

APRIL . . . FIFTEEN CENTS

# Our TIMES

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS





# "Prepare to Meet Thy God."

*Do Not Be Lulled into False Security*



By Edna Atkin Pepper

I LOVE to think of a certain little church—the softness of its carpeting beneath my feet, the flowers, the music, the faces of my friends and loved ones. I have known it through the years, with its necessary re-decorating from time to time, but there is one feature of it that is never changed: On the wall over the pulpit, there still appear the challenging words: "Prepare to Meet Thy God."

The church is small. The city has not responded to the soul-winning efforts that have been put forth by the congregation, but there it still stands. It is a witness against every soul who has at one time or another come to join the congregation for a brief hour.

Radio and press have been filled with exhortations similar to the words over the pulpit of this little church. Since Hiroshima, it has not been considered out of place to forecast the end of all things. Why, then, has there not been a wholesale turning to God, and away from the trivial and helpless to save? Able writers have kept us informed of the incredibly destructive forces daily being more securely harnessed for swift vengeance. We are told that each year these devices will be outmoded and more effective ones will take their places. It is no longer necessary for an enemy to set foot upon our shores in order to destroy us. Neither must he fly over us and drop his deadly cargo. Secure in his own realm, he can push a button and a radar-directed plane will rain death upon us. This dissolution is lingering and eventually, through its effect upon vegetation alone, could make an end of every living creature upon the face of the earth.

Has man been so humane that the world cannot believe he would perpetrate such an atrocity? Is there sufficient evidence to prove that fear for himself will prevent him from attempting to annihilate the rest of creation? Is there

nothing that can put a godly fear into the heart of man?

The widespread and incredible ignorance of the Bible revealed by polls of various kinds must be taken into account. The novelty of fear of atomic weapons is already wearing off, and man is no longer so much afraid. The man on the street is lulled into a false sense of security by the daily round of routine which continues as usual. He fears neither God nor man.

Apprehension concerning coming judgments cannot really change the heart. It never has. Ample testimony is given in the history of the Israelites to prove this fact. Again and again, God brought them back to Himself with drastic punishments, but it was all to no avail so far as the nation was concerned.

The Lord prepares people individually. Many an Israelite gave himself to God. Many a "stranger," seeing the marvelous power of Israel's God which so far superseded that of his own gods, joined himself to these people and gave himself to their God. But the force behind these conversions was not fear in the final analysis. Fear is a destructive thing, unless it is godly fear, compounded of respect, reverence, and love.

Love only is powerful enough to save a world, and the world will be saved individually. The mother cannot prepare for her children. The husband and father cannot gather his family about him and save them, regardless.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, . . . and thy neighbor as thyself." That is all the world needs. Love to God and those about us, would save us from the selfishness that is fast making of the world a corrupt and disease-ridden land so repulsive to its Creator that He will destroy it.

"Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." Amos 4:12.

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When a man is dead, they put money in his coffin, erect monuments to his memory, and celebrate the anniversary of his birthday in set speeches. Would they take any notice of him if he were living? No!—William Hazlitt.



"IT'S ALL RIGHT to guess as long as you guess right, Mr. Garrett." So stated the station agent under whom I worked my apprenticeship as a telegraph operator. I have always thought that such an axiom is poor railroad philosophy. Certainly it is dangerous theology.

This man guessed wrong one time. He had just copied a superior train order which should have been received by the engineer and the conductor of an incoming passenger train. The station agent had failed to pull the red semaphore across the track. The train roared into the station, discharged passengers, took on passengers, transacted the usual railroad business, and pulled out of the yard without having received that all important "meet order." This passenger train was to have met a freight train at a siding a few miles up the main line. Just as the passenger train turned the

God has issued for the race of life. First, we should earnestly pray for light and truth. (Psalm 43:3.) Second, on our part there must be a "hunger and thirst after righteousness." (Matthew 5:6.) And finally, we must be willing to do His will after His will has been revealed to us. (John 7:17.)

The great trinity of truth is delineated in the following three texts: First, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6. And He further stated concerning the medium of sanctification, "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth." John 17:17. And finally, the psalmist said, "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is the truth." Psalm 119:142. Thus we have the truth as found in Jesus Christ, in His inspired word, and in the immutable law of God.

On one occasion Paul under inspiration charged the young minister Timo-

thy to "preach the word" and he further states that in the last days there will be a turning away from the truth unto fables. (2 Timothy 4:2, 4.) When a minister of the gospel or a teacher of truth preaches Christ, His word, and His law, that man is teaching "the everlasting gospel." (Revelation 14:6.)

Truth is as unchangeable as God. We do not need to believe or accept the truth in order to make it the truth. The truth in Christ, His word, and His law is truth because He is the embodiment of all truth. We should believe and obey the truth because it is the truth. Galileo believed the truth relative to the rotation of the earth about the sun, although the doctors and scientists of his day violently disagreed. Even though he proved his position by his studies with the telescope, he was persecuted and ridiculed. Today a monument

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# WHAT IS TRUTH?

curve clearing the yard, it dawned upon the station agent with terrific and crushing force that he had failed to deliver that superior train order. He tried every way possible to stop that departing train, but to no avail. Fortunately for the train crews and all passengers on board, this passenger train met the oncoming freight train in a straight run in the track. The two engineers brought their iron horses to a screeching stop within a few feet of each other to avert a disastrous collision. Telegraph operators and railroad men cannot guess. Neither should we guess about what is truth and that which has to do with our eternal destiny.

It is the Lord's desire to "have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4. Jesus, speaking to new converts to Christianity, said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. And He further stated, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Verse 36.

In this confused and confusing world the questions are often asked by honest seekers after truth, "What is truth?" "How can an honest man find the truth?" There are at least three prerequisites in finding the truth, as revealed in the superior run order, the Bible, that

## Is It a Matter of Guesswork?

By  
Mitchell R. Garrett



*The Bible is a revelation of God's truth to all men.*



FROM 1820 to 1927, 37,000,000 immigrants entered the United States, which the *Encyclopedia Britannica* says was "the most remarkable peaceful mass movement of population in history."—Vol. 15, p. 466, 14th ed. What provoked this unique peaceful mass movement from Europe to America? As a rule people do not leave their own country, relatives, friends, and home ties, and emigrate to a foreign land, unless some compelling reason controls them.



# America at the Crossroads

**Choosing Freedom or Chaos**

Why did these 37,000,000 people from European countries leave that continent, and why did they choose the United States as their future homeland? There were many other countries that had as pleasant climates, and even better fertility, and had fewer inhabitants than the United States, but these people preferred to come to the United States, until Congress closed the doors against mass immigration.

What does this prove? It proves that the American system of free enterprise, of individual initiative, of civil and religious liberty, and of the equality of all citizens before the law was superior to the European political, spiritual, and economic systems of government which regulated and restricted the liberties of the people both in the civil and spiritual realms. During this period practically every European country from which these immigrants fled had either a king, autocratic, totalitarian form of government, or a socialistic collectivism

which destroyed individual freedom and free enterprise and regimented and controlled all human activities. The ruling classes robbed the individual of all incentive and opportunity to rise above his poverty by keeping him economically and intellectually impoverished.

The founding fathers of the American Republic turned their backs upon kingly autocracy and laid the basic structure

who have inherited this precious legacy of liberty and equal opportunity from their forefathers will do well not to forget "the hole of the pit" whence their ancestors were digged, nor the ideals and principles which made America the political and economic hope of the people of Europe when American gates were wide open to all immigrants.

The American ideals of government have been on trial for more than 150 years,—long enough to demonstrate their worth or failure as a government policy. The American people under free enterprise and individual initiative have demonstrated that these fundamental principles, called the American way of life, embracing both civil and religious liberty for all men and all religious persuasions without government patronage or interference, is the best system of government yet designed by the hand of man and with the consent of the people.

As a result of the triumph of these ideals and fundamental principles of

By C. S. Longacre

of the American government upon the integrity, worth, and dignity of the individual man and his natural and inherent rights. It was this fundamental principle of government which attracted the millions of oppressed and persecuted peoples of Europe to come to America the beautiful—the land of promise and equal opportunity and privilege. Americans

*The masses of people that viewed the Freedom Train were evidently interested in freedom. May this interest prove to be more than passive. The priceless documents inside the Freedom Train are worthy of our whole-hearted support.*





government, the people of the United States have become the envy of the whole world and are in a position where they can amply supply their own needs and provide food, fuel, clothing, and treasure for the millions of needy people in Europe and in Asia, without asking anything in return. How fortunate it is for the impoverished and underprivileged people of Europe that America is a land of plenty and so situated and disposed as to come to the rescue of millions in Europe who are on the brink of starvation, without asking to be remunerated for its gifts of love!

The mismanagement of governments in European countries has brought both the governments and the people to the brink of despair through impoverishment. Through the exercise of totalitarian powers the state was deified, and the individual reduced to a serf and a mere cog in the wheel of a vast military machine, which crushed every semblance of liberty out of the soul of man. The men of talent and genius devoted their energies and scientific researches to the discovery of new methods and means of destroying a potential enemy instead of developing lofty and noble ideals and cultivating those finer qualities and attributes of a deep love for humanity, for individual freedom, and for essential justice. The humiliating and devastating experiences of defeat in warfare never taught the impoverished nations of Europe any ways to profit by their past mistakes. They were like the professional gambler who never stops gambling no matter if he loses all his money. He will borrow more from his friends in the hope of gaining back what he lost, through further gambling. Europe has mortgaged its future to the point where it is incapable of redeeming its past obligations and unable to provide for its present needs.

A totalitarian form of government always has led to the destruction of individual incentive and freedom of action, and to the deification of the state and centralization of power in government.

While the United States has demonstrated that free enterprise and individual initiative are the foundation and cornerstone of progress, prosperity, peace, enlightenment, and enrichment of both the individual and the government, yet there is a certain ideology in Europe which purports to be a pure democracy in its form of government that is obstructing every attempt of the United States in its endeavor to aid the oppressed and starving people of Europe and give them a new start on the road to recovery. The motives of the American

people and of the government in offering substantial aid to the helpless and starving people are maligned as having a sinister purpose to enslave the very people whom they propose to benefit. It seems strange that any government should take advantage of the misfortunes of another nation and capitalize on human weaknesses and miseries to advance its own cause. But totalitarian governments thrive best when demoralization, distress, and confusion prevail among the people.

While America occupies a unique position in the world today because of the triumph of free enterprise and all its citizens' enjoying equal privileges and opportunities to rise to any height or position in government as well as in private endeavor, the American people must never forget that there are sub-

versive forces working within their own domain to undermine the foundations and to remove the cornerstone upon which our glorious republic was built and patterned.

There are resolutions introduced into every session of Congress to amend our Constitution in fundamental matters. There are numerous bills introduced which threaten to override our Bill of Rights. Already Americans have been deprived of a number of the privileges they once enjoyed under our matchless Constitution. If there is one lesson that history teaches with unerring accuracy, it is that liberties once lost are exceedingly difficult to regain. As James Madison warned the Americans in his day, so we today need to heed his admonition when he said: "It is proper to take

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## The MASTER SCULPTOR

By C. L. Paddock



MARTIN WELLS KNAPP was once going through the fires of affliction. His troubles seemed more than he could bear. In his distress he sought relief; alone in his room, he fell on his knees and asked God to remove the trial from him.

As he lingered on his knees a vision came before him. He saw a rough piece of marble with a sculptor at work with hammer and chisel. Through the dust and flying chips of stone he saw the outline of a beautiful figure beginning to take shape in the marble, as it was hammered and chiseled and ground by the master sculptor.

Knapp says the Lord spoke to him saying, "Son, you are that rough block of marble. I have a pattern in my mind of what I desire to produce in your character, and will do, if you will stand the grinding. But I will stop now, if you want Me to."

His reply is the answer most of us would give under the same circumstances: "Lord, continue the chiseling and grinding."

Some of us will need a lot more chiseling than others. There is real satisfaction in knowing that the Master Sculptor

knows just how much is needed to carve out a beautiful character, and there will be no more chiseling and grinding than are necessary. While none of us covet trials and tribulations, and troubles and difficulties, most of us will endure them joyfully, if we know God's hand holds the chisel.

A little boy and his father were one day unpacking some large boxes out in the front yard. The father was taking items out of a box and piling them one by one on the little boy's arm. A passer-by remarked to the little fellow that he had quite a load, and asked if it wasn't too much for a little boy. With a smile the boy replied, "No, it is not too heavy; my daddy knows how much I can carry."

Two comforting texts come to my mind: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8: 28.



A FRIEND of mine told of seeing worshipers in Singapore experience many kinds of torture in the hope that they might become holy and be accepted by their gods. Some of these natives had small silver spears thrust through their skin. Others had hooks in their cheeks from which hung small globular fruits. Still another pulled a cart down the road to a distant temple. The cart was drawn by a hook placed in the flesh of the man's back, yet he endured it in the hope of finding peace of mind and a way of salvation.

How much these people need to know "that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"! 1 Timothy 1:15. The way of salvation lies not within the human race. Not within ourselves can we hope to find the peace with God that we all must have. We must look to the Son of God for this. He saves from sin. The angel told the Virgin Mary, "Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21.

The name *Jesus* means a Saviour. Our Lord was pre-figured by two men in Old Testament times whose names also meant saviour, or deliverer. These were Joshua, the successor of Moses, whose name was also Oshea; and Hosea, the prophet, whose forgiving love for a wayward wife was a symbol of the love of our Lord for each of the straying family of man.

Joshua successfully led the children of Israel into the land of Canaan. By the help of God, he marched with Israel to a victorious conquest of their enemies. With Caleb, forty years before, Joshua had expressed confidence in going forward and possessing Canaan. Later, as leader of Israel, he pressed into enemy territory under great odds, and yet was victor.

Similarly, Jesus Christ had the courage to press His fight against sin and its author into the home-territory of Satan. He entered the combat under great odds. Although He came as the Son of God, He also took the nature of humanity, as we read, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same." His purpose was "that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." Hebrews 2:14.

Jesus was victorious in His fight, for it is only He "who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth." 1 Peter 2:22. He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15.

Jesus came and died as the record reads. But why should He die? From

# Saved by Grace

*Not by Works That We Have Done*

By John W. Boyd



*When Luther nailed his theses on the Wittenberg church, he initiated Protestantism's great doctrine of salvation by faith.*

Romans 6:23 we know that "the wages of sin is death," but He did no sin. Why should He die? Ah! Here is the secret of true salvation. He died as a substitute for all those who would believe in Him.

Some months ago, a Texas newspaper carried the story of a man who lives in the western section of the state. This man offered to serve a prison term,—but not for himself. It was for a cousin. His cousin who had committed the crime was the father of a large family, and this man offered to serve the sentence so the father could be free.

That is what the Saviour has done for each one of us. Christ died for our sins. "Christ also hath once suffered for sins,

the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." 1 Peter 3:18.

By His substitutionary death, the Son of God revealed His love and mercy to the fallen race. He showed them favor by dying for their sin, providing salvation if they would but accept Him as their substitute. This mercy, this favor, is known to us as *grace*. We find this definition of grace in *Cruden's Concordance*: "the free mercy of God, or the enjoyment of His favor."

When you and I, as members of the race for which our Lord died, can realize that He died for our sins, when we believe that He did this and accept it as a fact, then we become partakers of this cleansing and sanctifying grace.



Martin Luther stated that he, as a monk of the Catholic Church, was living a clean life, but still he did not feel the freedom from sin that he desired. In seeking this freedom He went to Rome. He offered his prayers and paid his respects to the different saints and relics, but not until the Holy Spirit impressed his mind with the truth that the "just shall live by faith" in the life and substitutionary death of Jesus Christ did he realize what was true peace of mind.

Luther then saw what the Apostle Paul meant when he penned, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2: 8, 9.

That salvation comes not by works means much more than that men cannot be saved by afflicting their bodies or going on pilgrimages. It means that a man cannot strive to keep the Ten Commandments and by keeping them merit a place in heaven. There is only one way to be saved, and this is by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The impossibility of working one's way to heaven by keeping the law is shown by Martin Luther in a discussion he once had: "A man who is a stranger to the grace of God cannot keep the commandments of God; nor prepare himself wholly or in part, to receive grace, but remains necessarily under sin." —*The History of the Reformation*, D'Aubigne, p. 61. Philadelphia: 1843, 9th ed.

That everyone has sinned is stated in Romans 3: 23, but though we have sinned we can be "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 3: 24.

Salvation is a gift of God and a work of grace. "Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1: 17. Note the word of God in Romans 5: 1, 2: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

For months after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese forces were stronger than our own. As the Philippine Islands fell to enemy hands, many Americans were interned in camps until our forces gained enough strength to surge back, retake the islands, and deliver the captives. We had to be stronger than the enemy before we could free these prisoners. Since Jesus came to free us from the power of Satan, He must of necessity be stronger than the forces of evil. And He is! "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Romans 5: 20. Jesus

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## The Personal Appeal of Jesus

"Come Unto Me . . . and I Will Give You Rest"

By John W. Halliday

"DO SOMETHING" urged a teacher in a Christian training college, as he was speaking at a Sabbath morning service. The immediate cause of his appeal was one among his hearers who was evidently under a heavy burden. The speaker seemed to take on himself the burden, and made the urgent entreaty to the depressed and discouraged one, "Do something!"

So also today, amid the great uncertainties of our atomic era, there are some who are deeply depressed, especially over their sins, and for these the Saviour bears a very tender burden as He seeks by His Spirit to inspire them to do something that will allow the light of heaven to come into their hearts. And with the right encouragement some do try to do something to find peace with God, and the heavenly Father goes forth to meet them on the way and receive them gladly.

A great example of doing something in drawing near to God is found in the life of King David. From the highest position in the nation he had sunk to about the lowest, that of an adulterer and murderer. But when rebuked through the prophet Nathan for his sins, he turned wholly to God, longing for a thorough work to be done in his heart, to be cleansed through and through, for he prayed: "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." Psalm 51: 2. Deeply he desired perfect purity, as he pleaded, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Verse 7. Whiter than snow, the very whitest object in all nature! He longed greatly for forgiveness as he earnestly prayed: "Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities." Verse 9. He fully realized that nothing short

of a newly created soul would be acceptable to God, as he entreated: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Verse 10.

Then earnestly he entreated that he might have a happy, truly converted life, one so filled with the Spirit that he would be successful in leading others also to be truly converted to God: "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee." Verses 12, 13. God abundantly answered, and after that time David was inspired to write many soul-winning psalms.

Jesus comes near today to the one who longs like David to be truly converted, for He ascended the cross of Calvary that He might fulfill His wonderful promise, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11: 28. It has been very truly said:

"The Lord God through Jesus Christ holds out His hand all the day long in invitation to the sinful and fallen. He will receive all. He welcomes all. It is His glory to pardon the chief of sinners. He will take the prey from the mighty, He will deliver the captive, He will pluck the brand from the burning. He will lower the golden chain of His mercy to the lowest depths of human wretchedness, and lift up the debased soul contaminated with sin."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 161.

How tenderly Jesus comes to the unconverted, prompting them to do something toward finding the Lord! With tenderest compassion He whispers into their inmost hearts the suitable words of prayer, entreating their utterance, and convincing them of the gates of heaven ajar and the Heavenly Father waiting with open arms to receive them.

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THE WORD "HELL" in the Bible really has three different meanings, depending on which one of the one Hebrew and three Greek words translated "hell" it is derived from. In the Old Testament the word "hell" is always translated from the Hebrew word *sheol*,



*henna*, which was used as a type of the destruction of the wicked.

Now we come to the question in regard to the final punishment of the wicked. How long will the wicked burn in hell? In 2 Peter 3: 7 are these words: "But the heavens and the earth, which

## How Long WILL GOD PUNISH THE WICKED?

and is used thirty-one times. In the New Testament the word "hell" is used twenty-three times. Ten of these New Testament words are translated from the Greek word *hades*, meaning the grave. The Hebrew word *sheol*, translated hell, also means simply the grave. In 1 Corinthians 15: 55, which says, "O grave, where is thy victory?" the Greek word from which the word "grave" has been translated is *hades*. Sometimes it is translated "hell"; sometimes it is translated "grave." *Sheol* and *hades* are equivalent to each other, and both mean the grave. These two words are used forty-one times out of the fifty-four where hell is mentioned in the Bible. In other words, forty-one times, or approximately four fifths of the times that hell is referred to in the Bible, the word means only the grave.

In one case, 2 Peter 2: 4, the word "hell" comes from the Greek word *tartarus*, meaning the outer darkness outside of heaven. The other twelve times, or approximately one fifth of the times the word "hell" appears in the Bible, it comes from the Greek word *Gehenna*. This refers to the valley of Hinnom just outside of Jerusalem. *Gehenna*, or the valley of Hinnom, was a place where rubbish and dead bodies were burned and destroyed just outside of the city. There the fire never went out, for new fuel was always heaped upon it, and worms were constantly at work devouring anything that the flames had not consumed. This is the place to which Jesus referred when He said that sinners ultimately will be cast into *Gehenna*, "where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." Mark 9: 43-48.

It is wrong for people to think that every time they read the word "hell" in the Bible it refers to a subterranean lake of fire. Here are two texts of Scripture to show how absurd such an idea is. In Psalm 139: 8 I read, "If I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there." Hell is here said to be a place of rest,



### WILL HELL FIRE EVER BURN OUT?

not a lake of fire. Also it is said to be a place where God can accompany an individual. Surely that would not be referring to that which is commonly thought of when the word "hell" is used. Notice also a text of Scripture found in Jonah 2:1, 2. After Jonah had been swallowed by the great fish he said, "Out of the belly of hell cried I, and Thou heardest my voice." Obviously there was no lake of fire in the belly of the whale. In both of these cases "hell"

By W. A. FAGAL

refers to the grave, or the resting place of the dead. Remember that four fifths of the occurrences of the word "hell" refer definitely to the word "grave." One time hell means outer darkness, and one fifth of the times it is used, it means the valley of Hinnom, or *Ge-*

are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." We are here reminded that this earth, as well as the atmospheric heavens that surround it, are being "reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." This earth is to be the place of judgment. This earth is to be the place where the fire will consume the wicked. The fire that destroys the wicked will also cause the elements of this earth to melt with fervent heat. All the effects of sin and the works of iniquity, we are told, are to be burned up. (Verse 10.) Then the promise is made, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." Verse 13. Sin and sinners are to be destroyed. This earth is to be made new according to the apostle Peter. This group of texts would infer that if the earth is ultimately to be made new, and if all trace of sin and sinners is to be gone, the fire, at one time or another, will go out. Let us read another text of Scripture that states the same thing: "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. . . . And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 4: 1, 3. The wicked are here said to be as stubble. They are to be burned up. Neither root nor branch are to be left of them. And then the positive statement is made that they shall be reduced to ashes—ashes that will mingle with the dust of the ground of this earth, so that the righteous will actually be able to walk on the places where the wicked have been destroyed. Notice the text again: "And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they



shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." Verse 3. That text would also infer that that fire would have to go out after it accomplishes its work of reducing the wicked to ashes.

But now read a text on the other side of the picture—Revelation 14:11: "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." Here is a text of Scripture that on the surface seems to contradict these other texts. While these other verses point out a time when the wicked will be no more, a time when the fires of hell will ultimately go out, this text seems to state just the opposite. Well, I suppose that some scoffers would say that the Bible contradicts itself, that it never can be understood anyway, that there is no point in attempting to find a solution to these problems. But my approach to the Bible is not that type, and I trust that yours is not. The Bible is not contradictory.

Let us see if we can figure out this problem. I am going to give you a great many texts on this subject, and I am sure you will see with me that there is no other conclusion that we can arrive at, if we are to drop our previous ideas and accept the Bible only as the basis for our faith, than that the fire must at some

*According to Jude 7, Sodom and Gomorrha were burned by an eternal fire, and yet they finally burned out, but not until they were eternally destroyed.*



time have to go out. Mark 9:44 says that the fires of hell shall never be quenched. But let us permit the Bible to explain itself. What is unquenchable fire, according to the Bible's definition? Many years ago God said to the Israelites: "But if ye will not hearken unto Me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; then I will kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched." Jeremiah 17:27. God threatened that the city of Jerusalem should be devoured with unquenchable fire, the same kind of fire that will ultimately descend on the wicked, and the time came in A. D. 70, when under the conquering Roman general Titus, the city was destroyed with unquenchable fire. No human being could put out that fire, and yet despite the fact that the fire could not be quenched, everyone knows today that the fire has gone out. Jerusalem is not burning still.

I have seen unquenchable fires. I recall at one time witnessing a home far from a city's fire-fighting equipment that caught on fire and burned to the ground. All efforts to put the fire out were in vain. Fanned by a stiff breeze, the fire was unquenchable, and yet after it had done its work and there was nothing left to be consumed, it went out. Just so it will be with God's unquenchable fire. When it has reduced the wicked to ashes, when it has cleansed away all effects of sin and sinners from this earth, then it too will go out. But no one can put it out until its work is completed.

Someone may be wondering about Matthew 25:41 which says, "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire." Everlasting fire is an expression that also presents a problem. What is meant by this expression? Once again let us let the Bible explain itself. Notice that this text does not say that the wicked will burn eternally, but it does say that the fire is eternal. Notice this text in Jude 7: "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Sodom and Gomorrha are said to have been burned with eternal fire. They are said to be an example for all sinners who follow the evil paths of Sodom's inhabitants. But are Sodom and Gomorrha still burning? The Dead Sea rolls over the spot where those cities once stood. And Peter, as if to answer our

*(Continued on page 18)*

## TERSE TOPICS

### CAN THIS BRING PEACE?—

"Peace throughout all the earth will come to the race only when the genius of invention shall have so thoroughly armed nations and individuals as to equalize their power or render death a sure result to all combatants in the field of war. It would be a mercy to the race if some gigantic means of slaughter, cheap as well as effective, and thus within the power of every nation and tribe to possess it, could be invented, whereby a whole army at a time could be swept out of existence. As a step toward the achievement of so desirable a result, the vast progress in the United States within the last few years should be a matter of pleasure and pride to every humanitarian American."—*Harper's Magazine*, August, 1947.

### SIX SOLDIERS KEEP SUI-

CIDE PACT—"The bizarre pact of eight Canadian and American soldiers who vowed to commit suicide if the postwar world failed to justify the horrors they experienced in a Japanese prison camp was disclosed by Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. . . . Vanderbilt, grandson of the famed Commodore Vanderbilt, told the tale to a coroner's jury inquiring into the death of his personal secretary, Canadian-born Melvin C. Roberts, 27. 'Six of the eight men who were in that horrible Japanese prison camp,' Vanderbilt said, 'already have fulfilled their pledge.' Their vow was taken during the dark years of their internment, from 1941 to 1945. The story of the suicide pact came out after Roberts (one of the men) heard a speech on chaotic world conditions—Russia and other postwar problems—by General Mark Clark. . . . Soon after the speech, Roberts committed suicide. He was the sixth of the eight to do so."—*UP*, August 15, 1947.



VISITING a memorial park, a man noticed another who was decorating a grave with flowers, meanwhile watering them with his tears. Thinking he might speak a word of good cheer, he approached the other and asked if he were mourning the loss of a wife, a son, or some other near relative; but to each question he answered, "No."

Then lifting his tear-stained face, he said:

"Here lies a man who died for me. When war broke out, I was a man of middle age with a family of small children, dependent on me for their daily bread. I was drafted. My wife and children were clinging to me as they naturally would when a husband and father is about to be separated from home and loved ones, perhaps never to return. At that time when we were in sore distress, a young man, the only son of a widowed mother, volunteered to take my place. He went to the front, was killed, and now lies buried here. He—died—for me. But his mother still survives; she makes her home with us, and we esteem it the greatest privilege to care for her. Her son died in my place. I now live in his place. *I live for him who died for me.*"

Since the sin of Adam, every human being has been a marked victim, sentenced to die: "For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6: 23. But in His great love, Jesus volunteered to become our substitute. Some one has put it: "He died the death that was ours that we might live the life that was His." The death blow that rightfully was ours, fell upon the innocent Lamb of God. This sacrifice provides hope to the human race; for "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6: 23.

Of the 31,072 verses of Scripture, one familiar text stands forth pre-eminently:

"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.

It required the supreme gift of heaven to redeem us from death and to purchase our salvation. Yes, "behold, what manner of love"! 1 John 3:1. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13. And to vividly impress every human heart with this revelation of infinite love and grace, God directed in the production and portrayal of *The Greatest Drama of the Ages*.

The famous Passion Play at Oberammergau with its seven hundred participants and some three thousand visitors, was small and insignificant as compared with the panorama staged by divine di-

rection in ancient Israel. Instead of a few hundred actors, millions then literally participated; instead of continuing three centuries, it was enacted throughout fifteen; instead of being held once in ten years, it was conducted daily, the entire presentation requiring a year for completion; instead of reproducing a brief week of Christ's life, it embraced His entire ministration for man's redemption; instead of being conceived and written by a priest or abbot, the entire drama in all its parts and details was outlined in heaven and given to man by direct revelation.

At the time of its origin, Moses was

leading the Hebrew race, numbering some three million persons, from the rigors of Egyptian slavery to an independent national life in the promised homeland of old Canaan. On their march through the wilderness of northern Arabia, they tarried for nearly a year in the great natural amphitheater at the foot of Mount Sinai. During this time their national and religious organizations were established.

Throughout long centuries of serfdom and enforced labor in the mines, brick-yards, and architectural activities of old Egypt, the great masses of Israel were denied all educational advantages, and

# The World's Most

ELABORATE AND IMP

By R



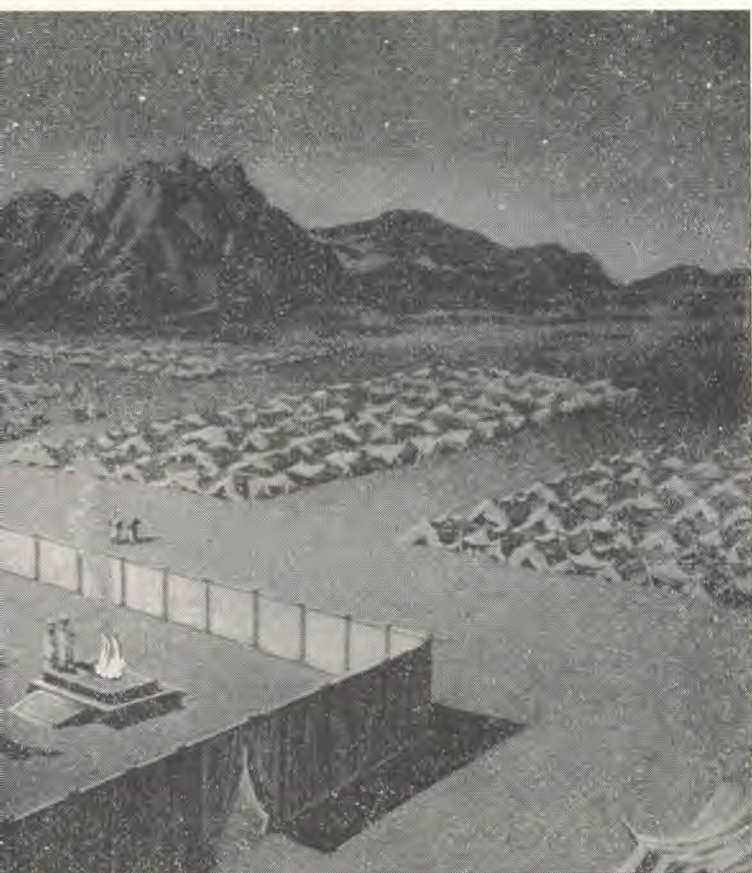
Important truths are learned in studying about the present priesthood in heaven. In Psalm 77



# Wonderful Drama

VE SCENES REVEALED!

ottrell



that open up some of the mysteries of Christ's  
us, "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary."

retained but a twilight knowledge of the Creator, His law, His Sabbath, and the coming Redeemer. In these circumstances a wise and loving Father instituted an elaborate and impressive system of object lessons to acquaint His people with Christ and the way of salvation.

Invited into the divine presence on the crest of Sinai, Moses was instructed to establish a religious priesthood with offerings and sacrifices, all of which was to be a parable, or prophecy, of the gospel. He was given a vision of God's dwelling place in heaven, known as "the true sanctuary," and was directed to con-

struct a miniature model in the camp of Israel. Said the Lord:

"Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it." Exodus 25: 8, 9.

As the tabernacle in the wilderness was the center of divine service upon earth, so the sanctuary in heaven where "He ever liveth to make intercession for man," is the center of Christ's mediatorial work. Here is located the real headquarters of the Christian religion and the executive offices of the plan of

salvation, from which radiate a Saviour's love and light.

Centuries passed, and when at length the Israelites were permanently located in the land of Palestine, a magnificent temple for worship was erected by King Solomon on Mount Moriah at Jerusalem. In the meantime a portable tabernacle approximately fifty-four feet in length by eighteen in breadth and height was built and furnished by the generous free-will offerings of the church in the wilderness.

This house of God was divided into two rooms, the "holy place" being twice the size of the "most holy place." In the former at the right of the entrance, was the table of showbread, "the bread of the presence." It was continually before the face of Jehovah, and represented Jesus, the true and living bread from heaven. John 6: 32-35, 48-51. From His radiant life and energy mankind is physically fed and strengthened, and to become spiritually strong, we are bidden to feast upon the everlasting Word, "the bread of life."

Opposite the table of showbread stood the golden candlestick with its seven lamps. Day and night, year after year, century after century, the lights were to burn continually. Never were all to be extinguished at the same time. The golden candlestick represented Christ, the Light-giver to the world. (John 8: 12.) As the moon shines with borrowed light, so every true Christian is to reflect the light of the gospel; and this essential truth is emphasized by the vibrant words of the Master: "Ye are the light of the world. . . . Let your light so shine." Matthew 5:14, 16.

Just in front of the inner veil that separated the two apartments of the tabernacle, stood the golden altar of incense. This was a type of the altar of incense before the throne of God to which the prayers of all God's people ascend. Of this heavenly altar and service, it is written:

"Another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand." Revelation 8: 3, 4.

In the solitary majesty of "the most holy," stood the sacred chest, or ark, containing the law of Ten Commandments; and above this was a covering of gold known as the mercy seat. This was a diminutive earthly model of the

(Continued on page 17)





## Supersonic Speed

EXTENSIVE research is going on in the development of planes that will fly faster than the speed of sound (761 m.p.h. at sea level) without destroying the ship. The Douglas D-558 Skystreak has flown 650.6 miles an hour, which is eighty-six per cent of the speed of sound, but this is almost a standstill speed in comparison to those that are contemplated in the near future. The rocket-powered Bell XS-1 is designed for a phenomenal top speed of 1,700 miles an hour. Recent reports reveal that this speed has already been reached in test flights.

Emphasis is also being put on building big planes. The mammoth Consolidated XC-99 has wings three-quarters as long as a football field, and has six engines. One of these planes has twice the power of the largest locomotive ever built. It can carry as many as 400 men with full military equipment, or 100,000 pounds of cargo.

Most of the records that are being made are in the realm of military craft. American planes can outperform those of any other nation. What is this indicative of? It makes us shudder to think of another war with such weapons. The last war with its conventional models could not hold a candle to a conflict in which rocket ships and jet-propelled planes would be used. The fighter planes that we thought were fast in World War II almost appear to be standing still when passed by the new high-speed models.

*This is the type of aircraft that is being perfected for supersonic flight with a top speed of 1,700 miles an hour.*



*The Arabs in all parts of the world are aroused, and are getting ready for a holy war if the United Nations goes ahead with its plans for the partitioning of Palestine.*

Everything is being speeded up in this time of the end. The world is rushing on at a breakneck momentum toward its doom. When the Bible speaks of the judgments of God that are to come in great fury, it says that "He will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly." Isaiah 5: 26. The wrath of God is coming swiftly, and we must quickly prepare to meet the crises ahead.



## Labor Troubles Looming

WAGES are in hot pursuit of prices, and it looks like another round of strikes is inevitable. Labor is crying out for relief against the continuing upsurge of prices. According to *The New York Times*, December 28, 1947, "spring will usher in possibly the strongest movement for higher wages in the recent history of organized labor." It is estimated that about 4,000,000 wage earners will spark the new drive. Millions more will follow the leaders.

According to all reports, we can look for a large number of paralyzing strikes that will finally result in increased wages. We might just as well anticipate increases in prices along with the salary rises, for this is getting to be a vicious circle. Where it ends, nobody knows.

We are sure of the fact that labor troubles are going to increase. The capitalists and the laborers are readying themselves for an economic conflict. The Bible has prophesied that the laboring classes will cry out against their employers in these last days. In the fifth chapter of James we find an account of this financial war. According to this account, our economic difficulties will continue to increase until the coming of the Lord. (See James 5:1-9.)





THE LAST conference of the foreign ministers which convened in London ended in failure. The only certain fact established by this meeting is that the world is now divided. Wendell Willkie's "one world" received quite a jolt. The schism between the East and the West has spread so wide that there is little hope held out for peaceful reconciliation.

Every day the breach between the United States and Russia widens. Every meeting to conciliate the differences ends in heated arguments. Hatred is increasing, propaganda is being propagated, and the leaders of the world seem to be resigning themselves to eventual war.

What does this mean to you and me? It means that we face another world conflict in our lifetime. It means that our children will be right in the middle of it. But can the world stand such a conflict? That remains to be seen. We can be certain that it will be the worst carnage that has ever struck the face of the earth. We already have weapons that are far beyond those that were used in World War II. We have a tank that is bigger than any ever built before. We have jet-propelled and rocket planes. We have atomic bombs and, what might prove to be even worse, atomic radiation. We have the means to spread horrible diseases in bacteriological warfare. We have guided missiles like those that terrorized London in the last war, only they now carry atomic warheads and are potent enough to blast entire cities. There are many other secret weapons that are mighty in their destructiveness.

The Bible has long revealed that the last great battle, which is called Armageddon, will be fought between the East and the West. Perhaps the division is now taking place, and the world is dividing into two great military camps. When these two worlds meet, when the East and the West clash on the plain of Esdraelon at the foot of Mount Megiddo, the world's history will close. The Bible states the following concerning the peace efforts of our time: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5: 3.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must be first overcome."

ONE OF the most critical spots on the globe today is Palestine. It is the center of a possible explosion in the Near East. The fires of war are already breaking out in greater and greater degree. There are daily reports of terroristic activities and scores of casualties. The Palestinian Jews are expanding their forces from 30,000 to 100,000, and the organized armies of the Arabs already total 115,000.

There is a grave possibility of a blood-bath in the land where the gospel of

Palestine, a major crisis could develop. It is definitely reported that the United States plans to move its troops into Palestine in May at the time that the British plan to leave. It looks dangerous at this point for so many unfriendly forces to locate in this strategic spot. We must remember that the Biblical Armageddon that has been prophesied, and that will climax this world's history, is to be fought right in this area, just a few miles from the city of Jerusalem. It is

## WATCH OUT FOR EXPLOSIVE PALESTINE!



*This Jewish boy and girl are desperately determined to win Palestine.*

peace originated. The religious leaders of the Moslem world are calling the faithful to a holy war. Hordes of fierce warriors are astir who fanatically believe the Holy Land to be theirs. They are getting ready for a showdown with Zionism. From Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Trans-Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen the battle cry is heard.

The U.N. is committed to the task of partitioning the country. However, the only powers that seem to be interested in playing with this fire are the United States and Russia. The fact is, the Russian army is eager to get into the Holy Land. Moscow is greatly interested in increasing its influence in this area. But here again is another serious problem. It is getting to be common knowledge that wherever the Reds move in, they do not move out. If they should move into

here, according to Revelation 16:12-16, that the nations will marshal their forces for the final world conflict. It is during this conflict that Christ will appear to judge the nations.

Many are making quite a play of the subject of the return of the Jews to Palestine. The establishment of an independent Jewish nation is purported to be a great sign of the second coming of Christ. However, a careful reading of the Scriptures reveals that the prophecies pertaining to the return of the Jews to the Holy Land have already been fulfilled. They returned from their captivity and rebuilt Jerusalem at the time of the decree of Artaxerxes many centuries ago. Bible prophecy declares that these unfortunate people will never again establish a kingdom. Their fate was sealed as far as the nation was concerned when they rejected the Messiah. Their only hope for the future lies in the acceptance of Christ. It is very unlikely that, as a nation, they will accept Him, but we pray that many of these people will individually take Him as their Saviour.

Though God does not hold out the promise of a restoration of the Jewish nation, yet if He did, would it be accomplished by the present contemplated means of war, carnage, and a terrible blood-bath? We think not.

The sad story of the Jews—their wanderings, persecution, and homelessness—was prophesied by an all-knowing God many years ago. He left no room for conjecture regarding their fate. He promised them power and glory if they obeyed His will, but ignominy and a curse if they refused. They chose the latter. Now if man is intent upon forcing the point, and trying to compel the re-establishment of this kingdom against God's will, the only outcome will be a needless waste of life in a terrible slaughter, and absolute failure in the end. (Continued on p. 19)



DISEASES of the gastro-intestinal tract are common. We often wonder why. So frequent are they in whole families that we have come to regard them as hereditary. A prominent minister of the gospel came to me and said, "Doctor, my stomach bothers me. It has been my weak point as long as I can remember. It runs in our family. My brother, older than I, has had to have a surgical operation on account of a digestive disturbance which has afflicted him all his life."

These were both what we would term brainy men; men of intelligence and renown. One, in fact, had written a textbook on medicine. Is it true that whole families are afflicted with digestive troubles because of a hereditary weakness? I doubt this very much. But digestive disorders do run in families. Digestive disorders sometimes date back to infancy and early childhood. It is true that whole families are afflicted with digestive disorders. It is this that has led to the almost universal belief that digestive disorders come to us by heredity.

To those who come to me and say, "Doctor, my stomach bothers me," I always feel inclined to say, "Oh, no, your stomach does not bother you. You are bothering your stomach. It is not your stomach that is at fault, it is what you put into it, and the way you put it in, that is responsible for your disturbance."

Mothers are frequently responsible for the digestive disorders that run in families. The way infants are fed during the first few months of life may determine their future, so far as digestive disorders are concerned. The child that is nursed every time it cries, is on the way to become a dyspeptic. Many mothers do this, not merely to one infant, but to all of them; and as a result, the entire family may be afflicted with digestive disturbances.

Then, again, children, as soon as they are able to sit at the table, are permitted to eat what they please, and as much as they please, and at any time they please. Of course, they do not know any better. The blame is not theirs. Such a course leads directly to digestive disturbances. The mother should determine what and when the child should eat.

Even in families where children are not, as a rule, permitted to have their way at the table, on certain days they are granted special privileges which they take advantage of. I do not know how it is today, but when I was a child, on Easter Sunday it was not uncommon to see which of the children could eat the most eggs. Six eggs for an ordinary

child to eat on that day was not considered out of the way. Then on Thanksgiving day—the only way to give thanks, we used to think (and some still think so) was to eat all the turkey the stom-

achieve still is, in some supposed-to-be-well-regulated homes, and that in a Christian land and among a Christian people. Ordinary common sense should lead us away from such heathenish and health-de-

## "My Stomach Bothers Me"

### Why So Much Stomach Trouble?

By Daniel H. Kress, M.D.

ach was capable of holding. Then, there was Christmas Day and New Year's day. Everybody was supposed to do his best at the table on these days. Sunday was usually a day to fill up on. *This is as it used to be*, and I am inclined to be-

stroying customs. But the trouble is we do not think. We live to eat. We do not eat to live.

A prominent member of the President's Cabinet some years ago came to me suffering from the aftermath of a

*Doctor's offices are flooded with people who complain that their stomachs are bothering them, but the truth is, they are bothering their stomachs.*





public dinner. He said, "Doctor, I have been a fool. I know better than I do. I have to attend banquets frequently where we have midnight dinners. I dislike to sit at the table and play with my knife and fork while others are eating. If I refuse to eat they think it is because I am sick, and the chances are a report will appear in the next day's paper announcing my illness, so I eat. I am a fool," he repeated. "I will never do it again, no matter what the consequences will be." Then he said, "Tell me what to eat, and I will promise you I will follow your directions."

Now is it not unfortunate that it is impossible to attend an evening gathering of a social nature without feeling obliged to eat, in order not to appear to be sick or a crank? These old heathenish and cannibalistic customs should be a thing of the past in this enlightened age.

A Congressman came to me a few years ago with a serious digestive disorder. I placed him on a restricted diet, and he made a complete recovery. Then he took a trip to Europe, and during the entire time he was away, he informed me, he adhered closely to the regime outlined and got along well. On his return, a banquet was given in his honor. This was too much for him. Instead of being a Daniel and purposing in his heart not to defile himself with the food before him, he ate as did others. Later his wife called me up over the phone, saying her husband had a severe attack with his stomach and was coming out for treatment. We found it to be a clear case of food poisoning. I said nothing to him then. I felt the punishment was sufficient for the time being. I thought that after he was relieved I would give him some good advice. On the second day, as he came from the treatment room in a wheel chair, I chanced to meet him on the elevator. He looked up at me from the wheel chair and smiled as he said, "Doctor, when the devil was sick, the devil a saint would be. When the devil was well, the devil a saint was he;" but he added, "Never again."

Our diet should receive attention. We should afford a sufficient interval between meals to allow the stomach an opportunity to dispose of one meal and have a few minutes rest, before another burden is thrown upon it. The third meal should always be simple, and taken at least four hours before retiring. The sleep should be sweet and refreshing. The stomach should be able to rest with the other vital organs. There should be no food in it to decompose and poison the system. There should be no horrid

dreams, neither should we awake in the morning with a big head. We ought to be at our best when we awake. Everything in nature is then at its best. The birds sing their sweetest songs in the early morning. The flowers turn toward the rising sun and rejoice. But so many are at their worst when awaking. It takes several hours to get rid of the poison which has been absorbed from the alimentary canal and overwhelmed the brain cells.

A few years ago, I was invited to dine with an ambassador from a foreign country. The one who entertained us did her utmost to have only the very best of foods. Naturally, I felt under obliga-

tion to show my appreciation of her efforts. As a result it took me several days to get rid of my digestive disturbance. I, too, felt like saying, "Never again." It is well to dare to be a Daniel on such occasions and dare to stand alone if need be. I seldom yield when called to dine out. So well is this known, that friends do not expect it of me.

The prevalence of functional and organic diseases of the gastro-intestinal tract is no mere happen-so. It is not due to heredity. It is due either to ignorance on the part of parents or children, or to a lack of will power or determination on the part of those who sometimes know better than they do.



## What Is Your HEALTH PROBLEM?

The answers to health questions are supplied to the readers of OUR TIMES by Owen S. Parrett, M. D. Address your queries to him in care of this magazine.

*I do not smoke; but when I am in a place where there is much cigarette smoke, I get sick. Is this an allergy?—T.C.*

I think our answer should be yes. Allergies may affect in different ways. Certain persons are allergic to tobacco, inasmuch that it causes an obliterating disease in the arteries, tending to stop them up and resulting in gangrene of the toes and feet. In other persons a similar condition affects the vessels of the heart, and results in serious heart disease of the coronary arteries. Perhaps your protective mechanism is working better than the average. It would be a boon to mankind if all smokers were similarly affected so that they would stop this dangerous and often fatal habit which is sending thousands of men who are in the prime of life to untimely graves with heart and other chronic diseases. This habit, we believe, shortens the life of the user by an approximate eleven years, which is a high price to pay for the privilege of having a bad breath.

*What can be done for a case of bronchitis that flares up every time the weather becomes cold?—L.R.G.*

This condition is often very stubborn and chronic, but I would suggest the following measures: Before retiring at night and again upon arising in the morning rub the chest with a towel wrung out of very cold water or ice water. Have the room warm and rub the whole front of the chest vigorously until it is pink and glowing, then take a little warm camphorated oil and eucalyptus oil in equal parts and with a warm hand rub the oil lightly over the chest, then massage it in vigorously. If the weather is warm you might start taking cool showers over the entire body, beginning with warm and gradually turning it to cold and finishing with full cold tap water. At the finish of the shower you may repeat the rubbing of the chest with the oil mixture.

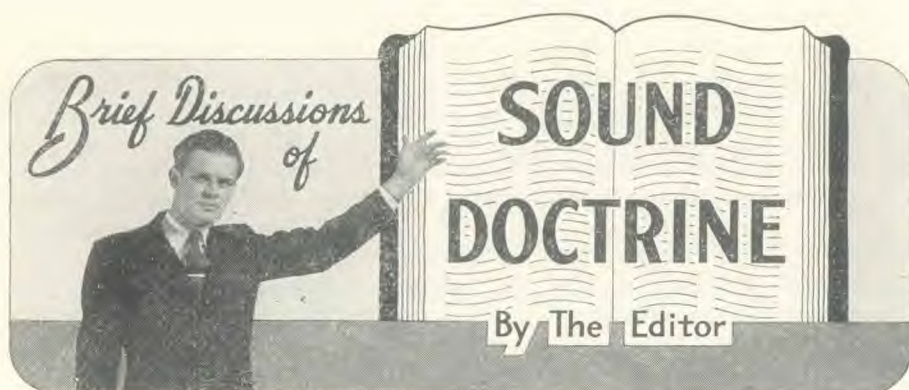
In cool weather you should wear long underwear, even though it may be of light weight, for it helps much in avoiding bronchitis to keep the extremities warm. If possible you might even carry the morning shower into the winter season, always being sure that your body is warm at the finish of the rub down. If you have a tendency to feel a little cool at the end of the treatment, you can take a little warm olive oil in the palms of the hands and give the entire body and limbs a deep massaging.

Take three glasses of fruit juice or its equivalent daily and have plenty of fresh fruits and raw salads in your diet. Try to avoid living in overheated rooms, for people who heat their homes over seventy degrees Fahrenheit are apt to take colds frequently. In countries where the homes are heated little, if any, colds are more rare. Soldiers take colds in the barracks, but seldom, if ever, in the field or on the march.

*What are the symptoms of gall bladder trouble?—J.R.M.*

Recurring attacks of colicky pain in the upper right side of the abdomen, together with much gassy indigestion, may point strongly to gall bladder disease and the probability of the presence of gallstones. In less typical cases chronic indigestion with much gas in a woman who has borne several children may strongly suggest gall bladder disease, and such symptoms should lead to X-ray investigation which is approximately ninety-five per cent accurate in the diagnosis of this disease. The more children a woman has borne the greater the danger of gall bladder trouble. Other factors which may increase the tendency for this trouble are known as "the six F's": fair, fat, forty, fever (typhoid), family, and flatulence. Thus overweight, childbearing, age, etc., are factors which make gall bladder disease more likely.





WHEN it comes to the matter of choosing the chief cornerstone of Christian doctrine, we must choose the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This doctrine is mentioned directly about one hundred and four times in the New Testament alone. It was the outstanding theme of the apostles who "with great power gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." Acts 4:33. The apostle Paul said concerning this that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day." 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4. "If Christ be not risen," exclaimed Paul, "then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." 1 Corinthians 15:14.

If Christ did not rise from the grave, then He was just a deluded enthusiast—a heroic martyr. But if there is proof that He did arise again, then infidelity has no foundation. As one illustrious agnostic in England once said: "There is no use wasting time discussing the other miracles. The essential question is, Did Jesus Christ rise from the dead? If He did, it will be easy enough to believe the other miracles."

There are a number of proofs in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John of the resurrection of Christ. But we must prove that these books contain reliable accounts. To please the unbelievers we shall not assume that they are true; we shall not assume that they were written by the men whose names they bear; we shall not even assume that they were written in the century that Christ lived. In fact we shall not assume anything. We do know this much—that they exist today. But we must determine if they are fact or fiction.

By reading the four Gospels it is clear that they are four separate and independent accounts. There are differences that plainly show that they were not written in collusion with one another. Yet they harmonize as any account would that is written by people who see the same events. But each writer tells his story in a different way.

The main question is, Are they fact or fiction? If fiction, they must have been written in close collaboration, for it would be impossible for four persons to write about something that never happened, independently of one another, and be in such agreement. On the other hand, the apparent discrepancies in the accounts forgo the conclusion that they were written in co-operation with one another. So, if they were not made up either independently or co-operatively, the only safe conclusion is that they were not made up at all. They must be fact and not fiction.

That the four Gospels are eyewitness accounts greatly strengthens their reliability. Such accounts are always considered to be more reliable than hearsay. Any just court will accept an eyewitness account in preference to hearsay.

Another proof that these books are truth and not fiction lies in the fact that they are natural, straightforward, and simple. There is no attempt to lend color to the accounts or to exaggerate. The writers simply come out and say what they saw without reflection upon the meaning or bearing of the facts related.

Of the circumstantial evidence of the resurrection we have as one of the foremost points the fact that the apostles were willing to lay down their lives for this doctrine. They had seen Him, and were willing to die for the truth of a risen Saviour. Think of the great change from utter despair at the time of Christ's death, to great courage and zeal in the proclamation of His resurrection. Think of the change in the brilliant Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, who was a fierce and conscientious enemy of the resurrection, but who became one of its strongest proponents.

Some say that the disciples just dreamed that Christ had risen, but the fact is that they refused to believe that He lived again until He produced convincing proof by meeting them, performing miracles, and by inviting them to touch His wounds. Others say that they

stole His body from the tomb and then declared the resurrection. But would they be willing to die for something that they knew to be a fraud? It is also claimed that Jesus did not die, but was taken from the cross and resuscitated. If this were true, He would have been a physical wreck from the awful ordeal of Gethsemane, four trials, beatings, hanging on the cross for hours, and could never have inspired His followers to the zeal and moral transformation that was shown. And let us not forget that a soldier plunged a spear through His side and blood and water poured out. But here again some unbelievers say that they never heard of a dead man bleeding. In answer to this charge I quote the following: "When a man dies of what is called in popular language, a broken heart, the blood escapes into the pericardium, and after standing there for a short time it separates into serum (the water) and clot (the red corpuscles, blood), and thus if a man were dead, if his side were pierced by a spear, and the point of the spear entered the pericardium, 'blood and water' would flow out." —*The Fundamentals*, Volume V, page 103.

Any man who is honest and really desires to know the truth, must accept the resurrection of Christ as fact. May the acceptance of this truth of the death and the resurrection of Christ find its way not only to our heads but also to our hearts.

### **What Is Truth?**

*(Continued from page 3)*

has been erected in his honor. Galileo did not invent truth; he merely discovered the truth. In our search for truth concerning our salvation, we must find Christ, His word, and His law as our criterion and axiom of all truth.

There are at least three barriers to our finding the truth. The first is denominational allegiance, spoken of in John 9:22. We cannot allow any church, man, or previous belief to stand between us and finding God's truth. Great men can also stand between an honest seeker for righteousness and his quest in finding truth. In 1 Kings 13:1-32 is a clear-cut case of a young man's allowing an old prophet to deceive him, and as a result he lost his life. Christ must be our example and His word our guide. Prejudice can also be a barrier between us and Bible truth. "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." Proverbs 18:13. Let not these barriers stand in your way of finding and accepting the whole truth.



With an open heart and an unprejudiced mind let us pray for and seek the truth as it is in Christ, His word, and His law.

## **America at the Crossroads**

(Continued from page 5)

alarm at the first experiment on our liberties."

Unless certain tendencies and movements are checked which threaten to jeopardize our liberties, Americans may have to reap the consequences of their lack of diligence in safeguarding their precious heritage of liberty. The gravest danger the people of the United States face is their own attitude of apathy and indifference when bureaucratic officials encroach upon their constitutional liberties in times of emergencies. There are altogether too many people in the United States who are willing in times of dire need to surrender their fundamental rights and liberties in order to obtain a fuller breadbasket and temporary relief through government subsidies. America has too many politicians and not enough statesmen, and the result is that the people are made too often the victims of fair political promises that are never realized.

The liberties of the American people are safe as long as the people exercise their own right of sovereignty and their prerogatives as the rightful masters of their public servants. Whenever the inalienable and inherent rights of the individual are subordinated and suppressed by governmental officials in the exercise of arbitrary and absolute authority, the glory of a republic has departed and Ichabod can be written on the portals of the temple of freedom. Any ideology or system of government which deprives the individual of his natural and God-given rights in civil and religious concerns, and makes the state the sovereign over the conscience in spiritual matters, is fighting against God and the ultimate welfare of mankind. Imperialism or a tyrannical collectivism in its attempts to reduce all mankind and all possessions to a common denominator may have many defenders but it has no defense. The experiment has always in the past resulted in the stifling of the intellect, in the enslavement of the conscience, in the retrogression of civilization, in the blockade of progress, in the destruction of rugged individualism, and the black-out of the light of freedom.

America today stands at the crossroads to freedom or chaos. Thus far she has taken the road a little to the "right" rather than to the "left." So far the

American Republic has been the political hope for better things in the world, and its Jeffersonian principles of government in the civil and spiritual realms, with all men enjoying equal privileges and rights before the law and bar of justice, have been the envy of all nations. If the United States turns to the extreme "left," the last hope of political freedom is gone, and the world is doomed, awaiting the retributive judgment of a just God. America must not fail expectant mankind in this crisis.

## **Saved by Grace**

(Continued from page 7)

came to free from the camp of the enemy all who believe on Him. His grace is all-sufficient.

"Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

"Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe;  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?"

—Julia H. Johnson.\*

This wonderful grace was known before the Master died on Calvary. Would it not be a strange situation if the old patriarchs should, in heaven, boast that they were there because of all the sacrifices they had offered and the other works they had done? Someone else born in the Christian era would declare that he had to do nothing to be saved but accept Jesus. No, there will not be some in heaven saved by works and others who are saved by grace. All will be saved by the grace of God. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

We can take Abraham as an example of those living before Christ. How was Abraham saved; by works or by faith in the grace of God? The answer is in Romans 4: 3, "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Then Abraham was saved by faith in his Lord's grace; and so shall we be.

We this side of the cross have no corner on salvation, "for the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." Titus 2:11. The blood of sacrifices offered by men in Old Testament times did not cleanse them from sin. This blood was only a symbol of "the

Holy One of Israel" who would one day come as a deliverer. These men looked forward to the "Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world," and we look backward to the same Saviour. Both they and we see at Calvary the outpouring of infinite love, mercy, and favor to a fallen race.

Accepting the grace of God places responsibility on all who receive it. Having been a recipient of this grace, we are expected by our Maker to achieve greater things than in former times. We read in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that a person who accepts Christ "is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

This same Bible writer tells us that "sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid! Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:14-16.

If we have accepted the offer of salvation by the grace of Christ, then we should no longer persist in willfully doing what we know to be wrong. If we willfully continue to sin, we are what Peter wrote of in this verse: "It is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." 2 Peter 2: 22.

But this need never be our experience. "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1: 7. We need to look to Jesus "in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." Ephesians 1: 7.

## **The World's Most Wonderful Drama**

(Continued from page 11)

Father's throne in heaven, the law being the foundation, or constitution, of His universal government; while the mercy seat symbolized His infinite love. This was to reveal that in all our Father's dealings with angels and with men, His law and His love, His justice and His mercy, are in perfect accord.

"Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before Thy face." Psalm 89:14. In His royal dwelling-place, "mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Ps. 85:10.

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## Hills

There lies the couchant power of the hills,  
Those high-flung battlements of granite rock,  
That sturdily withstand the tempest's shock—  
The sharp sword thrust of lightning, ice that chills.

The rattling hiss of sleet from winter's store;  
The thunder on those grim, impassive peaks  
May mar, but never reach their inner core,  
And from their summits wild adventure speaks.

Too dull the autumn orchard's fruitful peace!  
The still placidity of fertile plain,  
The sluggish quietness of meadow stream;  
Give me the arrogance of hills in rain.

*By Thelma Wellman*

On either end of the mercy seat, each wrought from one piece of fine gold, stood the figure of an angel representing the covering cherubim about the throne of God. With uplifted wings and bowed heads, these angels appeared as in the act of worship. Above the mercy seat between the cherubim, shone a supernatural light, called the Shekinah, which was a token of the visible presence of Jehovah in the midst of His people.

In minute detail Moses had been given a blueprint of the temple in heaven, and was repeatedly instructed, "Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount." Exodus 25: 40. When the appeal was issued for erecting this house of God, the people contributed liberally; and when all was completed, it doubt-

less represented a value of approximately a million dollars.

According to the New Testament this tabernacle in the wilderness was an "example and shadow of heavenly things," and of "the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." Hebrews 8:1-5. In view of this great truth, we sense anew the practical value of a complete understanding of this sanctuary and its service. By a careful study of the earthly model, every Christian may obtain a clearer revelation of God, of the temple in heaven, and of the divine plan for man's redemption.

Like the psalmist of old, so the true Christian of today addresses his petitions to the Father of us all, who hears the prayers of the faithful, and sends assistance from His dwelling place on high.

"Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary." Psalm 77:13.

"They have seen Thy goings, O God; even the goings of my God, my King, in the sanctuary." Psalm 68: 24.

"Honor and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary." Psalm 96: 6.

"To see Thy power and Thy glory, so as I have seen Thee in the sanctuary." Psalm 63: 2.

## The Personal Appeal of Jesus

*(Continued from page 7)*

Words cannot tell the depth of tenderness in the appeal of Jesus to the unsaved, as He applies by His tender Spirit His own personal appeal and promise, "Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest." He knows and feels to the uttermost the sins and surroundings of every soul. He offers just the help needed to enable us to let go of every sin, and to let Him take it out of the heart for ever. The very tones of His plaintive entreaty reveal His unspeakable saving sympathy for our lost condition and the invincible certainty of His power to save to the uttermost.

With unspeakable gladness Jesus responds to the cry of the heart that turns to Him, and sets the soul utterly free from every sin. With His abiding presence and power and peace in the heart, all is well, and His trusting ones are enabled to walk in the ways of righteousness. And in the midst of the fast-changing scenes of our atomic age they have the constant guidance of their Saviour in preparing them for the mansions of glory they are so soon to enter at His triumphant appearing in the clouds of heaven.

## How Long Will God Punish the Wicked?

*(Continued from page 9)*

question, says in 2 Peter 2: 6, "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly." Sodom and Gomorrah were burned with eternal fire, which reduced them to ashes just as that same eternal fire in the last days shall reduce to ashes "those that after should live ungodly."

How shall we understand, then, the text in Revelation 14:11, "the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever"? The expression forever and ever, is translated from the Greek root word "aeon." This Greek word means this: a period of time, whether long or short, having a beginning and perhaps having



an ending, but uninterrupted. There is no English equivalent to that expression. The closest that the translators could come to it was to give the uninterrupted idea in the words forever and ever.

Notice how this word is used elsewhere in the Bible. In Exodus 21:1-6 we are told that if a Hebrew servant wished to serve his master for the rest of his life, he was to have a hole bored in his ear, and after that he was to serve his master forever. How long is forever in this case? Obviously only until the man dies. In 1 Chronicles 28:4 we are told that David was to be king of Israel forever. He reigned forty years. Forever here meant forty years. In Jonah 2:6 we are told that Jonah was in the belly of the whale forever. But the Bible elsewhere states that he was only there three days and three nights. Forever here was only three days and three nights.

Just so the wicked will be burned forever and ever. How long will that be? No one knows. Everyone will not be punished alike. Some perhaps will be punished for long periods of time; others for shorter periods of time. All will be punished according to their works. (Luke 12:47, 48; Revelation 2:23.)

But after the fire has done its work and the wicked are reduced to ashes, then the Bible says, "For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." (Psalm 37:10.) The very place of the wicked, the place where he is punished, is to be no more. He will be eternally destroyed.

After the fire has done its work and the wicked are no more, how much of hell fire is left? Listen to this plain text in Isaiah 47:14. "Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it."

Every Christian knows that wonderful verse of Scripture found in John 3:16. How does that text read? "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not burn eternally in the fires of hell." Is that what it says? No! It says that "whosoever believeth in Him should not *perish*, but have everlasting life." The fate of the wicked, according to this marvelous text of Scripture, is that they will perish. Listen also to Romans 6:23. Does it say, "The wages of sin is burning eternally in hell?" Not at all! "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

And so with the prophet Jeremiah I say to you today, "Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death." Jeremiah 21:8. May God help each one of you to choose life. May He help you to choose to live eternally with Jesus. May He aid you in living a life that will tell for Christ in this world, a life that is Christ-centered, a life that can ultimately be lived with Jesus throughout all eternity. This is my prayer in His name, amen.

## Watch Out for Explosive Palestine!

(Continued from page 13)

The inspired words of prophecy declare that "God will cast them [the Jews] away, because they did not hearken unto Him, and they shall be wanderers among the nations." Hosea 9:17. With even greater emphasis God says that He "will deliver them to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them." Jeremiah 24:9. To clearly show that the Jewish nation would be broken without any possible hope of repair, God called upon the prophet Jeremiah to gather "the ancients of the people, and of the ancients of the priests," and break a "bottle in the sight of the men . . . and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again." Jeremiah 19:1, 2, 10, 11.

The only restoration that the Bible reveals pertains to spiritual Israel, and not physical Israel. This restoration will result in the grand establishment of Christ's kingdom of glory. The promise of this kingdom made to Abraham and his seed will be fulfilled only to those who are Christ's, for "if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:29. The real promised land of Israel will be the earth made new, where Jews, Greeks, Orientals, Americans, and any others who have accepted Christ may find an eternal home of peace.

As we see the explosive elements being stirred up in the Holy Land, we see the possible forerunners of the final Armageddon. For Christians, this means the early termination of earth's sinful history and the ushering in of a new day. Regardless of nationality or race, the children of God can look up, for redemption draweth nigh.



Address your questions to Editor, Our Times  
Box 59, Nashville 2, Tennessee

What are the outstanding characteristics of the antichrist according to the Bible?—C. M.

He is a religious leader who sits on a throne and claims to be God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.) He speaks great words against the Most High of a blasphemous nature, such as claiming to be God, and claiming the power to forgive sins. He is guilty of changing God's law, and in particular the Sabbath. He is responsible for persecuting the saints, and has caused the death of many martyrs. (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-8.) He declares himself to be the representative of Christ, but institutes laws and teachings contrary to the word of God. He substitutes a false way of salvation, that involves a human priesthood and works, for the true way of salvation, that involves a heavenly priesthood and faith. According to Bible prophecy, nearly the whole world will be deceived by this religious power that has beautiful forms and traditions, but to the close student of the Bible the forms and traditions plainly reveal it to be the antichrist. "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him [the antichrist], whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8.

Is the battle of Armageddon to be before Christ's return with His kingdom or after?—P. J. W.

The battle of Armageddon will begin shortly before Christ's appearance in the clouds. However, His coming will take place while the conflict is at its height of fury. In Revelation 16:12-16, we are told that Armageddon is the sixth of the seven last plagues. It seems evident from the facts presented concerning the seventh plague that the battle will still be going on when this plague of God's wrath strikes the world. It is under the seventh and last plague that great chunks of ice weighing fifty-seven pounds apiece will bombard the earth and will break up the battle of Armageddon. It is also revealed in Revelation 16:17-21 that there will be a great earthquake under this plague that will level the earth, and that will cause mountains to disappear, and islands to be moved out of their places. It is at this time that God will "destroy them which destroy the earth." Revelation 11:18. Prophecy further reveals that at this time "the kingdoms of this world 'will have' become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever." Revelation 11:15.



# Consider the Strangler Fig

Don't Let Vicious Habits Gain a Foothold

ONE of nature's strangest battles is going on in the vast wilderness of the Florida Everglades, and in other remote tropical areas of earth. On the losing side is the noble palm tree as it grapples helplessly with a strange predatory vegetable known to science as "*Ficus Aurea*," but appropriately named by the Seminole Indians "The Strangler Fig."

This horticultural curiosity comes up as a very tender frail little plant, resembling in many respects a morning glory that has just put forth its delicate tendrils. As it grows beside the palm, its appearance gives no hint of its dangerous character and of the fearsome struggle to come.

Like an evil habit, this sinister plant stealthily coils itself around the palm tree's trunk, ever growing, ever gripping and choking its victim, until at last it destroys the very life of the tree that has supported it. Its growth is scarcely perceptible from day to day, of course. Its smooth ash gray bark in no way betrays the black heart of the wood beneath. And it is interesting to note that this black wood, as compared to other woods, has little substance, being only one fourth as heavy as water. Its glossy leaves and deceptive fruit, snuggling in the leaf axils, appear innocent enough, but its aerial roots, like the tentacles of an octopus, dangle warily until wind and rain



afford opportunity to lay hold of the palm trunk. Once its grip is firmly made there is nothing except outside help that can save the palm.

How much like the action of sin and evil habit upon the life! A fig tree should bear figs, but the Strangler Fig, instead of promised benefits, renders only slow strangulation and death. The palm, a graceful and valuable tree, drawing its sustenance from earth and sun, falls a prey to this parasitic vine because it does not repel its first advances. At this point, however, our analogy does not carry, for the palm is incapable of choice, while to every individual is granted the prerogative of choosing what shall prevail in his life, good or evil. If that choice is for the good, the right, the true, then vicious habits can gain no foothold. But if the choice is in favor of evil and hurtful indulgence, and such practices are permitted a beginning, then by stealthy growth they soon develop into powerful cords that bind the soul. Then only the ax of the Almighty, in response to the earnest plea of the beleaguered one, can cut away the hateful thing and bring deliverance.

Fortunate indeed is the glorious fact that our heavenly Father is not only ready and willing, but He yearns to bring freedom from the bondage of sinful habit to every soul who calls upon Him for aid.