious Home of God's Redeemed** (See page 10)





all through the Bible. The Old Testament prophets declared that the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. Has your life been dry and unfruitful? Then take courage in this April message, for you, too, can rejoice and your life blossom in beauty, but you must yield it to the gentle influence of the One altogether lovely, even as the earth responds to sun and shower.

And here is an April promise for you, dear one of the hasty words with the thorny barbs—"Instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree."

If you sorrow this April over a loved

# April Comes Again!



## Magic Changes Result

By

CAROLYN E. KEELER

**A**PRIL is here again! Magic month of silver showers and soft spring sunshine. Almost over night bare boughs are flecked with green, crocus and hyacinth and scilla thrust colorful heads through the soil. The white of cherry trees, the pink in peach orchards, and the gold of forsythia and daffodils, with the blue of April skies, lend an aura of beauty to an aged world. April does her best to hide the ravages of war and unsightly places. Even in city dumps you see green bushes flourishing as if to hide the ugliness of their surroundings with the gracefulness of green.

Oh, it is a lovely time of year! Forgotten already are the barren and bitter days of winter, the cutting winds, the sodden gray days. Here is April in her beauty, tiptoeing in so softly and smiling her warm smile of promise. She takes away old Mother Earth's tattered garments and in their place clothes her with a filmy gown of rose and blue and green and lavender.

April never comes but there revives in my heart a fresh longing and resolve to rid my heart of all that is unlovely and to make my life truly beautiful and lovely. I cannot do it, but there is One who has given me the assurance that He will create in us a clean heart—that He will take away my heart of stone and give me a heart of flesh. I will be a little less all business and duty and take more time to live patiently and graciously, knowing that I shall not pass again this way.

April is the spirit of newness. We find this newness running like a golden thread

one gone, or over some neglected opportunity that may never come again; if your heart is broken over the treachery of a friend, go to Jesus, who sorrowed for you. He is never too busy or too weary to listen to your petitions and your penitence and your personal problems—"Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

"It is spring, and I am blind," was the arresting sentence on a folder put out by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness several years ago. What a pathetic, tragic thing to have happen when April is here in her newness! But often we who see, who walk the ways of beauty, are blind to its manifestations on every hand, and only see the pebbles kicked up by our shoes as we walk. When there is beauty all about us, we are unconscious of its presence. Instead of the myrtle tree we see the brier. Instead of courage shining in the eyes of one who tries, we see only his failure. Instead of the thoughts of youth that are long, long thoughts, we see only their apparent apathy and unconcern and shake our heads sadly over their sure outcome.

We do not see the opportunities that surround us for service, the chance to speak the word in due season—the word that will be as an apple of gold in pictures of silver.

"Behold, I make all things new," says Jesus. He will eventually make a new earth wherein dwelleth only righteousness.

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## READING

Reading is to the mind, what exercise is to the body. As by the one, health is preserved, strengthened, and invigorated: by the other, virtue (which is the health of the mind) is kept alive, cherished, and confirmed.  
—Addison.





moment. Joy cometh in the morning. Beyond the valley of despair is the mountain of hope. There are sorrow and suffering in this world and death at the end of the way; but for the Christian there are sunshine and song and life in the great beyond. Our Lord is coming.

The hope of the coming of the Lord is as real in this the twentieth century as it was in the first century. More so, in fact, for the prophetic signs have been fulfilled one by one until in this our day the future is radiant with hope. Almost every sign has met its fulfillment. Only a very few signs remain in the future. Fourteen

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14: 1-3.

The Father's house is a land of "many mansions." To this celestial homeland the redeemed of the ages are taken at the second coming of Christ. Where Jesus now is, we then shall be. So clear and convincing is this text of Scripture, that it seems unbelievable that men could twist

# OUR LORD WILL RETURN

***But Will He Come Secretly?***

By VARNER J. JOHNS

**J**ESUS is coming! Among the believers of the first century the word *maranatha*, meaning "Jesus is coming," was the word of hope. For a salutation in the market place the Christian would say, "Maranatha." The word of benediction at the close of a friendly letter was always this: "Jesus is coming." Prayers of thanksgiving ended with the word of hope and joy, "Jesus is coming." The belief in the second coming of Christ was not marginal or incidental but central in the experience of the early Christian church. Listen to these apostolic words:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord," was the admonition of the apostle James. James 5: 7.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ!" exclaimed the apostle Paul. Titus 2: 13.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus," was the prayer of the apostle John recorded in the very closing words of the New Testament. Revelation 22: 20.

The second coming of Jesus is called "that blessed hope." There were trials and tribulations for the Christians of the first century. There were bitter persecutions. The Christian cares not how dark the night, for Jesus is coming with everlasting light. The storm clouds may blacken the skies, but "that blessed hope" gilds with glory the darkest clouds. Distress and disappointment are but for the

great lines of prophecy, foretelling the epochal events of the ages, converge in this period of the world's history. The march of prophetic time has brought us to the very end of the age. The church of today lives in an atmosphere of expectancy, eagerly awaiting the coming of the Christ.

There are truths of the Bible "which are most surely believed among us." There are "many infallible proofs" to substantiate these truths. The doctrine of the personal, literal, visible, and imminent coming of our Lord is one of the cardinal doctrines of the Bible. It is fundamental and foundational. The plan of redemption, laid in the counsel of God before the foundation of the world, included the first coming of Jesus as a suffering Saviour and His second coming as a glorified Redeemer. Like the heavenly bodies that move about the twin centers of an elliptical orbit, the stars of God's promise move in exact precision around the two comings of our Lord.

"The Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms" all testify to the truth of the second coming. The Gospels add their confirmatory testimony. The One who came the first time in humiliation and shame foretold His second coming in glory and power. The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, unfolds the glorious story of redeeming love in this, the consummation of our hopes. Said Jesus:

and turn its obvious meaning into something strange and untrue. Jesus warned His disciples against the many deceptions of the last days. "Take heed that no man deceive you," was the word of warning. Matthew 24: 4. "There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders," said Jesus, as He talked with His friends about His return. Verse 24. The warning was directed to the manner of His coming. What, then, of the manner of Christ's coming?

The Bible teaches a glorious appearing. "With power and great glory" are the words of Jesus in describing His coming. (Matthew 24: 30.) He especially warned us against anyone who would teach a "secret" coming. "Believe it not," was the ringing challenge of our Lord against any teaching that links the word "secret" with the second coming. (Verses 26, 27.)

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Verse 27.

There is nothing secret about the lightning that flashes across the heavens. This is the very opposite of a silent, secret, and unobserved coming. "And they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Verse 30. "Power," "glory," "lightning"

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# God's Plan for a United Church

## Heaven's Ecumenic Program

By GORDON M. HYDE

ADVOCATES and supporters of the current movement to establish a Universal Church that will ignore national barriers will be interested to know that God has a plan for an ecumenical church. Please note some of the features of His program. God Himself will personally head this Church. (Revelation 21: 3.) There will be no power on earth that can withstand the church. (Daniel 2: 44.) Security, plenty, justice and all true freedoms are guaranteed to all. (Isaiah 65: 17, 21-25.) All will be united in worship and will unfailingly remember the Sabbath of the Lord. (Isaiah 66: 22, 23.) There is to be no end to the life and rule of this church. (Daniel 7: 13, 14, 18.)

Though there is a marked similarity between God's program and that advocated by those who would federate the churches of the world, there is an equally marked difference between the methods to be used to accomplish the declared objectives. Search as we may, we find that God has outlined only one method. It is this: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." This commission is founded upon the assurance of Jesus: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28: 19, 20, 18. Regarding the kingdom, or church, of which He was to be King, Christ said: "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18: 36. Thus the apostle writes: "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." 1 Corinthians 1: 21. It was the Spirit-filled preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ that resulted in the phenomenal growth of membership in the church in the days of the apostles. (Acts 2.) As in vision the apostle John was shown the events that are to climax in the

coming of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven to reap the ripened harvest of the believers, so he saw, "another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Revelation 14: 6, 14-16. Thus, from its beginning to its end, the sole work of the church of Christ in the

earth is to proclaim the good news of eternal life through Jesus Christ, and to call men out of the darkness of this world into the light of the truth of God. The preaching of the gospel will better this world, but its prime purpose is to prepare men for a better world—the earth made new—in which God's ecumenical church will dwell for ever. (Revelation 21: 1-5.)

One of the most significant items of news during 1946 reveals the distressing divergence of the modern church from God's plan for the ushering in of His kingdom. As a cabled message, this item was carried in *The Catholic Chronicle* of Toledo, Ohio, under date of August 9: "Cambridge, England.—A world-wide religious front, uniting the Catholic Church, the Protestant churches, and the Eastern Orthodox denominations in an irresistible crusade for a just and lasting peace, was proposed here this week. The movement would throw the enormous weight of nearly a billion Christians against the present power-politics trend in international relations, and would be designed to force politicians into a peace of principle instead of power." It does not take discernment to observe that "irresistible," "enormous weight," "billion," and "force" are terms completely foreign to the gospel.

The Protestant leaders in this World Church movement would be wise to reflect on the history of the church in centuries past. Following the death of the apostles, men came to leadership in the early church who aspired to make it such a power in the world that kings and rulers would give heed to church dictates. These men were successful to the extent that kings did tremble on their thrones under the anathemas of the church and hastened to do penance in order to be reinstated in the favor of the pontiff. If the sponsors of the World Church desire to exercise that kind of power, let them beware. Let them remember that the noonday of the papacy (a world-church exercising supreme political and religious authority) is known in history as the midnight of the world. Let them remember that it was the power of God and truth in the Protestant Reformation that delivered the world from the thralldom and dark oppression of the papal world-church.

Sincere as the church leaders of today  
(Continued on page 17)



God has a perfect plan for a universal church that the advocates of the ecumenic plan might well study to their advantage.





# How Do You Pray?

## Brief Counsel on Effectual Prayer

By ROBERT H. PIERSON

**G**EORGE MULLER, the great philanthropist of faith and prayer, was en route from England to Quebec. A heavy fog retarded the progress of the vessel and threatened to keep him from an important appointment.

To the captain on the bridge Mr. Muller explained the importance of his arrival in Quebec by Saturday afternoon. This was on Wednesday.

"It is impossible!" exclaimed the captain. "We cannot make better time through this fog."

"Very well," George Muller replied, "if your ship can't take me, God will find some other way. I have never broken an engagement in 47 years."

Much to the captain's surprise Mr. Muller suggested they go down into the chart room and pray. Reluctantly the captain went with him, and there the two knelt while Mr. Muller offered a simple prayer. When they went back on deck the fog was completely gone, and George Muller kept his appointment in Quebec.

What God did on countless occasions for George Muller He desires to do for every trusting child of His. Is there something in your heart that you long for? Is there some great problem with which you have been wrestling? You have tried many ways of solving your problems—but have you tried God?

The God who heard George Muller's prayers still lives, and is just as accessible to you as he was to Mr. Muller out on the foggy Atlantic some years ago. It matters not where you are today, God can, and

will, hear your petitions. Listen to your heavenly Father's invitation: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4: 16.

The Greek word *parrhesia*, from which "boldly" is translated, means "with frankness and confidence." It is derived from the word *pas*, that carries the idea of all-inclusiveness—all, everyone is to come to the throne of grace in a spirit of frankness, unburdening every problem upon the Lord even as He has invited. This we are to do with confidence that He will hear us and answer our petitions.

David defines prayer in Psalm 62: 8:



"Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us."

If you desire spiritual life and energy, if you wish wisdom and guidance in the many problems of the day, you must have this daily intercourse with God.

"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary, in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him."—E. G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 97.

"Pour out your heart before Him," inspiration invites. God invites, even urges, us to bring all of our problems, large and small, spiritual and temporal, to Him for counsel and guidance.

A gentleman, while buying a paper from a newsboy one day, asked the little

boy if he ever found it hard to be good.

"Yes, sir," responded the little fellow.

"Well, so do I. But I have found out how to get help; I just send a sky telegram. You can do the same. When you want help to sell papers or to be a good boy, just send a sky telegram this way: 'Jesus, help me,' and God will send the help."

A few weeks later he met the same little newsboy on the street. Rushing up to him the little fellow said: "Say, mister, I've been trying the sky telegram system the last few weeks, and I've sold more papers than I ever did before."

God's sky telegram service is open to all, wherever we are, and whatever our need may be. Whether they be physical, financial, or spiritual needs, our heavenly Father bids us ask. God has promised that He will supply our every need.

While we are intent upon laying our burdens upon the Lord, let us not be frugal with our thanksgiving. Of Daniel it is said that he "blessed the God of heaven." (Daniel 2: 19.) Twenty-two times in the Psalms we are admonished to give thanks unto the Lord. We are quick to ask, but many times slow to say, "Thank you."

Should we not also tell our heavenly Father how much we love Him? It means much to an earthly parent to have a little child throw his arms around his neck and say, "I love you!" Let us tell our heavenly Father that we love Him.

A wonderful privilege is ours today. How many neglect it! Just for the time that it takes, we may be ushered into the presence of the King of kings, with all of our problems, with all of our praise. What a precious privilege!

"Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?" —*Steps to Christ*, p. 99.

## WORDS OF WISDOM

"The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it.

"A man is a little thing while he works by and for himself; but when he gives voice to the rules of love and justice, he is godlike."—Ralph Waldo Emerson.



**T**HE DEVELOPMENTS of our time with which we have been dealing are filled with profound significance to those who are acquainted with the prophetic Word of God. They convey a tremendous meaning. They were meant to do so. They make certain that sudden and unexpected changes in human affairs are about to take place. These will affect every person on earth.

The daily newspaper brings us the news of today. For the news of tomorrow we must look to another and more reliable source—the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is the most up-to-the-minute Book in the world.

In the Bible there are prophecies describing the developments to take place in this world in these days in which we live, and in connection with the closing scenes of human history and the return of Jesus to this earth.

In this sacred Book I read of a time that is coming, and is even now near at hand, when world disaster will sweep the whole



*The world will some day experience a catastrophic holocaust that will destroy all sin and sinners.*

# *The Dissolution of the Elements*

## **A WORLD-WIDE CONFLAGRATION**

By CARLYLE B. HAYNES

race of men off the face of this old earth.

"Behold, Jehovah maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. . . . The earth shall be utterly emptied, and utterly laid waste; for Jehovah hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the lofty people of the earth do languish." Isaiah 24: 1, 3, 4, A. S. V.

The prophet sets forth the cause of this world devastation in these words:

"The earth also is polluted under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are found guilty: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left." Isaiah 24: 5-7, A. S. V.

In the same prophecy is given an additional view of the wreck of the world:

"The earth shall stagger like a drunken man, and shall sway to and fro like a hammock; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it, and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that Jehovah will punish the host of the high ones on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth." Isaiah 24: 20, 21, A. S. V.

The time of the global ruin so vividly described in these prophetic passages is known to Bible students as "the last days," "the time of the end." Many other Bible writers were given prophetic glimpses of the culminating scenes of world history. A careful survey of their inspired predictions will help in understanding what may be confidently looked for in the near future.

Explaining his prophetic visions to the prophet Daniel, the angel Gabriel (Daniel 8: 16; 9: 21), commissioned of God, said to the seer:

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the Great Prince who standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Daniel 12: 1, 2, A. S. V.

In the New Testament the prophet John was given a view of the seven last plagues, the disasters which will close human history. The very last plague is thus described:

"And the seventh poured out his bowl upon the air; and there came forth a great voice out of the temple, from the throne, saying, It is done: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunders; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since there were men upon the earth, so great an earthquake, so mighty. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell." Revelation 16: 17-19, A. S. V.

Here is a bowl, a very small container, holding something of terrific force which is poured out into the air. When it is poured out a voice said, "It is done."

If you followed the account of the men who flew the bomber which carried the parachute and atomic bomb which was dropped out "into the air" over Hiroshima you will be impressed with some striking parallels. These men dropped the parachute and sent it down. It was done! And there were lightnings and blinding flashes—such an appalling sight that the only words that have come back to us were those of the bomber's pilot, who said, "My God!"

There were thunderings and fearful



rumblings as a great pillar of particles went up 40,000 feet into the air, and flattened itself off like a giant toadstool at the top. It was done!

And the city was divided and fell. Its very elements were dissolved, and it disappeared from the earth.

Something like that is to take place on a much larger scale, a world-wide scale. "The cities of the nations fell." The world's great cities are to go down—to be cities no more. The steel, the stone, all building material, will disintegrate, be dissolved, and the whole creation go down.

A great earthquake, perhaps the result of the release of atomic energy, an earthquake such as was not since there were men upon the earth, so great an earthquake, so mighty, "will shatter the earth and the race upon it."

With this compare another striking passage of Scripture and give particular attention to the significance of the words employed. It was written nineteen centuries ago. It was written concerning our time. How up-to-the-minute is its terminology!

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? But, according to His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for these things, give diligence that ye may be found in peace, without spot and blameless in His sight." 2 Peter 3: 10-14, A. S. V.

Consider the phrase "the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat." That is exactly what atomic energy does.

This English word "elements," placed in our Bibles as early as A. D. 1380, in Wycliffe's translation, is precisely the word used now to describe the basic forms of matter, such as iron, lead, zinc, gold, silver, oxygen, hydrogen, helium, radium, uranium, etc.

The Greek word which Peter used, and which is translated "elements," is *stoicheion*. It occurs seven times in the Greek New Testament, and is translated "elements" four times, "rudiments" twice, "principle" once. In the realm of physics this word was used to describe the component parts into which matter is ultimately divisible. (Liddell and Scott's

*Greek-English Lexicon*, Oxford, 1940, Vol. 2, p. 1647). And while men in Peter's day believed there were but four elements, earth, air, fire and water, and we know now there are at least 92, and it is quite possible Peter did not wholly understand the full meaning of what he wrote, nevertheless God guided his writing so that it is as accurate in this day of modern scientific discovery as it was when written.

It has been pointed out that the principle of atomic energy is simply that of a

setting loose, or releasing, of the infinitely minute particles comprising the atom, particularly the neutrons and protons, which, so scientists declare, are held together by enormous cohesive forces. Man has learned how to set loose these locked-up, cohesive forces and thus break the atoms into pieces with terrific force. That is the principle of the atomic bomb.

Consider that, in connection with the words of Peter's prophecy. He declares  
(Continued on page 19)



## A Preacher Who Practiced

By CHARLES L. PADDOCK

An unselfish, consecrated chaplain named Johnson was with a group of men on a South Pacific island in the recent war. A bombing raid was planned which would take them over an enemy-occupied island several hundred miles away. The men were anxious and nervous, but they felt a bit more secure because their chaplain was along. The mission was a success. They flew over the target, dropped their bombs, and headed for their home base.

Out there over that vast expanse of water, their engine began to sputter. Something was wrong. They managed to make a safe landing on a small island. Scouting around, they found the island was occupied by the Japanese, and an armed force of the enemy was on either side of them some distance away. Fortunately the enemy had not noticed the plane land. What should they do? They were in strange territory, out of gas, and almost entirely surrounded by enemies who were well armed.

A sergeant spoke up: "Chaplain, you have been instructing and exhorting us for many months now. A number of times you have told us that if we ever got in a tight place, to call on God, and He would hear our prayers and answer them right away. This is a good chance to try out some of the theories you have been preaching to us. With no gas for our engines, and with enemies on both sides of us, unless God does hear your prayers, we are done for." It was a challenge to the man of God.

The chaplain encouraged the boys as best he could and then slipped quietly from his men and fell on his knees. He prayed most of the afternoon. After supper the boys made themselves as comfortable as they could and went to sleep, excepting one man who kept watch. Johnson kept on praying.

In the middle of the night the sergeant, for some reason, awoke and wandered down to the water's edge. A large dark object had been washed up onto the beach. It was a barge loaded with drums of gasoline; yes, and it proved to be high octane gas, just what they needed. The boys were awakened, they quickly filled the plane tanks with gasoline, and soon the chaplain and his men were safe at their base again.

A captain of a large U. S. tanker in that area had discovered he was in sub-infested waters, and, as, with all that gasoline aboard, he feared what might happen if they were hit by torpedoes, he had the cargo put overboard, and felt much more safe with all that explosive material off his ship. The barge drifted to the island where the chaplain was praying, just when it was needed; for God could not disappoint one of His trusting, praying children.

To some people prayer may be just a beautiful theory, but not to those boys with Chaplain Johnson. Thank God for fearless, faithful men who braved any danger, made any sacrifice to help their men to know God, in a time when they needed Him most. From shell holes, from submarines beneath the rolling waves, from planes miles up in the clouds, from prison camps, from hospital cots, sincere, earnest men prayed to God, and God heard their prayers. What one of us as a parent would turn a deaf ear to the cry of distress from one of our own? God still hears the prayers of His children.

Has He not promised, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened?" Matthew 7: 7, 8.





**M**AN is lost. Mankind has always been lost and helpless since our first parents stumbled and fell, resulting in the loss of the Paradise which was theirs in Eden. Disobedience to God

a different means from that by which they are saved after the cross. This is not so. The plan of salvation was laid before the foundation of the world and has never been changed. In Hebrews 4: 3 we read, "The

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.

Though Adam and Eve were driven from the garden and forced to struggle for existence, they began to look for the promised Deliverer. Taught by God Himself, they set up an altar at the gate of the garden and offered sacrifices. An angel with a flaming sword barred the way to the tree of life.

# Faith Before the Cross

**Men Were Saved in Old Testament Times  
Just as They Are Today**

By LEONARD C. LEE

made a gulf of separation between man and his Maker. Man could no more climb back to his former position than we can climb to the stars. He could not even stay in his abased and ruined condition, for the curse of death had been pronounced against him.

He could not start over unless someone should rescue him from the pit of sin and set him back again in the holy state from which Adam fell. If some way could be found to do this, then man could once again walk with God and perfect his character by obedience.

There was only One in all creation who could rescue man from the depths to which he had fallen. Only One in all the universe could pay the penalty for man's sin. Only One could bridge the gulf between a just and holy God and lost man. The Son of God, who had created man, alone was greater than His creation. He could bridge the gulf and rescue man, but the cost was infinite and the risks terrible. The Father must give up His only-begotten Son; the riches of heaven would be freely offered. Angels waited to know the verdict; the destiny of a world hung in the balance. 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.

Only God could love like that, and only one who so loved could so give. The plan of salvation was laid in the counsels of God before sin ever entered the world, for Jesus was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13: 8.

Many people have been led to believe that people were saved before the cross by

works were finished from the foundation of the world."

God did not try to unfold the plan of salvation to man all at once; but little by little as it was needed, the instruction was given. When Adam and Eve were overwhelmed with fear and guilt and remorse as God pronounced curses for man's sake upon the ground and upon the serpent, they were given the promise of a Saviour. In the curse upon the serpent, they heard a word of hope, "I will put enmity between

They could not enter the garden where they had walked and talked with God, but they came as close as possible. Each time they took the life of an innocent lamb and offered it on the altar, they testified that they had faith in God's promises of a Deliverer from sin.

Death was a terrible lesson to Adam and Eve. They had by sin lost their covering of light and glory, and God made them coats of skin. (Genesis 3: 21.) These clothes were a constant reminder that sin



*Abraham's test on Mount Moriah gave him a clearer understanding of the great sacrifice of God's Son on the cross of Calvary.*



causes death. They saw the flowers die and the trees decay. Animals became vicious and destroyed one another. But the sacrifice upon the altar gave them hope that a Deliverer soon would come.

When the home of Adam and Eve was blessed with a son, new hope came to their hearts. The experience of parenthood brought them closer to God. It gave them a new joy in life, but a new sorrow that sin had entered their world. They believed this son to be the promised deliverer, and cared for him tenderly. When Abel was born their joy increased.

To their children, Adam and Eve told the story of creation, of the temptation and fall. They never tired of telling of the beautiful garden from which they had been driven and the hope that the Deliverer soon would come. They taught their children to offer the lamb as a sacrifice, pointing by faith to the coming Redeemer. The book of Genesis gives us the tragic story of these two sons. "Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect! And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell." Genesis 4: 2, 5.

Cain's offering of fruit could not symbolize Jesus, the Lamb of God, dying for the sins of the world. "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." Hebrews 11: 4.

"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." 1 John 3: 12. Thus we see how that in the days of Adam, faith and obedience were counted for righteousness. Men were saved by the blood of Jesus and by faith in Him just as we are today.

In the death of Abel and the banishment of the evil-hearted Cain, Adam and Eve had their bitterest lesson. As they laid away the lifeless body of Abel, their hearts were bowed down with bitterness and longing. But there was a new meaning in the sacrificial service for Adam and Eve. They looked forward by faith to the time when the Deliverer would restore to them their lost son as well as their lost home. They longed for the coming Messiah, who would gather the outcasts and raise the dead. They had a personal interest in the coming One. They also knew that one

day they too must die, and they based their hope of resurrection and salvation on the Lamb of God who should take away the sin of the world.

Down the centuries before the Flood, the descendants of Adam and Eve through Seth found a rallying place of hope at the altar of sacrifice. Those who saw in the lamb their hope for pardon and salvation were accepted by God, and their names were written in the Lamb's book of life.

After the Flood Noah's first thought was to build an altar and offer sacrifices to God. (Genesis 8: 20.) A few generations later God revealed Himself in a special manner to Abraham, and promised that through him all the nations of the earth should be blessed. (Genesis 12: 3.) Wherever he went he built altars and offered sacrifices. (Genesis 12: 7, 8 and elsewhere.) When he passed on, strangers noted the altars and knew that a man of God had been there. Often those in heathen darkness watched him offer a lamb as a burnt offering and went and did likewise. The spark of faith kindled in their hearts was witnessed by heavenly watchers and names were added to the book of life.

In Abraham God sought to make known still further the plan of salvation. Abraham had a son, a child of his old age. This son, Isaac, he was asked to offer as a sacrifice upon the altar. This Abraham did, but God spared him at the last moment. In that terrible hour Abraham learned what it would mean for God to give His Son for the world. Read the story in the 22nd chapter of Genesis. It will help you to know how God unfolded the plan of salvation to men before the cross.

The altar had a new meaning to Abraham after that experience. Isaac also understood the plan of salvation as he never had before. They told the story to their children and their children's children. The place where Abraham offered Isaac later became the site of the temple at Jerusalem. God had directed Abraham to that very spot. This should have made the temple service more significant to the Jews and led them to a deeper understanding of the great plan of salvation. God was to give His Son at that same place, but there would be no arm to save, no voice to stop the stroke of death.

There will be many in the kingdom who lived before Christ's death on Calvary's cross, and who were saved by faith in His atoning blood. By their sacrificial services they manifested their belief in, and acceptance of, the blood sacrifice of the Son of God for their sins. They looked forward in faith to the cross, while men today look back to it in faith. There is a beautiful story wrapped up in a single verse in the

(Continued on page 17)

## VERSE TOPICS

### CHOIRBOYS READ THRILLERS

—In the Anglican Church of St. Aidan's at Leeds, England, the choristers are provided with cowboy and mystery stories to keep them occupied while the vicar preaches his sermon. The 36-year-old vicar Peter Mahew finds that as the result of this practice the boys are as quiet as church mice while he sermonizes. The theory of this clergyman is that "he would rather see boys reading thrillers than bored by a sermon." (See *Time*, December 23, 1946.)

**PAGAN HOLIDAY**—"Our Pilgrim forebears never celebrated Christmas. They knew this holiday was unscriptural, if not downright pagan, so they worked all day."—*Life*, December 23, 1946.

### COMMANDOES FOR CHRIST

—Ministers in Britain are practicing commando methods in a crusade for Christ. Groups of 25 to 30 storm dance halls and saloons, singing, preaching, and urging those present to accept Christ. The barrage of swearing that usually greets them is quickly drowned out by the playing of an accordion and singing so loud that the opposition cannot hear themselves. These ministers and workers are now planning their biggest attack on the greatest objective—London—scheduled for April.

**MODERATION**—"Killing in moderation is murder.

Stealing in moderation is crime.

Adultery in moderation is a sin.

Drinking in moderation opens the door to drunkenness."—*The National Temperance Digest*, December, 1946.

### RUSSIA MASSES TROOPS ON BORDER OF TURKEY

—Radio commentators and newspaper columnists lately have been reporting the massing of troops by Russia on the border of Turkey during the past few months. In their determination to gain control of the Dardanelles the Russians could very well precipitate another world crisis of devastating consequence.



COME with me to Golgotha's hill. Uplifted between earth and heaven are three crosses. On the center one we see the form of a Man hanging there; the Son of God, who was "made flesh," giving His life for our redemption. On either side hang men of crime, greed, and pleasures of this world. One malefactor watches intently, yet apparently disinterestedly. Time passes. The crowds taunt and mock the "King of the Jews." Gall is placed to His lips to quench His thirst. Those who crucified Him cast lots for His garments. With all this abuse by man for the Saviour of the world, "yet He opened not His mouth." Isaiah 53: 7.

The thief, having examined his own life in contrast to this beautiful character of love, feels condemned. He sees in the Christ hope for his own soul. Perhaps he had heard of Jesus before, possibly witnessing some miracle. Now he is settled in his own mind. Christ is all in all. He must make his surrender. Turning to the Man of Calvary, in confidence he makes a single request: "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." Amid the darkness of soul surrounding Him, the Master responds from the depths of His being as He realizes that a child of God has been born into the kingdom of grace. With deliberation, assurance, and promise, He settles the destiny of this sinner with His comforting words, thou shalt "be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23: 43.

Paradise! Paradise! The name suggests beauty, perfection, peace, and all that is lovely and fine. Our minds go back instinctively to the Garden of Eden. That was the original Paradise. Man was there, created in the image of God; the tree of life was there with its life-giving fruit, and the river of life with its thirst-quenching water; the beasts of the field were all gentle and kind. The transcendent beauty and glory of that first home were overpowering. It was a story and a setting of peace. Joy filled the Garden as man communed with his Maker. All this—until sin came.

#### Paul's Vision

The apostle Paul uses the term "Paradise" the second time that it appears in Holy Scripture. He tells us that "he was caught up into Paradise" during a vision which he records in 2 Corinthians 12: 2-4. Paradise, he tells us, is "the third heaven." And as Paul states that Paradise is the third heaven we naturally conclude that there are three heavens.

What do you suppose we find in the first heaven? Daniel, the prophet, in chapters four and five of his book of prophecy, tells us the story of a disobedient king. While associating with the beasts of

the field "his body was wet with" the dew of heaven." Daniel 5: 21. Looking skyward we note the varied and interesting clouds that float in the first heaven. God-made birds, the fowls of the air, and man-made birds, the airplanes, fly in the first, or atmospheric, heaven. Snow and rain also fall from the first heaven.

Above the stratosphere, up in the stellar heaven, the stars as well as the sun, moon, and the planets, move in their appointed cycles. (See Genesis 1: 6; 22: 17; Nehemiah 9: 23.) Astronomers tell us the closest fixed star is more than 25 trillion miles away. Of these stars, the poet, Longfellow, penned these exquisite words:

"Silently one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven,  
Blossomed the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels."

This is only the beginning of the magnitude of the second heaven. With David we exclaim: "When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained;

We have found that where the tree of life is—by the river of life—there, the throne of God is. That is Paradise, the third heaven. Solomon spoke of the third heaven as the "heaven of heavens." 2 Chronicles 2: 6. David says: "The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens." Psalm 103: 19. Solomon declares that heaven is God's "dwelling place." 2 Chronicles 6: 21. Again in Ecclesiastes 5: 2, "God is in heaven." We come to the conclusion that wherever the tree of life is, and the river of life, and the throne of God, that is God's "dwelling place," in the "heaven of heavens" which is the "third heaven," called "Paradise."

In the Lord's prayer, taught to us by the Master Teacher, the introductory statement is, "Our Father which art in heaven." Matthew 6: 9. Near the close of His ministry Christ prayed, "Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." John 17: 24. To many the second most beautiful promise of our Bible is found in John 14: 2, 3: "In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself;

# Paradise!

what is man, that Thou art mindful of him?" Psalm 8: 3, 4.

We now turn to the third and last text which mentions the word Paradise. "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." Revelation 2: 7. This is the "third heaven," as Paul declared in 2 Corinthians 12: 2. This heaven, called Paradise, is where the tree of life is. Turning to the last chapter of Revelation we read in verses one and two: "And He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month."

#### The Glorious Home

By FEN

that where I am, there ye may be also."

In this statement of our Lord, He tells us He is preparing a place for us. That place is in Paradise. That home is to be with Him, in His home, over there. Have you ever wondered about the place where Jesus lives and what it will be like there? You cannot fully comprehend the fullness of the glory of this wonderful place. Paul wrote, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2: 9.





*To dwell in the presence of God, and taste of the river and the tree of life, will some day be the privilege of all true Christians.*

## God's Redeemed

FROM

A poor little urchin, who used to stand with his nose pressed against the store windows looking at the toys, was hit by an automobile. He was rushed to the hospital and lay there for weeks with his face bandaged from cuts and bruises. One day the doctor came in and removed the bandages. The little fellow blinked as the light of day poured into his weakened eyes. The first thing he saw as his eyes became adjusted to the light was a toy he had seen in the store window. The doctor was holding it in his hand for him. He reached out and touched it, saying, "This must be

heaven; there is no glass between." All the beauties untold will be ours to enjoy if we prepare for a home with Jesus.

What will heaven be like? Does the Bible tell us anything definite about this third heaven? In the thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah we are told that in heaven the "eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart. . . . No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there." Verses 5, 6, 9. Here in this life we see so much sorrow, sickness and pain, but there—shall it be so? "And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell

therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." Isaiah 33: 24.

This old world has wasted away from the beautiful creation that God made. But the deserts will not always be! "He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody." Isaiah 51: 3. Melody—how different from the discords here in this life! The hosts of heaven will throb in harmony with one supreme purpose—to sing praises to Christ their King. The briers, thorns, and thistles will all be gone. The curse placed upon this earth with the entrance of sin will be blotted out—forever.

### "They Shall Build Houses"

Heaven will never become wearisome to those who reach the shore over yonder. Occupations there will be a delight. Here a man builds a house for another to live in and plants the field for someone else to harvest. But there, the righteous "shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them." Isaiah 65: 21.

In the heavenly realm where God's throne is we find a capital city. It will someday come down to this earth to become the capital city of the earth in its recreated form, after sin and sinners are destroyed. The transcendent city of God is described in Revelation 21 and 22. It is in the midst of this city, in Paradise, that we discover the throne of the living God. The city is undoubtedly a great square; "the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth." Revelation 21: 16.

The twelve thousand furlongs mentioned, allowing eight furlongs to a mile, give us a total of 1500 miles in circumference. Dividing by four, we have 375 miles for each side or wall of the New Jerusalem. What a city! It will be larger than the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois combined. How small New York and London seem in comparison. They sink into insignificance! There will be ample room for the redeemed of all ages in the capital city alone. There are twelve foundations of "all manner of precious stones." Revelation 21: 19. The foundation will appear more majestic than the dazzling rainbow. "The city was pure gold, like unto clear glass." Verse 18. The twelve gates were twelve pearls." Verse 21. The streets of the city are pure gold. The city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God the Father and the Lamb light the city. There is no night there, and the gates never need to be

*(Continued on page 17)*





We join in the plea for support of the "March of Dimes" campaign in behalf of crippled children. Give!



### "Inasmuch"

WHEN you buy Easter seals, you share your Easter joy by giving crippled tots medical care, bedside teaching, wheel chairs, crutches, training for a job—a useful life—a chance to be like other children.

Needs of crippled children, together with the needs of adults injured in combat or through industry, make a whole-hearted support of the annual Easter seal sale of the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults doubly important this year.

With over a third of a million crippled children registered in our nation, with about 7,000,000 adults crippled by accident or disease and 100,000 new ones added each year, and with between 14 and 15 thousand amputees returned to civilian life, we get an over-all picture of the great group of citizens who need the special services which the city, county, state, and national group of affiliated societies are bringing to the crippled of our nation.

The National Society and its state societies co-operate with but do not duplicate, the work of other public and private agencies. Throughout its area the National Society aids the physically impaired of all ages, races, and creeds, whether crippled through birth, disease, or accident. Its only condition for aid is a valid need not otherwise provided for. Its only source of funds is the annual sale of Easter seals.



### Operation to Reform Moral Degeneracy

A YOUNG woman was recently picked up by the Detroit police and was found to have a long record of stealing, adultery, and murder. She was quickly turned over to the Wayne County General Hospital for observation. The hospital admitted that she was not insane, but Psychiatrist Louis Lipschutz, clinical director of the hospital, decided to try brain surgery as a possible corrective of her moral degeneracy. She consented. The operation has been acclaimed a success, and the woman is said to have an entirely different personality as a result. However it is admitted that she is lacking in initiative.

There is a vitally important consideration to be given to the question of the right of man to change the personality and character of human beings through physical measures. It seems that this is taking away the prerogatives of God. Mercy killings and sterilization acts are also in the realm of such things that do not belong to man. There is a tendency today to promote these things, even though Hitler was condemned a short time ago, with great cries of horror, for the very same practices that are being urged upon us in America at the present time. The line must be drawn

before we go too far in the wrong direction.

An operation to reform a morally degenerate person is a definite step into a sphere that belongs only to the Creator. How far this should be allowed to progress is a matter of serious concern to all of us. It is, in fact, the changing of an individual into a new person devoid of initiative, bordering on moronic listlessness. Furthermore it is admitted that "the operation is dangerous (a slight miscalculation may kill the patient by cutting a cerebral artery)."—*Time*, December 23, 1946.

There can hardly be any question of the fact that God's way is vastly greater. He can change the hardest-hearted sinner into a pure and holy Christian. He gives a *new nature* that man can never obtain through surgical operations. He does not leave one listless and moronic, but imparts strength and wisdom. "If any man be in Christ, he is a *new creation*." 2 Corinthians 5: 17, margin. "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1: 27.



### High-School Initiation Horrors

A HORRIFYING account of a high-school sorority initiation, as witnessed by

Jersey City high school students strike! Such demonstrations are becoming more frequent and troublesome and show the increasing tendency toward restlessness and rioting.







German scientists are working for Uncle Sam in the development of guided missiles. The next war will very likely see great destruction from rocket bombs containing atomic warheads. (See page 16 for a discussion of this subject.)

a lady visiting this country from Europe, appears in *Time*, January 13, 1947. The following excerpts from the account present a word picture of the outstanding events connected with the hazing: "The high-school girls . . . carried long bundles containing paddles, and pails for vomiting. . . . One girl was mixing a drink out of castor oil, cold cooking grease, coffee grounds, raw oysters, and mackerels' eyes. The first girl to be initiated was brought in, wearing a bathing suit and a blindfold. She was pale, trembling, and sweating. They made her lie on the floor, face up. Then one of the girls poured the concoction into her mouth. She choked and retched. . . . The girls told her: 'You goat, you have to drink it all.'

"Then they made her take a crawling position, and took turns burning her back with lighted cigarets. . . . Meanwhile another girl was throwing an egg at her face. She started to cry and they kicked her. Then they spun her around until she was dizzy and started to vomit, but the girls grabbed hold of her nose and mouth so she couldn't.

"Next they told her to assume [a stooping] angle. . . . Each girl walked behind her and hit her three times with a paddle, very hard. They seemed to know where it would hurt most. They didn't hit her horizontally, but between her legs, toward her sexual organs. With every hard blow she would fall down flat. She cried and screamed. After several beatings, she fainted. . . . They threw cold water in her face. After a few minutes she revived. They made her get into position again.

"Then I went away. I couldn't stand seeing any more."

What a reversion to pagan sadism! This is one of the results of the so-called modern liberalistic education. This is the

outcome of a tendency to permit the youth to do as they please with no restraints whatever. Modern education has sown the wind and is now reaping the whirlwind. Cheating on exams, rebellion against rules, school riots, strikes, boycotts, and many other recent manifestations in the schools are becoming a serious matter. The finger of condemnation might very well be pointed at the movies with their glorification of crime and moral looseness. The comics, from which the youth feeds on violence, also come in for their share of the blame. Swing music and cheap literature are largely responsible for the weakening of the mind and the inability to retain the decent and the good. According to *Time*, January 13, 1947, "Youth . . . memorizes swing verses almost by osmosis,



yet cannot quote a line of decent poetry."

There is need for God-fearing parents and teachers to properly guide the energies of the young. To keep them from the pitfalls that would plunge them to eternal ruin, there is need for a return to the principles of God's moral law and a more earnest teaching of the saving power and love of Jesus. How necessary it is for our children to be drawn unto the Saviour in these days of great temptation. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." John 12:32. God help us to save our boys and girls!



## 8,000 Years in the Future

THE OGLETHORPE University of Georgia has been working on a project to preserve a complete cross-sectional picture of the entire life of our world today for the people of the future. Beneath the administration building at Oglethorpe there is a vault where a variety of articles will be placed and sealed off. It is estimated that they will be preserved for from six to eight thousand years. There will be cameras, women's toilet articles—such as a comb, brush, make-up material, artificial eyelashes, bobby pins, hair pins—a woman's pocket book with all its contents intact, pictures, books, and eating utensils. These are just a few of the items in the lengthy list.

Evidently some scientists still believe that the world is going to exist in its present sinful state for thousands of years. They believe this in spite of the fact that atomic bombs are being produced and

that many learned men are predicting a catastrophic end of the world in the near future. To the students of the Bible the imminent return of Christ is inevitable. To them it seems like wasted effort and expense to be planning to leave something for posterity as far as 8000 years in the future, at the same time that the prophecies pertaining to the world's end have nearly all been fulfilled, and therefore this generation is most likely the one that will see all things finished.

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Oglethorpe University of Georgia is storing thousands of dollars worth of miscellaneous articles in a vault beneath the administration building, with the idea that people 8,000 years from now will be benefited by their discovery.



**I**N OUR complicated existence we are constantly in contact with various living things that bite, sting, jab, or saw through our skins. By common consent apparently, we speak of insect bites, although almost none actually bite. Mosquitoes saw through the skin with the most beautiful and perfect tool kit imaginable. Lice puncture the skin with a rapidly acting drill.

Our most numerous and pestiferous "biters" are insects, and they are nearly everywhere. If we are out for a pleasure jaunt, mosquitoes, gnats, flies, ticks, and mites (the latter two not insects but arachnids) pester us. At home, fleas may jab us, or at times we may contact bedbugs, for occasionally they will appear in the most carefully kept homes. As some of these bites or stings are not only annoying, painful, and itchy, but likely to be seriously poisonous, the more we know about insect enemies, the more chance we have of avoiding damage. There are many other bites: dogs, cats, snakes, rodents, wild animals, or even human bites. All are likely to cause some form of blood poisoning (infection).

It is generally conceded now that mosquitoes are the most deadly of our biters. As already said, the female mosquito has a beautifully equipped tool kit on her head. After she lands, she unsheaths the tools, saws through the skin, and then inserts a very fine and perfect hypodermic needle, injects the poison, and proceeds to suck blood. It is the injection that is important, for she sends in countless malaria germs (and a number of others); and we all know how serious malaria is always, and how much damage it did to our men in the recent great war. In the tropics it always has been a deadly enemy. Wherever mosquitoes exist, there are certain to be diseases carried by them. Not all are equally serious, but malaria, yellow fever, and various blood worms, and sleeping sickness (especially of the horse, but which also attacks men), and many lesser diseases are passed on through mosquitoes.

As there is no chance of preventing bites when there are millions of these enemies, the only real thing we can do is to destroy the mosquitoes. This is mostly done by destroying mosquito eggs and larvæ (wigglers). This has been done very successfully in many localities by drainage, or by keeping water oiled or dusted with poison which kills larvæ and mosquitoes, by the use of certain small fish (as *Gambusia affinis*), and later, as mentioned, by spraying any surface where they land with DDT. Through these measures a very complete control can be maintained. But it must be kept up continually and be very efficiently done, for thousands of

mosquitoes can breed in a tin can of water or a cow track. It is an expensive task, but one of the best investments known from a health standpoint. Where communities undertake the task the results are most satisfactory.

Flies are a pretty close second as destructive agents, even though all flies do not bite. The house fly has no sting or biting apparatus. But there are numerous biting flies, such as horse flies, cattle and sheep flies, and their smaller cousins the gnats, which exist by the millions in shady and wooded areas near streams. The most dangerous of this vast family of insect enemies is the "tse-tse" fly of Africa, which

causes that terribly destructive "African sleeping sickness." It has literally driven people out of large areas of Africa's finest lands, because it destroys both human life and also horses, cattle, and other farm animals. In these cases the only thing is to prevent the breeding of flies. As they breed by millions in stable manure or almost any organic matter, the task is a difficult one; but much can be done by concerted efforts.

We may think that lice have largely disappeared, and so they have from clean homes and people. But they still exist by billions and are a constant problem in hospitals, jails, county homes, flop houses, and

## POISONOUS BITES

*Millions of Attackers  
Surround You to Jab,  
Saw, and Sting*

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



*We must be alert to the dangers of poisonous and disease-carrying insects that swarm about us.*





cheap hotels. They are carriers of typhus (not typhoid) fever (also called ship, camp, jail, or barrack fever), which comes in epidemics every time there is either war or famine and plenty of times between. Body and head lice (practically the same), and pubic lice (crabs), are well known to almost every one and are easily destroyed where soap and bathing exist. But let there be any relaxation of cleanliness, as in distress, famine, disaster, or war, and lice quickly appear and breed with tremendous rapidity. Fortunately they are easily destroyed by heat or by DDT or other disinfectant powders applied on the persons and sprayed on beds.

Fleas are also almost everywhere and are direct carriers of bubonic plague from rats, which are nearly always infected with plague germs if any plague exists. Many wild rodents seem always to have plague germs and pass them on to house rats, and, through fleas, to man. Where rats and fleas exist, we are never safe from bubonic plague. Practically all animals carry fleas, and they spread other diseases, especially a mild form of typhus.

Bedbugs are another pest that plagues hospitals and institutions, and occasionally homes. They have been definitely incriminated in spreading some rarer diseases, but undoubtedly more study will show that they are also carriers of more common infections. They are always filthy and disagreeable neighbors, have quite a strong odor, and hide in very tiny cracks around baseboards, beds, and other inaccessible places. The disinfectants mentioned will control them. They travel by bedding, clothing, and direct contact of one person with another.

Most of the mites, which are closely related to the spiders and the ticks, cause irritation through their bites, and some cause serious diseases. Almost every animal has "mange" at times, and this is caused by thousands of tiny crawlers, which usually bury themselves under the skin, cause serious itching, scratching, and infections, loss of hair, etc.

Spiders are generally credited with being serious biters. As a rule spiders do not bite, but are among our most valuable insect destroyers, without which we would be much worse off. Among common spiders only one causes much trouble, the "black widow" (*Latrodectus mactans*), and she will get out of the way if possible. But if she does bite, the results are sometimes pretty serious and always very painful. It is always best to get the bitten person to a hospital at once, as the infection may be serious. The black widow is a rather small black spider, which usually has a red "hour glass" mark on the under side.

Ticks are not insects but "arachnids," as they have eight legs, and insects never have more than six. They are among the most dangerous biters, transmitting Rocky Mountain spotted fever, relapsing fever, tularemia, deer fever, and a number of others. They are found almost everywhere in woods or shrubs, are hard to kill by ordinary sprays, even though they appear dead. They are on almost all animals and spread from dogs, rabbits, etc., to man, carrying with them their diseases. These diseases pass on through the eggs to succeeding generations, and are generally the ones called "Rickettsial" diseases, a number of them much like typhus fever. When found on the body, the ticks must be carefully removed so that the viruses they carry will not be squeezed into the body. On children they may cause a paralysis if attached to the neck or head. Prompt removal will usually permit a quick recovery. If in a tick area, great care should be used to keep ticks off, and if found they should be promptly and carefully removed. Especially watch the dogs, as they often carry hundreds, which do not harm the dogs but may be fatal to their owners.

There are many insect repellants of greater or less value, some of the later ones being reported as keeping off mosquitoes and gnats for several hours.

Of the animal bites, the most common by far are bites from dogs. Most of them

are not serious; many are received in play, but there is always danger of ordinary infection from any bite. The great danger from dog bites is from hydrophobia, or "rabies." This disease is not confined to dogs, but may be carried by cats, wolves, or other wild animals. Dogs may be bitten by rabid dogs (mad dogs), cats, wolves, or small animals and so become infected. They then may bite anyone, even the master to whom they are devoted. Oftenest it is a child of the family.

Rabid, or mad, dogs are not confined to any one locality or season. There are no "dog days" as far as rabies is concerned. Usually there are certain symptoms, which if noted, suggest something is wrong with a pet, and if acted upon promptly will often avert serious danger. If a person is bitten by a dog suspected of being rabid, the dog should be captured if possible and sent to a veterinarian or a laboratory for check. If necessary to kill the animal, the head should be immediately removed, packed in ice and sent to the nearest laboratory for diagnosis. The Pasteur treatment is almost a certain preventive of the disease, but is long and expensive, and is best avoided unless it is necessary. In doubt, always take treatment, as there is no known cure for a case of rabies once developed.

All pet dogs should be inoculated to prevent rabies, as inoculation is now fairly established as a preventive.



## 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.

*What are the symptoms of cancer of the stomach?—M.R.B.*

Unfortunately there are no certain, easily diagnosed symptoms of cancer of the stomach. However there are certain symptoms which taken as a whole will strongly suggest this disease, and then it is best to X-ray the stomach, which is the earliest and most certain means of diagnosis. These symptoms are loss of appetite, dull pains in the stomach, together with some indigestion, and steady and persistent loss of weight. In stomach cancer hydrochloric acid is lacking, but this is determined only by a test meal. Late in the disease a tumor mass may be palpated (felt by touch) through the abdominal wall in most cases.

*Does the use of tobacco by a prospective mother have any effect upon the unborn child?—L.D.*

It is a general biologic law that the younger

the animal tissue the more it is capable of injury by chemical or mechanical means. It is well proved that the diet of the mother carrying the child is more important than what the child may eat after birth so far as constitutional vigor is concerned. The body fluids including the mother's milk show nicotine in smoking mothers, and this nicotine reaches the unborn child in sufficient quantity to affect adversely its future health. Nothing that the mother can ever do after the child is born will undo the damage inflicted by such a violent poison as nicotine and the other seventeen poisons found in tobacco smoke. It is not infrequently the cause of abortions and also tends to stunt the growth and development of the child. Mothers who smoke before their children are born little realize the physical, mental, and moral handicap with which they equip their children. The entire life of the child can be seriously affected as a result.



ON THIS page is reproduced what is perhaps the most remarkable picture ever taken. It is a photograph of the earth from a height of sixty-five miles, taken by an automatic camera installed in a rocket fired into the upper atmosphere from the American rocket-research station at White Sands, New Mexico. The photograph includes an area of nearly 40,000 square miles of the earth's surface, and for the first time in history we are able to see what the earth would look like to an observer on the moon or some other planetary body.

Opposite is a photograph of one of these stratosphere rockets showing the mass of delicate scientific apparatus which has replaced the explosive charge in the "war-head."

Since the rocket's-eye view here illustrated was taken, improved missiles have been sent up to an altitude of 111 miles, at a speed of 3,350 feet a second, which is over 3,600 miles an hour, and five times the speed of sound. The present objective of the experts is an altitude of 200 miles with perhaps even higher speeds.

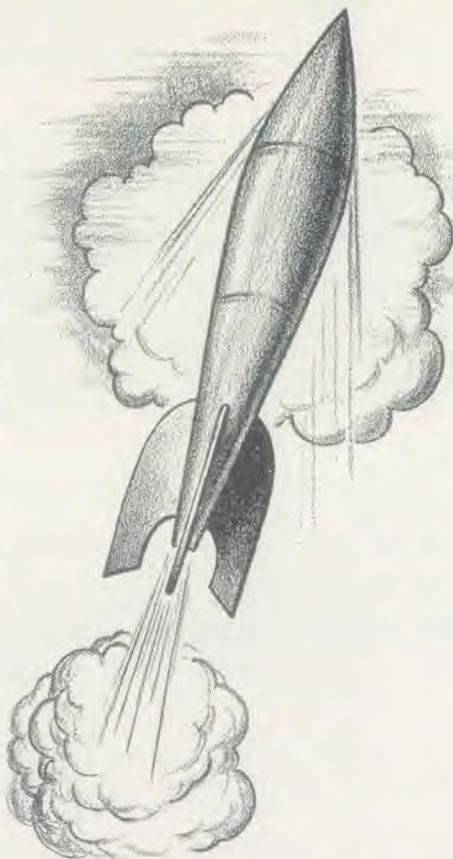
As might be expected this exploration of the upper atmosphere and interplanetary space is already yielding valuable data on cosmic rays, the behavior of meteorites, etc., and some scientists are optimistic enough to believe that within half a century rockets will have reached the moon and perhaps even have been there and back!

All this fascinating research is of course a very proper and highly commendable study, increasing as it does our knowledge of the wonderful universe of which we are a tiny part. It is difficult to believe, however, that the army of rocket researchers and the vast amounts of money placed at their disposal in the New Mexico desert are working solely or primarily to this end. The real purpose of sending rockets higher and higher into space becomes obvious when we note this significant remark in the *New York Herald Tribune*:

"When a rocket can be fired 200 miles in the air, a horizontal range of 2,000 miles may become possible."

In other words, a vertical rocket range is a convenient substitute for a horizontal testing ground of two thousand miles or more which is obviously an impossibility anywhere on the American continent.

*This view of the earth was taken sixty-five miles above its surface by a camera installed within a V-2 rocket. Forty thousand miles of space appear in this picture.*



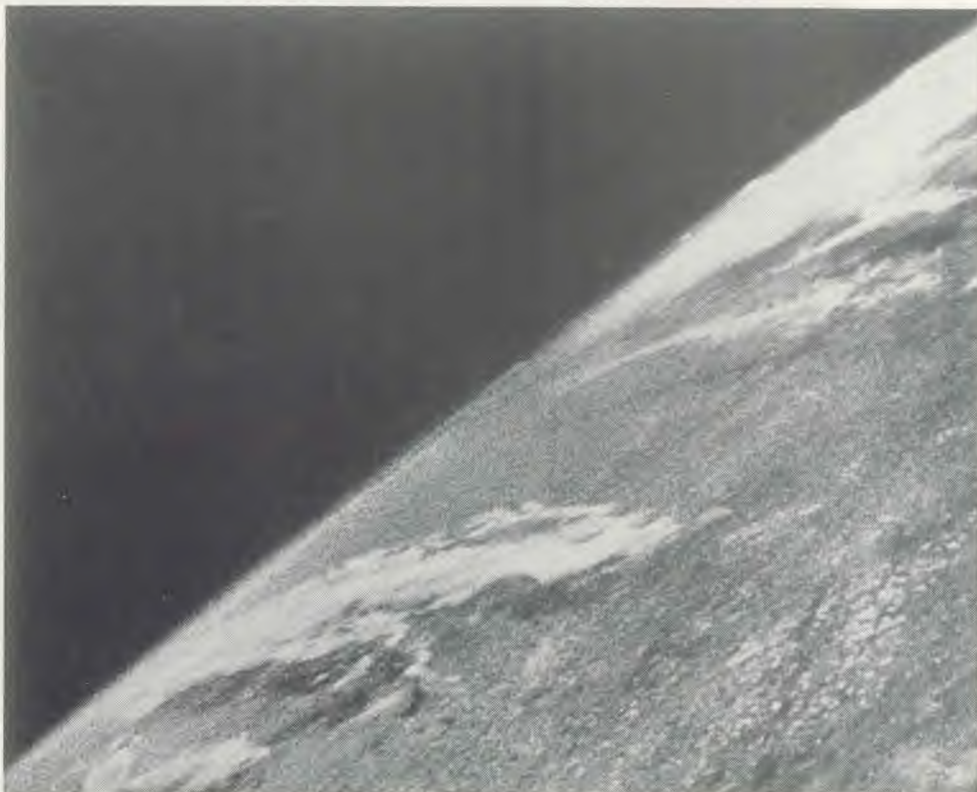
In Australia British rocket researchers are actually planning a rocket testing ground of these fantastic dimensions by marking out a two hundred-mile-wide land range, stretching northwest from Mount Eba in South Australia a thousand miles across the central desert to the coast, and then extending another 1,900 miles over the ocean in the direction of Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.

The aim, therefore, of U. S. vertical and British horizontal rocket flights is to produce guided missiles which can be projected a distance of 2,000 miles across the earth's surface, and the real object of such projection is for the purposes of war rather than peace. Most publicity has, of course, been given to the experiments of British and American workers through the free press of the democratic countries, but there can be little doubt that Russia, the third member of the "Big Three," is equally active, perhaps in the vast reaches

## ROCKETS for PEACE or WAR?

*Amazing Developments in Guided Missile Research*

By W. L. EMMERSON





of the Siberian wilderness, with similar objectives in view.

All the great powers, and some small ones too, are, in fact, feverishly preparing for atomic rocket warfare which, if such a global tragedy should ever be precipitated, would spell the doom not merely of cities, but of countries and even continents.

"It is foolish to be an alarmist," write Joseph and Stewart Alsop in the *New York Herald Tribune*, "yet it is also difficult not to feel that the scientists have opened Pandora's box, from which nightmares are issuing forth. . . . If the nations now pouring money and man-power into research of this type do not somehow find a way to organize 'one world,' they may eventually prepare themselves for Wendell Willkie's alternative—which was no world at all."

Vivid indeed is this portrayal of the world's present dilemma and we would amend it on only one point. There is a third alternative. It is divine intervention in human affairs through the return of the Lord Jesus to claim the kingdom He purchased with His blood. Not the hopeless quest of a man-made universal world order, therefore, but this sure hope buoys up the Christian in a world over which the atomic sword of Damocles hangs.

## Paradise!

(Continued from page 11)

closed. Yes, the redeemed shall reign there forevermore. (Verses 21-27.)

Reading the description of God's city is more thrilling than reading the most fascinating novel that man has ever written. Why? Because it is a true account of the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of God's people of all ages. The promise is given that those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life shall enter the city through the gates of pearl, walk on the streets of gold, drink of the river of life, eat of the fruit of the tree of life, and stand before the throne of God and bask in the sunlight of His love throughout the endless ages of eternity. Are not these few thoughts about the expectations of those who name the name of Christ enough to stir us to action for God?

One question we all ask is—Who will go to Paradise? Most definitely we can say that the thief on the cross, who accepted salvation in his dying moments, will go to Paradise. Christ promised he would. That opens the doors wide for all sinners that sincerely seek cleansing from sin. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55: 7, 8.

Christ left the glory of His heavenly home and became one with us that He might "seek and save that which was lost." Luke 19: 10. Salvation is free. "It is the gift of God" "to every one that believeth." Ephesians 2: 8; Romans 1: 16. Our Saviour ascended Calvary's hill that He might make the complete sacrifice on the cross for our sins. God the Father gave His Son "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3: 16. "Whosoever" includes you and me, my friend. Jesus promised that He is building mansions up there in Paradise for you and me. He has done His part. Everything is in readiness as far as heaven is concerned. We know that "there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4: 12. The inquiring question you and I must answer now is—Am I ready for that home in heaven prepared for me?

## I Held the Robes

(Acts 6:9-15; 7:54-60; 8:1; 22:20.)

By Thelma Wellman

I held the robes  
While furious priests  
Hurled deadly missiles,  
Beating down  
The kneeling man.

His pale face glowed  
Like an angel's,  
Until he fell beneath  
The jagged stones.  
No doubt an idealistic  
And mistaken fool!

But why  
Should nights be haunted?  
Why should that rapt face  
Recur in dreams?

I know  
Mosaic rites  
Prevail,  
Complacent pride in Law  
Exists,  
But how attain,  
How keep the faith?

Was Stephen right?  
Messiah done to death  
But risen on high?  
Absurd!  
Yet how it haunts me!

Millions through the centuries have died for their faith, and have died keeping the faith. They are to receive the reward, a crown of life from the hands of Jesus. They will be transported from this earth to the glory land to be with the Father and the Son forever. The pleasures and joys of heaven will be theirs throughout eternity! Will we be among that vast throng?

Our Bible begins with the story of Paradise. Then comes the entrance of sin, and Eden becomes *Paradise lost*. All through each book to the last chapters of Revelation the conflict between truth and error continues. But in the last act of the greatest drama of the universe, sin and sinners are completely destroyed. In the last two chapters we have a new story written. This is the story of *Paradise regained*—the home of sinners, saved by grace forever.

When Jesus comes in the clouds of heaven with all His holy angels, "we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." 1 John 3: 2. O glorious hope, to be like Jesus! Those who have been taken from us by the cruel hand of death, who died in Christ, we shall see again. They shall rise with new bodies "fashioned like unto His glorious body" (Philippians 3: 21), and ascend to Paradise, their heavenly home.

## God's Plan for a United Church

(Continued from page 4)

may be, and laudable as many of their objectives are, they are flaunting the teachings of Christ, the example of the apostles, and the object lessons of history in seeking to establish a world-dominating, religious-political organization. They will but repeat the errors of the power from which Protestants once obtained deliverance. They will only succeed in turning the clock back to the times when all minorities were "heretics" and therefore deemed worthy of death.

May the resources, talents, and energies of the World Church movement be turned to the carrying out of Christ's own commission for His church, that soon the King may come in His glory to establish His righteous reign in the earth made new.

## Faith Before the Cross

(Continued from page 9)

Old Testament: "And one shall say unto Him, What are these wounds in Thine hands? Then He shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends." Zechariah 13: 6. With what unutterable love will they kneel at the feet of Jesus who died for them! And shall we not join with them in love and adoration? It was our sins as well as theirs that nailed Him to the cross.



## Our Lord Will Return

(Continued from page 3)

—how can anyone believe the words of Jesus and teach a “secret” rapture or any other secret manifestation? Truly, the overmastering deception of the last days is upon us, when men deny the very words of Jesus in teaching a secret coming. The “secret rapture” deception is but another evidence that Satan is working with all power and signs and lying wonders in these last days to deceive if possible the very elect. This doctrine was unknown to the men of the Protestant Reformation. Now it is sweeping like strange fire from pulpit to pulpit, from pew to pew. It is peculiarly a last-day deception. When Jesus is about to appear in “power and great glory,” the enemy, in a last effort to deceive and destroy, spreads abroad the false idea of a secret, silent snatching away of the church.

What says the Bible? Is there scriptural evidence for a secret coming? Let Jesus answer:

“If they shall say unto you, . . . Behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Verses 26, 27.

Let the apostle Paul give his answer to the secret rapture heresy:

“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 Thesalonians 4: 16, 17.

With these two witnesses agree all the other Scriptures. When the saints are “caught up” to meet their Lord, there is a “shout,” a “voice,” and a “trumpet” call. There is nothing secret about the “rapture” of the saints. All will be glory when Jesus comes. The very words which describe the second coming are the antithesis of secret. Such words as “lightning,” “shineth,” “appear,” “see,” “power,” “great glory,” “great sound,” “trumpet,” “shout,” “voice,” “trump of God,” indicate the glory of the event. Moreover, these words are used to describe the gathering of God’s people. When the elect are “gathered,” and “caught up,” there is heard a “great sound of a trumpet” and the “shout” and the “voice” of God. Matthew 24: 31.

The second coming of Jesus brings resurrection and translation to the righteous, not a secret rapture. The “blessed hope” was a resurrection hope. There is a

time when all the righteous are caught up to meet their Lord in the air, but this is after their resurrection. First comes the resurrection of the righteous dead, then the translation of all the righteous. Never do the Scriptures speak of a rapture. Never do the Scriptures teach two phases

## HELP YOUR RED CROSS



### THE JOB AHEAD . . .

#### SERVING

*in peace as in war,  
in the quiet of the hospital  
in the fury of the hurricane,  
the veteran at home,  
the troops overseas.*

#### GIVING

*necessities such as clothing,  
shelter, food, and medicine  
in time of disaster at home or  
abroad.*

#### TEACHING

*Home Nursing, Nutrition,  
Accident Prevention,  
First Aid, Life-Saving,  
to safeguard you and  
your family.*

#### LEADING

*millions of women in  
volunteer services in their  
community . . . millions of  
young people in the Junior  
Red Cross crusade for  
world understanding.*

#### HELPING

*sister Red Cross Societies,  
so that kindness, mercy, and  
mutual aid may bind together  
the people of this planet.*

### DEPENDS ON YOU!

◆ SUPPORT THE 1947  
RED CROSS FUND ◆

of the Lord’s coming. Nor was this rapture doctrine taught for 1800 years after the last book of the Bible was written. Where, then, did the heresy originate? What is this “strange” teaching? What “proofs” are brought forth by those who teach it?

For the origin of the “rapture” heresy we must look to the “Catholic Apostolic Church,” which had its beginning in England in the year 1830. There was much fanaticism manifested in this group. The historian has summarized their beliefs thus: “They said the Holy Spirit revealed to them that the last days had come, that the Lord was about to return, that first He would ‘rapture’ the believers who were ready, at a secret coming, that other believers would be left to pass through the great tribulation, after which Christ would come in manifested power. In 1832 they taught that the secret coming would take place in three and one-half years, when the members of their church would be ‘raptured.’”

With the disintegration of the Catholic Apostolic Church, the theory was more or less quiescent for a number of years. Then came its revival and rapid propagation through the influence of well-meaning though mistaken teachers in our modern Bible institutes. There are various ideas of the rapture that are held and taught today, but the following definition of the “rapture” theory is substantially correct.

The “rapture” is the secret coming of our Lord for His church. At this time He raises the righteous dead and translates the living righteous. This event is unknown to the wicked and unperceived by them. It is secret and silent. After the church is caught away, the wicked pass through the Great Tribulation during the reign of Antichrist. The Tribulation continues for three and one-half years, or for seven years, or for 35 years, as interpreted by different teachers. At the close of the Tribulation, Christ returns with His saints in a visible coming and sets up His millennial reign upon the earth.

For the support of this wholly unscriptural teaching appeal was made to the original Greek of the New Testament. It was declared that the Greek word *parousia* always referred to the invisible phase of Christ’s coming, while the words *epiphaneia* and *apokalupsis* referred to the second phase of His coming in glory. Credence was given to this idea because the word *parousia* literally means “presence,” while the other words mean “brightness,” “manifestation,” or “revelation.”

This so-called proof for the “rapture” by the distinction between the Greek words has been rightfully challenged by Greek scholars, and, as a result, the



"proofs" have been abandoned by even the most ardent advocates of the rapture idea. The startling fact is this: In all cases where the word *parousia* is used to denote the coming of the Lord, words are used descriptively which denote glory and power and visibility. It is at the *parousia* that the "shout," "the voice of the Archangel," and the "trump of God" are heard; it is at the *parousia* that Christ's coming is described as lightning-like in glory. In order that all may search the Scriptures for themselves and find the facts, the following list is given of all the instances where these three words are used.

*Parousia*, translated "presence" in 2 Corinthians 10: 10; Philippians 2: 12; translated "coming," in Matthew 24: 3, 27, 37, 39; 1 Corinthians 15: 23; 16: 17; 2 Corinthians 7: 6, 7; Philippians 1: 26; 1 Thessalonians 2: 19; 3: 13; 4: 15; 5: 23; 2 Thessalonians 2: 1, 8, 9; James 5: 7, 8; 2 Peter 1: 16; 3: 4, 12; 1 John 2: 28.

*Apokalupsis*, translated "appearing" in 1 Peter 1: 7; translated "coming" in 1 Corinthians 1: 7; translated "manifestation" in Romans 8: 19; translated "be revealed" in 2 Thessalonians 1: 7; 1 Peter 4: 13; translated "revelation" in Romans 2: 5; 16: 25; 1 Corinthians 14: 6, 26; 2 Corinthians 12: 1, 7; Galatians 1: 12; 2: 2; Ephesians 1: 17; 3: 3; 1 Peter 1: 13; Revelation 1: 1.

*Epiphaneia*, translated "brightness" in 2 Thessalonians 2: 8; translated "appearing" in 1 Timothy 6: 14; 2 Timothy 1: 10; 4: 1, 8; Titus 2: 13.

If men would search the Scriptures, they would find that the rapture theory rests, not upon the solid rock of truth, but on the quicksands of speculation. This is illustrated in the experience of Dr. Rowland V. Bingham, late editor of the *Evangelical Christian* and General Director of the Sudan Interior Mission. In his book, *Matthew the Publican and His Gospel*, he says:

"My wife set the investigation machinery going one day by saying, 'Rowland, where do you get the "Secret Rapture" idea in the Bible? I have to teach the second coming to my class of young women on Sunday, and I have been hunting for some proof of the "Secret Rapture."' I quite glibly replied, 'First Thessalonians Four.' 'But,' said she, 'I have been reading that and it is about the noisiest thing I can find in my Bible—"The Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and the trump of God."' When you have a wife who cannot be bluffed, and who sees the camouflage when an excuse is put out instead of a reason, a lot of trouble can be made by presenting a very artless question. The weeks that followed that inno-

cent query and the trouble into which it landed me is a separate story. If you hold the theory of a secret rapture of the church, try out that simple question on yourself.

"But you may not have someone who holds your theories on the defense until you prove them. I tried a second thrust by suggesting that there was the type of Enoch being secretly translated while Noah went through the judgment, to which there came the counter-blow that knocked me out of the ring as she said, 'You know, Rowland, that you cannot build a doctrine on a type.' Later I said to my unsatisfied wife, 'My teachers all affirmed that the Greek very clearly differentiates between the secret rapture of the church and the public manifestation to the world. The word *parousia* always indicates the rapture, while *epiphaneia* always has to do with the appearing of Christ with His church. I had heard these two Greek words so often adduced in evidence that it must be so. If you can only go over a few Greek words it suffuses mystery and creates authority. But that helpmeet of mine wanted to do what I had never done—check up on those two Greek words. And so there was nothing to it but to get out my *Young's Concordance* and turn up every text in which the word *parousia* occurred. And it smashed the theory of the secret rapture so hopelessly that I marveled at the credulity with which I had swallowed my 'authorities.'"

### ***The Dissolution of the Elements***

(Continued from page 7)

that in the world conflagration soon to come the "elements" will be "dissolved." He does not say all the elements will be dissolved. He does say that the conflagration will be brought about by a dissolution of elements.

The Greek word here translated "dissolve" is the simple word *luo*, meaning "to loose," surely a perfect word to describe the setting free, the releasing, of neutrons and protons from the power which for ages has locked them in and bound them so tightly together in the atoms of which our universe is built. Plainly, and without any forced construction whatever, the principle of nuclear fission, of atomic energy, is the same as that which God will use in the global conflagration which will result from a dissolution of the elements of our earth. God knows how to split atoms, too.

Peter's prophecy says more. It declares that the elements shall be dissolved "with fervent heat," or "fierce heat" (Weymouth), or "blaze and melt" (Goodspeed), or be "melted by heat" (20th Century), or

"burning intensely will melt" (Emphatic Diaglott).

In all the accounts of the devastation wrought by the atomic bomb at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and in the experimental blast in New Mexico, there are repeated references to the scorching of the ground. The magazine *Life*, September 24, 1945, page 31, declares that a "close-up of the crater's surface shows how the heat of the atomic explosion destroyed the desert plants and melted sand into weird shapes of crude glass."

Terrible as are the certain prospects before the world, men are not left without hope. There is a way of deliverance, a haven of refuge, an ark of safety. This has been provided in Christ and His gospel of salvation. That salvation is not merely from sin, it is from sin's results as well. Men will yet discover that the only hope of mankind is not to be found in a United Nations Organization, in parliaments, courts, councils, commissions, or a new social order. It will be found alone, at "the end of the world" (Matthew 13: 39 and elsewhere), in the return of Jesus Christ to establish His eternal kingdom of peace and righteousness. In no other, and in nothing else, is there "peace and safety," now or forever. (Acts 4: 12.)

### ***April Comes Again!***

(Continued from page 2)

But this April I am sure that this promise means a new me as well as a new earth.

As God works in my heart, my roughness will give way to gentleness.

My unkind words will change to words of sympathy and understanding.

My fear will be taken away, and in its place will be perfect trust and confidence.

My complaining will be thanksgiving.

It is only as we allow Him to work in our lives and transform us that we can become new creatures. And only new creatures will ever live in His new earth.

I like new things. I long to have a new heart. I can have a new heart. That is the April message to me.

### ***8000 Years in the Future***

(Continued from page 13)

It is according to Bible prophecy, however, that there will be scoffers at the idea of the coming of Christ. These are to be quite prominent in the last days, as the following Scripture reference reveals: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 Peter 3: 3, 4.





# *Lost in the Jungle*

## **But Sought and Saved**

**L**OWELL THOMAS, in his broadcast on November 19 last, told the story of a man who was lost two years in the jungle of New Guinea. The natives reported that a strange white man was somewhere in the depths of the tropical forest, and a search was made for him. Of the meeting of the man with his rescuers, Thomas said: "A white man emerged from the foliage of the green hell, and came unsteadily toward them—with a book in his hand."

The wanderer's suffering had been so great that he was nearly out of his mind, being unable to tell who he was or talk coherently about anything. It was expected it would take him a considerable time to get over the ravages of the terrible malaria he suffered and to get straightened out generally in mind and body. In spite of his suffering from fever and privation he had clung to a book, and that book was the Bible. On the flyleaf was written his name. Through this he was identified and his family in Tennessee notified. He who had been given up as dead was claimed with joy by his relatives.

The incident is in some ways like the spiritual experience of one who has wandered from God. The ways of sin are hard. The father of all sin sends suffering to those who are lost in his domain. But a loving heavenly Father,

anxious to rescue sinners, sent His Son to seek and save all who are lost. Further, He moves upon their hearts by His Spirit and commissions all His earthly children to plead with the lost to return to God. As the earthly parents of the man of our story rejoiced in his return, so God and the angels above rejoice when sinners turn to Christ.

The lost soldier had in his hand a book. His name on the flyleaf identified him. Not on the flyleaf, but on the pages of the Bible is found the family name of all God's children, and the promise that to every overcomer will be added a given name, signifying his triumph over sin and revealing the victories of his experience. But this is not all. The Bible is a guidebook. It points the way back to home and safety from the darkest jungles of sin. A light shines from its pages—it is a "lamp" to the feet and a "light" upon the pathway of every seeker for righteousness. (Psalm 119:105.) Untold thousands with no earthly teacher to guide them have found salvation—forgiveness of sin, complete change of heart, assurance of acceptance, and the certainty of immortality—from the revelation of God and His blessed Son found in the Bible. With its matchless worth it is strange that it is so poorly prized by mortals.

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BY HEBER H. VOTAW

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