

OCTOBER FIFTEEN CENTS

Our **TIMES**

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS





A view of part of the crowd that was present at the Seventh-day Adventist Youth's Congress at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

OUR YOUTH LEAD THE WAY

A Great "Share Your Faith" Movement

"THRILL with thousands as the curtain rises," was the challenging, interest-gripping slogan which had been on the lips and in the hearts of thousands of Adventist youth for many months in the South. Delegates from the eight states of Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida were filled with highest hopes and greatest expectations in planning and preparing for this epochal Youth's Congress held in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

I arrived in historic Chattanooga twenty-four hours before the scheduled day for delegates to arrive. What did I see? Into the hotel lobbies came clean-cut young men and women to attend the "greatest and largest meeting ever held by Seventh-day Adventists in the entire Southland."

From Key West, Florida, to Biloxi, Mississippi; Bristol, Tennessee, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina; across the Great Smokies to the Mississippi River; from every section of the Southeast came enthusiastic, forward-looking Christian young people. The hotels could not hold them. Auto courts were filled. Many had to stay in dormitory rooms

of near-by Southern Missionary College in Collegedale.

In Memorial Auditorium on the announced opening evening, promptly at 7:30, as the curtain rose, trumpeters sounded the clarion call of the first service. Following a patriotic exercise, Caris H. Lauda, youth leader of the Southern states, and Chairman of the Youth's Congress, welcomed delegates and introduced Mayor Hugh Wasson, E. W. Dunbar, world leader of Seventh-day Adventist youth, Theodore Lucas

By Fenton Edwin Froom

and L. A. Skinner, associate world youth leaders of Washington, D. C.

Over the mammoth stage hung three white, glistening words in thirty-inch letters which were the foundation of much of the planning and presentations of the Congress—SHARE YOUR FAITH. In the rear of the auditorium four words in letters of the same size held your attention as you read, NOW IS THE TIME.

In meetings which followed during the next three days, exchanges of ex-

periences were given on how to "Share Your Faith." Personal experiences of giving Bible studies; showing Bible-lesson filmstrips with projectors in homes of friends and neighbors; how to "Share Your Faith" with appropriate literature for young people (a new set of leaflets for young people was presented for the first time at the Congress); how to live your religion by a practical daily experience in Christ so that you can share Him with others; and many related themes were discussed.

Guest speakers who were well qualified to discuss youth problems gave earnest, heart-stirring messages which the eager, youthful delegates highly appreciated. When an appeal was made to the thousands of delegates assembled in behalf of volunteering for foreign mission service for God, over four hundred young men and women responded.

Chattanooga knew that guest visitors
(Continued on page 16)



OCTOBER, 1948

VOL. 57

NO. 11

Established in 1891 as *The Southern Agent*. Name changed to *The Southern Review* in 1892, to *The Southern Watchman* in 1901, to *The Watchman* in 1905, to *The Watchman Magazine* in 1917. Incorporating: *The Tennessee River Watchman* (1901), *The Gospel Herald* (1903).

Editor

STANLEY C. HARRIS

Circulation Manager

RALPH E. CRAWFORD

Art Director

ROBERT M. ELDRIDGE

PUBLISHED monthly (except February, when semi-monthly) by the SOUTHERN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, 2119 Twenty-Fourth Avenue, North, Nashville 8, Tennessee. Entered as second-class matter January 19, 1909, at the post office in Nashville, Tennessee, U. S. A., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, and authorized July 11, 1918.

★ Rates: 15 cents a copy, and \$1.75 a year, in the United States. Rates higher for other countries.

★ Change of Address: Please give both the old and the new address.

★ Expiration: Unless renewed in advance, the magazine stops at the expiration date shown on the wrapper.

FRONT COVER PHOTO BY H. M. LAMBERT

MOSES

and the

ALPHABET

God Provides for a Written Revelation

MUCH has been said and written on the way in which God has overruled in the affairs of men in past ages for the advancement of His purposes in the earth.

At the beginning of the gospel dispensation, for example, He so ordered the course of civilization that there was a well-nigh universal language—Greek—which provided an ideal medium for the promulgation of the gospel message, as well as an unrivaled system of communications organized by Rome whereby His messengers were able to bear their witness to "every creature under heaven" within the lifetime of the first apostles.

In earlier centuries God miraculously

overruled in the history of the great nation of Egypt and the lesser kingdoms of Canaan in order to effect the deliverance of Israel from captivity and their establishment in the promised land.

Now comes still another remarkable evidence of the hand of God in the history of those early days with special reference to His purpose of providing a written revelation of His will to His people Israel.

By W. L. Emerson

From the creation down to the days of the patriarchs God often spoke to men through special messengers, but He gave them no specific command for these messages to be written down for future generations.

When, however, He set His hand to establish His people in Canaan as a witness to the nations of the world, He determined to provide for their guidance a written revelation of His purpose and will. This written revelation He began to communicate through His servant Moses, who by inspiration penned the first five books of the Bible.

At the beginning of the second millennium before Christ—that is, in the days of the patriarchs—there were two important scripts in use, namely, the hieroglyphic writing of Egypt and the cuneiform writing of the Tigris—Euphrates valley.

The hieroglyphic writing of Egypt was what is known as a pictographic



God saw to it that an alphabet was provided before Moses started writing the first books of the Bible.

script, in which words and ideas are represented by pictures of birds, beasts, reptiles, etc. While very artistic and fascinating in its construction, such a script necessitated many hundreds of forms to provide a reasonable vocabulary, and in consequence, hieroglyphic writing was difficult to learn and took up an enormous amount of space. It was all right for the decoration of the walls and columns of temples and tombs, but quite unsuitable for extensive compositions and most inconvenient for documents intended for storage and transport.

The cuneiform script of Babylonia consisted of groups of wedge-shaped marks, each group representing, not a word, but a syllable. This syllabic script reduced the number of signs needed as compared with the hieroglyphics, but even so, the scribe had to master some three hundred signs before he could write, and the reader a similar number before he could read, a cuneiform document.

While, therefore, it would have been possible for Moses and later Bible writers to have set down their revelations in cuneiform or even in hieroglyphics, the composition of such documents and their transportation during Israel's desert journeys would have been a very formidable task. And it was because of this that critics of earlier days refused to believe that Moses could have written the books associated with his name back in the middle of the second millennium before Christ, and that Israel could have

(Continued on page 19)



GRAMSTORFF BROS.

The Pentateuch, or first five books of the Bible, were written by Moses, and were anciently placed on scrolls.



H. HOFMANN, ARTIST

WHEN Was Christ Crucified?

How Long Was He in the Tomb?

By C. S. Longacre

The Bible states concerning the day of Christ's death that "that day was the preparation [Friday], and the Sabbath drew on." Luke 23:54.

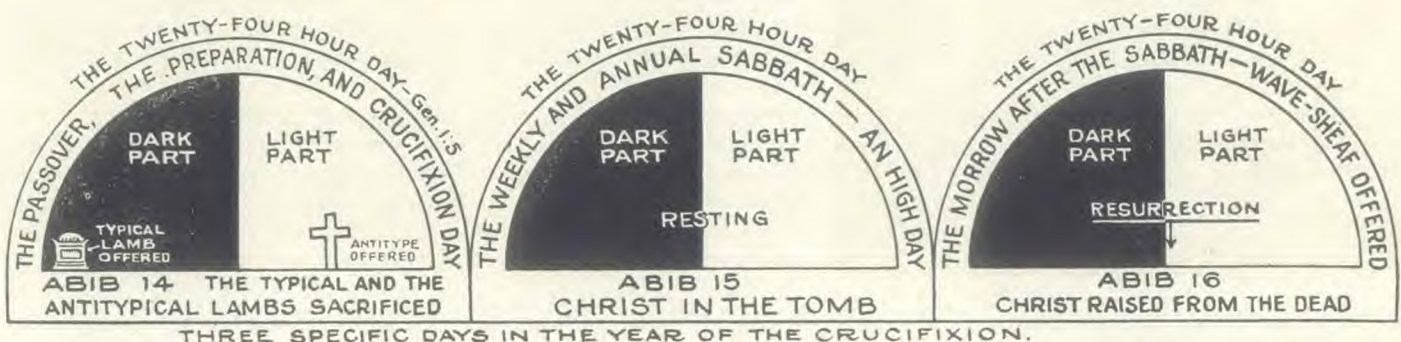
AFTER Jesus finished His sayings as recorded in the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth chapters of Matthew, "He said unto His disciples, Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified." Matthew 26:1, 2.

On the third day, the day the Passover lamb was to be selected and prepared for the Passover feast, which was Thursday evening, the record states: "They made ready the Passover. Now when even was come, He sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, He

said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray Me." Verses 19-21. That was on Thursday night. That very night Jesus was betrayed, and He permitted Himself to be taken a captive by the powers of darkness. "Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to Him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against Me: but *this is your hour, and the power of darkness.* Then took they Him." Luke 22:52-54.

Jesus was to be delivered into the hands of His enemies "and the power of darkness" for three days and three nights, the same as Jonah was in the whale's belly for three days and three nights. From the time that Jesus said, "This is your hour, and the power of darkness," until God called forth His Son from the tomb, which was guarded by the Roman soldiers and sealed with the Roman seal, on the morning of the first day of the week, was three nights and two full days and part of the third day. Jesus said "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." John 2:19. He repeatedly told His disciples that He would rise from the dead "on the third day." He was a captive in the possession of "the power of darkness" from Thursday evening till Sunday morning, literally three nights and two full days and a portion of the third day,

(Continued on page 18)



Christ's Keeping Power

He Can Keep as Well as Save

By

John W. Halliday

TRULY wonderful is the keeping power of Christ. In times of trial or danger, of reproach or suffering, of daily need or great necessity—at all times when His presence and power, His peace and comfort, His good cheer and sustaining joy are needed or longed for, He is there to save and to keep to the uttermost.

How great a Helper was Jesus to His disciples in their times of need! In the height of the storm on the Sea of Galilee, what a peace came from His few quiet words of command: "Peace, be still." Mark 4: 39. How complete is His promise to all His followers: "Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an *hundredfold* now in this time, . . . and in the world to come eternal life." Mark 10:29, 30. How precious is His promise to us today: "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." John 14:18. And what help and blessing there is in the special presence of Jesus, as the following passage shows clearly:

"His tender compassion fell with a touch of healing upon weary and troubled hearts. Even amid the turbulence of angry enemies He was surrounded with an atmosphere of peace. The beauty of His countenance, the loveliness of His character, above all, the love expressed in look and tone, drew to Him all who were not hardened in unbelief. . . . The afflicted ones who came to Him felt that He linked His interest with theirs as a faithful and tender friend, and they desired to know more of the truths He taught. Heaven was brought near."—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 254, 255.

The following incident shows how Christ's sympathy and keeping power are extended to those He cares for on earth, no matter how trying may be their circumstances.

An artist went to a church in Paris to make a study of a fashionable woman at worship. But as he sat there in the hushed and reverent atmosphere, the scene before him seemed to pass away and be replaced by another. He seemed to behold the ruins of some great castle. Sitting near by to rest were a poor peasant and his wife. By their side was a bundle that evidently held all their belongings. They seemed to be homeless and deeply discouraged, and to be drawing near the end of their earthly journey. But as they sat there in deep distress, the "Man of Sorrows" appeared and came and sat down with them. He then

reached out His hand and placed it very tenderly on the peasant's shoulder, as if to assure him of His deepest sympathy and providing care, and of His longing desire that, whatever might come, he would be true to his Saviour and to his God.

At once the artist understood that the meaning of the vision was "Christ the Consoler." Then as he returned to his studio to go on with his first intended painting, he found that this vision of the mercy of Christ would not leave him. He became alarmed and fell ill. Upon his recovery, in order to be free from the vision, he determined to paint a picture representing its meaning. But as he painted, the grandeur of the theme so grew upon him that he decided to devote his entire life to portraying Christ. It was in this way that James Tissot's famous series of pictures of Christ was providentially given to the world.

To many others a knowledge of Jesus comes just as providentially, though in other ways, leading them to see His wonderful consoling and keeping power. Often at such times those who are in deep distress are led to realize the depth of His tender appeal and power to help in His yearning invitation: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are *heavy laden*, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am

meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28, 29.

They realize that if they bear the yoke of Jesus they will have keeping power day by day to hold them steadfast, for He will be yoked up in fellowship with them in the same yoke, and at all times will be at their side to save and keep them. And as some of them become conscious of Jesus' depth of sympathy and longing desire to save and keep them as He entreats, "Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest," they exchange their burden of sin for His rest of soul, their distress for His peace, their will for His will, and accept by faith the fact that they are henceforth His, to be cared for and kept by Him.

(Continued on page 17)



TISSOT, ARTIST

Christ's power is not limited to physical and spiritual healing, but is further demonstrated in His ability to keep the Christian from falling.

The Fearsome Riders of the Apocalypse

Second in a series on
The Seven Seals

Symbolizing Apostasy, Warfare, Confusion, and Death

By

Carlyle B. Haynes

AFTER the white horse with which the prophecy of the seven seals of Revelation begins, there follow the dread horsemen who are red, black, and ashen. We now turn to these and seek their significance.

The church being corrupted in doctrine and life in the days following the time of the apostles is the subject matter and time covered by the second seal. The introduction of the first poison into its system, the adoption of heathen rites and customs, the perversion of the truths it had been taught by Christ and His disciples, the selfish ambitions and exaltation of its leaders, and the contention, confusion, and bloodshed which resulted, are all set forth in the events portrayed before John's astonished vision as the Lamb broke the second seal. The record is:

"And when He had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say,

Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." Revelation 6:3, 4.

Responding to the "Come" of the second living creature, a red horse comes forth, bearing a rider who was to take peace away, and bring in confusion and warfare. Symbolizing this work he is given a great sword, the emblem of war.

The most striking difference between this seal and the first is at once noticed in the color of the two horses. White has been replaced by red. Corruption comes into the faith and into the life

of the church. Peace is driven out by confusion and contention. Error takes the place of truth. The Christ-life is replaced by self-life. The church enters upon that downward course which culminates in outright rebellion and apostasy, and finally in the enthronement of antichrist in the place of Christ.

The apostles established churches in many of the great centers of population in the Roman Empire. These churches grew rapidly in membership and strength. Smaller churches sprang up around the large centers as the activities of the members bore fruit.

Then began to appear that spirit foretold by Paul. Men rose to the leader-

ship of some of the churches such as Diotrephes (3 John 9), who so loved "to have the preeminence" that he dared to refuse the visitation of the "beloved apostle" himself. Such men formed their own parties, "drawing away the disciples after them." Acts 20:30. The large churches sought to establish a controlling power over the surrounding smaller churches in the territory of the province. The claim was made, especially by the churches in the provincial capitals, that all churches in the territory of the province should be under the supervision of the church in the capital. The pastor of the large metropolitan church claimed the smaller churches were under his jurisdiction, even to the extent of giving him the right to appoint their pastors.

While these claims were resisted at first, the spirit of self-exaltation, as it began to permeate all the churches, soon resulted in yielding the rights of the individual churches. Ultimately it led to the foundation and establishment of what has come to be known as "the episcopacy." Bishops ruled their dioceses from the provincial capitals, archbishops dominated archdioceses from large centers. Naturally, it could not be long before the Bishop of Rome, which was the ruling city of the empire, would claim that his jurisdiction included the whole world, and demand such recognition on the part of all Christians.

Such a system and such claims could not even have had a beginning unless there had been a sad departure from the real spirit of the gospel. Such self-seeking is entirely foreign to the essential spirit of Christianity, and it was only as men had departed from Christ, the real Head of the church, that it was possible for them to be seeking for that headship themselves.

Accompanying this spirit which led men to "love the pre-eminence" was a perversion of the truth of the gospel. The teachings of the church, the great doctrines of the atonement, began, little by little, to change their form, and this continued until they were wholly perverted. Paul had plainly warned the elders that from among "your own selves [that is, from among the ministry] shall men arise, speaking perverse things." Acts 20:30. That is, they would take the very truths of the gospel, and



H. VON AGNELI, ARTIST

The devilish doctrine of auricular confession is graphically revealed in this case of a woman refused absolution by a priest. The Reformation brought forth the blessed truth that sin should be confessed to God, who promises absolution if sin is sincerely confessed.

twist, change, warp, and pervert them until they made them mean what they were not designed to mean at all. They would change "the truth of God into a lie." Romans 1:25. They would take every truth of the gospel and so interpret it as to make it teach falsehood, and then substitute that falsehood for the truth of God.

Of course, all this departure from the truth, and the self-seeking led to the creation of parties, resulting in factions, contentions, strife, and even bloodshed. Party feeling ran high, one opposing the other. This is the significance of the blood-red color of the horse of the second seal, and the meaning of the words that his rider had power "to take peace from the earth."

The continuation of the work of changing the truth into a lie until a complete counterfeit had been substituted for the church of Christ and for the gospel, in the fourth, fifth, and part of the sixth centuries, is the subject matter and the time covered by the third seal.

The work of perversion was not checked, but rather was accelerated as the years passed. As the gospel was perverted, it lost its power to restrain the natural passions and impulses of men, and as a result not only were men's minds blinded to the truth, but men's hearts became morally corrupt, and every kind of immorality was brought into the church. Even the benefits which the church had to confer upon men began to be sold for a price. Positions of power and prestige in the church were bought and sold. The episcopacy was further developed and elaborated until the Bishop of Rome was finally exalted to be head over all bishops and all churches. Here is the prophecy:

"And when He had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." Revelation 6:5, 6.

A black horse, as contrasted with the whiteness of the horse which represented the primitive church. The church had so far departed from Christ that it was now the exact opposite of that which it was when it was first established. It was no longer a faithful bride, but a faithless, wandering harlot. Its beautiful robe of spotless white, the righteousness of Christ, had been laid aside, and it was endeavoring to gain a

righteousness of its own, which in God's sight was hideous, and an insult to His Son. All the truths with which He had endowed the church had been perverted and changed into falsehoods. The very benefits which He had conferred upon the church, and which He designed the church in turn should give freely to the world, for the salvation of men, were now prostituted to the gain of the fallen priesthood, and sold for money. The divine Head of the church was driven out and a human priesthood inaugurated. The divine guidance of the Spirit was refused, and human guidance was substituted. And when God describes it—as He does in the third

seal—He sets it forth as the exact opposite of His truth, His gospel, and His church.

And yet it is still a church, with all the appearances, all the appurtenances, all the professions, all the ceremonies, all the equipment, of a church. It looks like a church, acts like a church, and claims to be the only church.

It was during the time that intervened between the professed conversion of Constantine and the exaltation of the Bishop of Rome to supreme power by defeat of the Ostrogoths in A.D. 538, that the darkest errors, the most degrading immoralities, and the grossest supersti-

(Continued on page 17)



Deceiving Ourselves

By C. L. Paddock

SOME years ago the private diary of Leo Tolstoy was published in Paris by his daughter. One view expressed by him was that "lying to others is much less serious than lying to yourself."

You would not think of telling a falsehood, or of trying to deceive another, but most of us are guilty of trying to deceive ourselves.

One morning, upon going to work at the general store where I was employed, I found that a barrel of oil had been left open the night before and fifty gallons of oil had run out on the floor. I immediately began to try to make myself believe that I was not responsible in any way for this carelessness. I soon found that the same thoughts were running through the minds of the other employees. The other fellow must have done it.

When Eve ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden, she tried to deceive herself into believing that it was not her fault, but the serpent's.

When the Lord asked Adam about his part in this disobedience, he had an answer ready. He had been thinking it over and had come to the conclusion that he was not to blame. If Eve had not eaten of the tree and tempted him, he would not have fallen. But the truth of the matter is that Adam was wholly responsible for his own sin.

Ask the drunkard or the drug addict about his life, and he can show you plainly where someone led him from the path of rectitude and gave him a push on the downward way. Ask the woman who has fallen, and she will tell you she was lured into the life of sin.

Talk with the inmates of the penitentiary, and you will find many living in the meshes of their own delusions. They are not responsible for being there. Society was not fair with them. Someone else is to blame.

Ask your little boy why he disobeyed you, and with no trouble at all he can shift his

burden of disobedience to his brother or sister, or perhaps to the boy next door.

I heard one man trying to ease his conscience by a speech like this: "Yes, I know I have an awful temper. I fly into a rage and say things which I should not say, and for which I am sorry a short time afterwards. But I inherited this disposition from my father, and I can't help it." Blaming a weakness of his own on his poor old father who is dead and gone! Rather a weak confession for a man to make is it not?

A woman was talking to me a short time ago about living according to the teachings of the Bible. She admitted she fell short in many ways; but she felt sure God knew her heart, and that He would take everything into consideration. She was trying to make herself believe that she could go on in her disobedience and yet slip into heaven.

"Why," she argued, "I'm doing all the good I can. I help the poor in the neighborhood. I take the sick riding in my car; in fact, never a day goes by that I don't do something for someone."

We are told there will be a large group of these deceived people present when the affairs of this life are finished up and we stand face to face with eternity. These people will repeat to the Saviour all the wonderful works they have done in His name. They have visited the sick, fed the poor, and in His name have done many wonderful works. But they have deceived only themselves, for Jesus replies, "Depart from Me. I never knew you."

When I say that someone else is responsible for my weakness, my shortcomings, my sins, I am deceiving myself. Others may have placed temptation in my way; they may have urged me on; but the final decision was made only by the consent of my own will. In the day of reckoning all our excuses will vanish away. It will be found that our wrongdoing was of our own choice.

DOES THE *New Covenant* ABOLISH THE *Ten Commandments?*

How Is the New Covenant Different from the Old?

By

Jay M. Hoffman

BEFORE a man can become a citizen of this country, he must make a covenant with the United States Government. After this covenant is made, he is granted citizenship papers. In doing this he promises to obey the laws of this country. Are the Constitution and laws of the United States the covenant which the man makes with the government? Of course, they are not. If he fails to keep the covenant which he has made with the government in order to obtain his citizenship papers, does he thereby abolish the Constitution of the United States? No. The Constitution and the laws of the United States are the *basis* upon which the covenant is made between the government and the foreigner who is permitted to become a citizen of the nation; but the Constitution is not the covenant, and the Constitution is not destroyed when a man fails to keep his covenant with the government. They may revoke his citizenship papers and even deport him, but that does not result in the destruction of the Constitution of the United States.

Here is another illustration. I buy a house for a price. What is the basis of the covenant or agreement that I make in purchasing the house? The *house* is the *basis* of the covenant. The price of the house is \$10,000. So I enter into an agreement, or a covenant, to pay \$1,000 down and \$1,000 every year until the house is paid for. But suppose the fifth year comes, and the house is half paid for; but I do not have the money to pay the balance due. I cannot pay for it; I cannot raise the money.

Does that mean that the house must be burned down because I have failed? No! The house, the basis of a covenant, is not destroyed because I have failed to keep my promise.

In Hebrews 8:8 we read: "For finding fault with them, He saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the

house of Israel and with the house of Judah." This text says that God found fault "with them," with the people who promised, not with the law. God does not say He found fault with the law. Hence He makes a new covenant, not a new law.

What is proposed in the new covenant? Hebrews 8:9-12 continues: "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in My covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put My laws into their minds, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people: and they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Here God says that He will write His law in our hearts, and put it in our minds.

Under the new covenant it is God who has made the promise; it is He who enables you to be obedient to His law. Under the old covenant the people said, "All that

the Lord hath said will we do." Exodus 24:7. They trusted in their own strength and failed, just as Peter did. You can do nothing without the grace and power of Christ.

David cried out to God: "Create in me a clean heart." Psalm 51:10. You cannot cleanse your own heart. You need Christ to do that for you. You cannot write God's law in your own heart. But Christ will write it there if you will let Him.

Again we read: "The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever. The mouth of the righteous speak-



KEYSTONE V
In becoming a citizen one must covenant to obey the Constitution. If the one naturalized later breaks the covenant he is dealt with, but the Constitution remains unchanged.

eth wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. *The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.*" Psalm 37:29-31. Where is the law? In the heart of the righteous. He is made righteous because God has put His law in his heart. Under the old covenant the law was written in stone; under the new covenant it is written in the heart.

This new covenant God said He would make with the house of Israel. It was not made with Gentiles, but it was made with the house of Israel.

Is Sunday in the new covenant? We are told in Galatians 3:15 that any covenant, even between men, cannot be changed after it is ratified. According to the Bible, in Hebrews 9:16, 17, a testament (will or covenant) cannot be changed after the death of the testator. If any change is made in the testament, it must be done while the testator is yet alive. Therefore if Jesus, the Testator of the new testament, had intended to make any changes in His will, He should have done it before He died, not after.

Christ died on what day of the week? He died on Friday, and Sunday came along two days later. On what day of the week was the everlasting, new, or second, covenant ratified? On Friday. Sunday observance came too late to get into the new covenant!

Christ gave the example of baptism before His death. He instituted the communion service before He died. All such things were included in Christ's will, or testament, before His death, and nothing was added to it after He died.

According to the New Testament, it was Jesus' custom to attend religious services on the Sabbath and even take a leading part in them. He taught the people on the Sabbath. (Luke 4:16, 31.) Sabbathkeeping was included by Jesus in the new covenant. In Matthew 24:20 Jesus said to His disciples: "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day." He was speaking about the fall of Jerusalem, which occurred in A. D. 70, nearly thirty-nine years after the death of Christ. For thirty-nine years after the death of Christ the disciples were to pray that they should not have to flee from Jerusalem in the winter nor on the Sabbath day. This shows that the Sabbath was also put into the new covenant before Christ, the Testator, died.

But Sunday observance came too late to get into the new covenant. Can anybody change your will after you die? No. If he should do so, he would be committing forgery. Neither can we put Sunday into the new covenant after the

death of Jesus without committing forgery.

Jesus did not abolish God's law. He said: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-19.

And in Matthew 3:15 we read that Jesus said to John: "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." By desiring to fulfill all righteousness, Christ did not mean to do away with right doing. He meant to do or perform that which is right.

To put the matter beyond all shadow of a doubt, Christ at another time said: "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 16:17. Thus, the law of God is more permanent and more durable than the very ground under our feet and the very sky over our heads.

But such is not the case with the Mosaic law of rites and ceremonies. The early Christians, and even the Jews themselves, understood that by the advent of Christ the Mosaic law of rites and ceremonies was abolished by Jesus. For example, when the Jews accused Stephen they said: "For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the rites which Moses delivered us." Acts 6:14, margin.

This matter came up in the apostolic church, for we read: "There rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." Acts 15:5. The Ten Commandments do not command circumcision. The brethren were dealing with the law of Moses here, and they knew that they were not to keep the law of Moses, which commands the practice of circumcision, for Christ "abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances." Ephesians 2:15.

The law of the new covenant is the Decalogue. According to the Bible, every evil thing that men do is called sin. The apostle John says: "All unrighteousness is sin." 1 John 5:17. Now, what is sin according to the Bible? The same apostle defines sin thus: "Whoso-

(Continued on page 18)

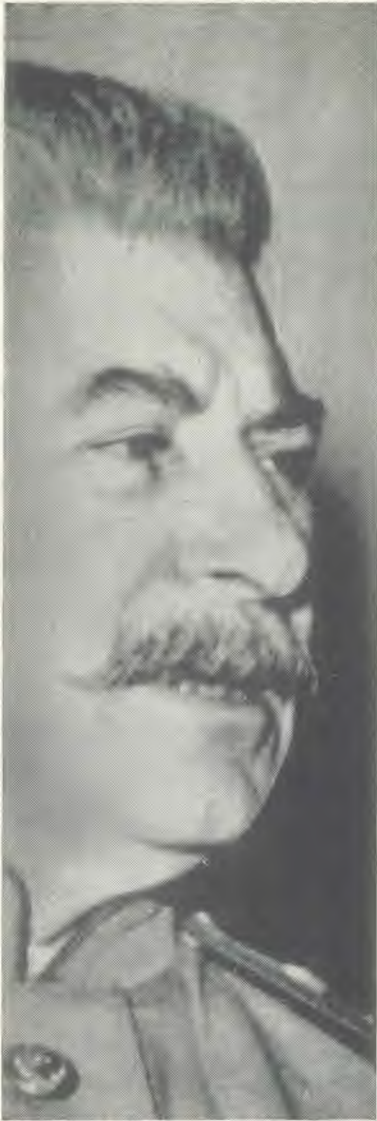
TERSE TOPICS

FIRE LOSSES HIT STAGGERING HIGH—"Fire losses in the United States reached an appalling all-time high of \$700,000,000 this year [1947]. . . . It is the highest annual loss ever recorded by any nation in peacetime and tops Great Britain's property loss from the two-year German blitz by \$300,000,000."—*Nashville Tennessean*, December 28, 1947.

WHERE IS HAPPINESS?—"A rabble-rouser once complained to Benjamin Franklin that the Constitution of the United States was a mockery. 'Where is all the happiness it is supposed to guarantee us?' he demanded. 'All the Constitution guarantees, my friend,' answered Franklin, 'is the pursuit of happiness; you have to catch up with it yourself.'"—*Christian Vic-tory*, February, 1948.

PLANS ATOMIC BOMB SHELTER—"David Czako, Norwalk, Connecticut, real estate broker, announced . . . he had completed plans to build a model atomic bomb shelter. . . . He will be prepared later to develop steady production of the shelter assisted by his brother Albert, a Navy veteran, who visited Hiroshima after it was blasted by an atomic bomb. Mr. Czako said the shelter will be twelve by eighteen feet, almost entirely underground and constructed of steel and concrete. The entrance will be from the rear, with several air vents, electric lights and, if location permits, water facilities."—*The New York Times*, September 10, 1947.

"AMERICA TODAY"—"The U. S., as of today, has more crime than ever before in its history. Last year 226 citizens were killed, assaulted, or raped every twenty-four hours. Now the murder rate is up by a third, robberies by nearly a half, rape to a point where even tabloid editors are surfeited."—*Life*.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

THERE are three particular items in our world of 1948 concerning which most people would like to know the outcome. These are: The matter of Russian aggression in Europe and Asia. The struggle between the United States and Russia over a way of life, or Democracy versus Communism. The implications of atomic power upon the destiny of mankind.

We need to know what is coming in order to be ready. If a man pounded on your door at midnight and shouted, "Fire! Fire!" wouldn't you act at once? Most assuredly. You would think of your loved ones, your home, your valuables, and try to save them. It is infinitely more important for you to know what is coming than it would be to know if your house were on fire.

The world was surprised in 1914 by World War I. Pearl Harbor was a fatal surprise to many in World War II. World War III may kill millions in their beds, never awaking to learn what hit them.

Will Russia Absorb All Ea

Will Stalin Succeed Where Hitler F

No man of himself knows what is coming. But there is a God in heaven who does know. He knows the end from the very beginning, and from ancient times the things which are not yet done. And it has pleased that great God of heaven Who knows the future, to reveal in the Bible some of the events of the future which we need to know. It is to some of these items that we direct your attention.

In Daniel 2:31-35 we find that God used a gigantic statue of a man, composed of different metal segments, to portray the future history of nations from the time of Nebuchadnezzar, king of ancient Babylon, to the time when the King of kings will appear from heaven to take over the world for His own eternal kingdom.

This man's head was of fine gold, his breast and arms of silver, his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Finally a stone cut from a mountain smote this statue upon the feet and dashed it to pieces. The wind from that concussion blew the fragments into oblivion. Then the stone

By J. L. Shuler

expanded and expanded and expanded until it filled the entire world.

These four metals—the gold, the silver, the brass, and the iron—represented the four successive world monarchies of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Grecia, and Rome.

In Daniel 2:41, the prophecy declares that the fourth kingdom, or Rome, would be divided, as prefigured by the mixture of iron and clay in the feet and toes.

Less than one hundred years after the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the

ten barbarian hordes that overran Rome became the nucleus of the modern nations of Europe. The Anglo-Saxons settled in England, the Franks in France, the Alemanni in Germany, the Burgundians in Switzerland, the Visigoths in Spain, the Suevi in Portugal, and the Lombards in Italy. Three others, the Heruli, Vandals, and the Ostrogoths were later uprooted. Seven of these nations are still found on the map of Europe. The prophet has brought us down to modern Europe in 1948.

The prophecy explains that these divided nations of England, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Portugal, and Italy can never be welded together into a world empire, as they once were under the Cæsars of Rome. In Daniel 2:43 we read, "Whereas thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they [referring to these divided nations of Western Europe] shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."

Everybody knows that you cannot weld iron and clay together. Iron will not cohere with clay. These nations of Western Europe cannot be welded into one world empire as they were back in the days of the Cæsars when Rome ruled the world.

As the shadow of the Soviet begins to fall across Europe and the Near East, people are wondering, Can Russia unite and control all of Europe? Can she rule the world? Can Stalin succeed where Hitler failed?

These seven words of God, "They shall not cleave one to another," settle these questions for all time. On the basis of these seven words of Holy Writ, we can say that even if Russia grows to

ope?



R. M. ELDRIDGE, ARTIST

be ten times as strong as she is now, she will never be able to absorb and permanently hold all Europe under her sway. These seven words are God's answer to Russian aggression.

In the final act of this representation of the future, a stone smote the metal man on his feet, dashed him to pieces, the wind blew the fragments into oblivion, and the stone became a great mountain and filled the entire world. What does this mean? In Daniel 2:44 the prophet explains that this typifies the destruction of sin-saturated systems of man which, being cleared away, paves the way for the divine reconstruction of a new world. It will be a new order of things, after God's own plan, prepared for those who choose to obey Him.

It is significant that the end is pictured as the composite metal man being blown to pieces. Some may wonder if this means that the world will be blown to pieces by the atomic bomb.

It seems that the atomic bomb has done more to convince people that the end of the world is near than anything which has ever happened. It is deeply significant that many scientists who worked on the bomb see a direct connection between atomic fission and the end of the world.

What is the significance of this atomic age? What should the bomb mean to you and to me? In the first place *it means that the return of our Lord has become an urgent necessity.* He must come to save the earth from destruction. It is not only a "blessed hope," but it is the *only way out.* The only salvation from the annihilation of civilization is that

provided through Jesus Christ and His return.

The atomic bomb says, "Prepare to meet thy God. It is high time to make your peace with God. There is no time to lose."

While man may soon bring himself to the verge of self-annihilation, he will not be permitted to commit race suicide. God will intervene and the last judgment will come from heaven. Even now the atomic bomb thunders in our ears God's last call to man: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth." Revelation 14:7. The judgment hour is now here.

Some will ask, "Will the atomic bomb make the earth desolate?" We do not know how many cities will be laid low by such bombs, but we do know that God will never permit the atomic bomb or any other weapon of man to be used so promiscuously as to obliterate man from the earth. Jesus will intervene to "destroy them which destroy the earth."

This earth is not destined to become a dead planet like the moon. On the contrary, this earth is destined to be purified of sin and sinners; and then transformed into a new, perfect, sinless world where the righteous only will dwell forever. That is how and when world peace and security will be permanently established.

Everything that man has devised for bringing lasting peace has been found wanting. What we need is a peace conference with the Prince of Peace as conference Chairman. Soon He will

come and will take the government upon His shoulders and then peace will reign from pole to pole forevermore. (Isaiah 9:6, 7.)

Because of conflicting ideologies, the United States and Russia are locked in a great political struggle for world influence. They are like two boys with fists clenched, waiting for the other to start something. Then the question arises, Who will win the struggle for the world? The U. S. A.? U. S. S. R.? The prophecy of Daniel 2 shows that the struggle for the world will be won by Jesus, the coming King. His kingdom will destroy all earthly kingdoms, as the stone demolished the composite metal man, and will fill the entire earth. One government will rule the world and twelve united nations will form together "one world." (Matthew 19:28; Revelation 21:12, 24.) God's government will restore all that is good and right and fair and beautiful.

On the authority of this blessed Word, I can tell you that the final outcome of this world situation will be the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth to reconstruct this world into a new, perfect world where there will be no more sorrow, no more sickness, no more trouble, no more wars and no more death. In Revelation 21:1 the prophet says: "I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away." In verse four he declares that "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain."



"If Biological Warfare Comes"

AN ARTICLE under the title, "If Biological Warfare Comes," appears in the *Harper's Magazine*, May, 1948. It is written by Jerome Feiner of the New York City Department of Health. A story that never happened is related in the introduction and though it is entirely fictitious, it is something that could happen if biological warfare comes.

The introductory story starts out with the awakening of one Samuel Arnold, a farmer, at the dawn of a lovely September morning. He finds that the last of his fifty-eight purebred Holsteins and eight fine Jerseys have been wiped out. He soon discovers that his neighbors have fared no better. In July the field corn on these farms in New York had suddenly started twisting, turned purple, then yellow and sere. The wheat, barley, and oats were blasted. There was black smut instead of plump kernels. Thousands of chickens were dying. Vaccines were rushed to the area, but even an all-out effort had not prevented the fast-spreading plague.

Samuel Arnold is worried most about the reports from Chicago—the City of the Dead. As the story unfolds hour after hour over the radio, it reveals that a single enemy plane had flown over the city days before at dusk, and after that the doctors' phones started ringing incessantly, and soon the switchboards



ROBERT T. AYRES, ARTIST

Helen Myers, fifteen-year-old high school girl is tutored by her guardian, Reverend J. R. Hunt, after he took her out of school when she was barred from gym classes because she refused to wear shorts.

were jammed. After a while the calls stopped. People were not able to see right or swallow right, then chills came, and finally convulsions. (The Anti-Biological Warfare Squad thought it was botulism.) Soon the city was strewn with corpses. The Army was working to decontaminate their way into the city

to see what remained of its citizens. . . .

This is rather gruesome, but not altogether impossible. Numerous diseases affecting man, animals, and crop plants are being studied and experimented with in Army and Navy research. It is established that these deadly diseases are very potent and can be spread by airplanes and will suspend in the air for considerable lengths of time in the form of fine dusts or clouds of mist. The disease agents can be produced quite economically, and in such concentrated form that theoretically a few ounces could provide an effective dose for the population of the world.

The extremely infectious nature of the various bacteria and viruses being experimented upon is indicated by the large number of laboratory workers who become infected. In spite of elaborate precautions at Camp Detrick, Maryland, Army and Navy bacteriological research center, they have had twenty-five cases of anthrax, seventeen cases of brucellosis, seven cases of tularemia, six cases of glanders, and one case of psittacosis. All this where precautions were taken!

In Jerome Feiner's discussion of the matter he says that "by now, the weapons of biological warfare have undoubtedly been improved to the point where they



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

West Palm Beach, Florida, dramatizes the drive against cancer. How inconsistent to fight disease and at the same time prepare to spread it in biological warfare! (See editorial above.)

could be effectively used in another war." He also says that "there are no defense measures which will safeguard us from destructive agents. There are no infallible means of preventing sabotage. Almost any nation except the most primitive can inflict damage on another.

Christ must have been looking down to our day when He prophesied that there would be "famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs." Luke 21:11. Bacteriological warfare would cause "fearful sights." It would bring about terrible pestilences. It is assuring to the Christian to know that God has promised that they will not be affected by these pestilential diseases. You should treasure the promise that "He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence." Psalm 91:3. God repeats this promise again: "Under His wings shalt thou trust. . . . Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; . . . nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday." Then God says, "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." Verses 4-8.



"A Continent Slides to Ruin"

THE SOIL of Latin America is becoming depleted so rapidly that the problem of properly feeding its overpopulated countries is a major one. Large areas of its forests have been cut to provide more farm land. Huge sections have been cut to provide fuel. Also vast areas have been destroyed by forest fires. The result has been that millions of tons of top soil have been washed down the rivers by the torrential rains. Improper farming methods have resulted in erosion, and great deserts are bound to appear unless a conservation program is established.

Biological bankruptcy hangs over the heads of Latin Americans, and hundreds of thousands of people face slow starvation. In Haiti and El Salvador, starvation already is present. In *Harper's Magazine*,* June, 1948, William Vogt, Chief of the Conservation Section of the Pan-American Union, states that "unless there is a profound modification in its treatment of the land, the greater part of Mexico will be a desert. . . . The same fate awaits Chile." Mr. Vogt further reveals that "in Chile . . . where I have traveled some 10,000 miles, I saw soil erosion on well over 90 per cent of

(Continued on page 19)

Not Dollars or Force, but FAITH

AMERICA'S reliance upon dollars and force to save Europe was scored in *The New York Times*, June 6, 1948, by Raymond B. Fosdick, President of the Rockefeller Foundation.

According to Mr. Fosdick, America is endeavoring to build barriers against the extension of communism. The first barrier has been launched in the European Recovery Program which entails the shipment of vast quantities of food and supplies overseas. The second barrier involves us in a program of providing arms and munitions to Turkey, Greece, and China. The third is a plan for an alliance with Western Europe.

America's whole concept of the means to attain peace seems to be based upon the idea of materialism and force. We seem to have no other particular desire for Europe than to feed it, industrialize it, unite it, and arm it. Raymond B. Fosdick maintains that it is suicidal to assume that "the crisis can be met solely on the level of force, or that power and dollars, placed at the disposal of distraught nations, constitute the essential elements of the solution."

Europe was not only bombed out of material things, but perhaps the greatest loss was the loss of faith and hope. Europe suffers from spiritual malnutrition as well as physical. Mr. Fosdick tells us that "there is a spiritual hunger in the world today that is not being satisfied by American exports. The sickness of the human soul cannot be relieved by a diet of guns and machinery." A European delegate to the United Nations has said that "unless America can take the lead in providing a vital faith, in giving us a song that mankind can sing, all her exports will merely postpone the day of reckoning and the world will die anyway."

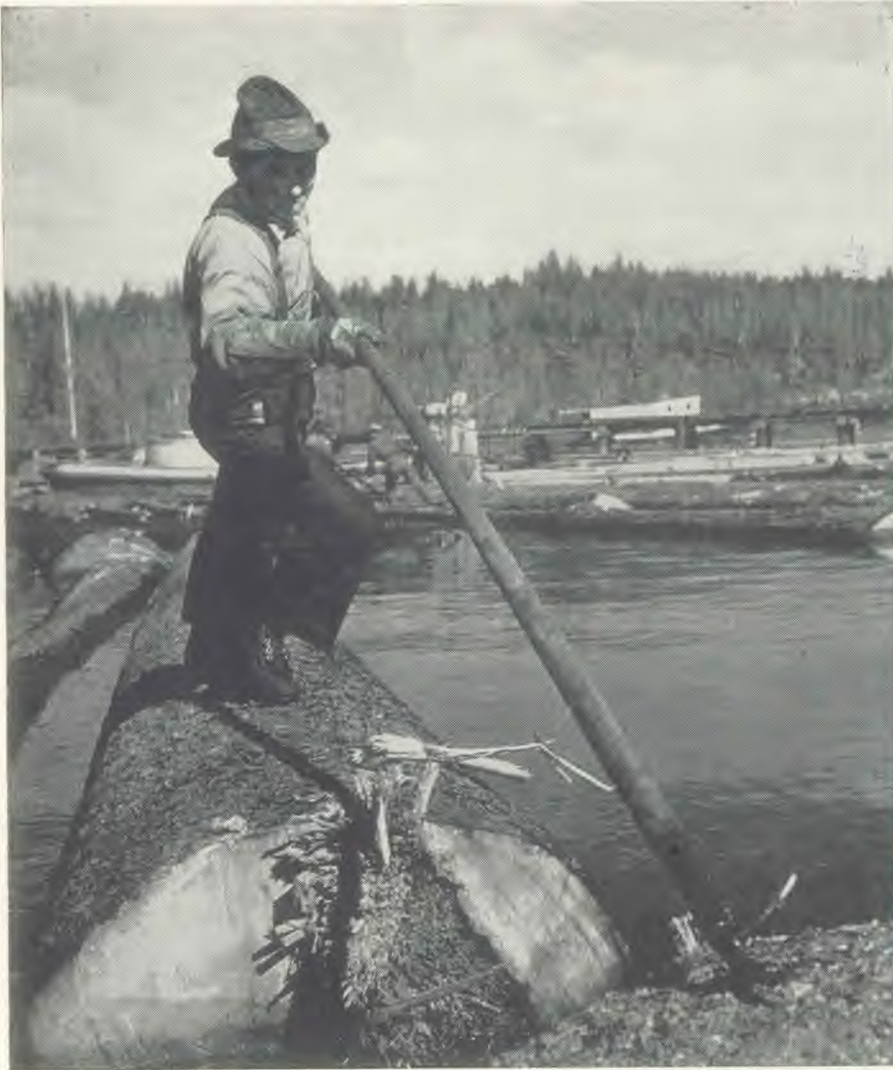
This desire, that America supply a vital faith to Europe, strikes to the very core of the problem. It is a challenge to our great country in this hour of its prominence and leadership. The mistake of nations and empires of the past, who in times of crises depended upon physical means alone, must not be made by our nation. If we do, we will be wrecked as they were.

America has a golden opportunity to bring to Europe the faith of our fathers,—faith in God, in freedom, and in equality. There was a time when the echo of our passionate beliefs resounded over all the world. Can it be that we are so preoccupied in seeing to it that "every family has its automobile and every pot its chicken," that we have lost our zeal? Or do we take the principles that have made us a great nation for granted? Are we interested alone in dollars and production? Is it possible that some are so mercenary as to desire war for the profit it entails to them?

America's greatness is not so much in its productive capacity or its high standard of living as it is in its foundation principles of Christianity, and the natural rights of man to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Because this nation was founded on such God-given principles, it has prospered.

Why do we not carry our faith to Europe in this most opportune time? Why are we accepting the old order of stagnant monarchistic governments, Catholic dictatorships that have held the people in ignorance and slavery, and defunct republics that have been satisfied to let their people remain in serfdom? Why pour billions of dollars into them? We might well listen to the bitter reproach of the Czechs who are saying, "The Americans seemed willing to fill our stomachs, while the Russians filled our heads." America needs to sound its faith in liberty, equality, and fraternity. It needs to give the people of dying Europe something better than they now have. Is it possible that we have lost our message? Has the flame died? We truly hope not.

We are not so foolish as to believe that we are living in a utopian society, and no provision in dollars and supplies is needed, but we can hardly overlook the fact that Christ said that "man shall not live by bread alone." Matthew 4:4. If America could only recognize this, and accept the challenge to bring a new faith in God and man to Europe, then we would not be relying on dollars and force alone, but would also be propagating faith and hope.



NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Exercise, fresh air, and plenty of sunshine are essential to the well-being of man.

body. It is really a furnace—a living furnace. Food is its fuel, but the good derived from the food depends upon the amount of air admitted to it. Without air there can be no heat, no energy, and no life.

When God made man at the beginning, He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man began to live. But man had to continue to breathe in this God-given breath of life in order to continue to live. The body without the breath is dead. Air must be pure to be of the greatest value. The most effective way of introducing poisons into the

By Daniel H. Kress, M. D.

blood is through the lungs, or by inhalation. This is recognized in surgery. Chloroform and ether are employed to produce anesthesia. After a few minutes of inhalation, the patient becomes irresponsible for what he may say or do, and then he becomes unconscious and ready for the operating room and the knife of the surgeon. It is possible to inhale a sufficient amount of poison that may be in the air that surrounds us to produce irresponsibility.

Living as we do in cities and in closed offices and sleeping rooms, it is impossible to obtain pure air. Man cannot be at his best physically, mentally, and I might even say morally and spiritually, and habitually breathe impure air. Every

The Art of Keeping Well

Three Great Essentials of Health

AIR, FOOD, and exercise are the three great essentials for health. The most important one of this trio may be said to be air. It is possible to live without food for days, and without exercise for months, but to attempt to do without air for only a few minutes would result in death. Fortunately, air is free to all. There is, therefore, no excuse for air starvation; and yet the majority of people unconsciously deny themselves of this blessing. Few really appreciate sufficiently the importance of air to appropriate the quantity and quality they are

entitled to and must have to keep in health. Even the food we eat is valueless without air. Of what value is a furnace that is filled with fuel without the admission of air? Without air there can be no fire; so, there can be no heat, and therefore no energy can be liberated. The fuel remains a dead mass. If the drafts are only partially open, and an insufficient amount of air is admitted to the fuel in the furnace, the fire burns low, not much heat is produced, and very little energy is liberated.

This is equally true of the human

living creature eliminates from the lungs and through the skin poisons which are destructive to it. This shows the importance of having in every room occupied for any length of time an inlet for pure air, and an outlet for impure air.

There are those who are afraid of night air and prefer to keep the windows closed at night. It may never have occurred to them that the only kind of air that can be had at night is night air. The fact is the night air in our cities is purer than the day air. During the day furnaces are burning briskly and the

smoke from them contaminates the air. The automobile traffic and the great mass of living beings on the street also tend to render the day air impure. At night there is quiet on the street, the fires in the furnaces are allowed to burn low or die out; automobiles are stored away for the night, and smokers are shut up in their bedrooms. The outside night air is therefore the purest kind of night air to breathe. He who is wise will take advantage of this and will see that the windows are kept open in the sleeping room during the night.

Deep inhalation of air in and of itself is of little value. Oxidation takes place, not in the lungs, but in the tissues of the body. The oxygen from the air conveyed to the lungs must be carried to the tissues in order to be of benefit. Exercise creates the demand for air. It is impossible to exercise without breathing deeply.

In speaking of the importance of exercise, I do not mean the vigorous exercise obtained in the modern gymnasium. This may be beneficial, but frequently it does harm. There is always the danger of overdoing.

Merely beating the air can never take the place of the *incentive* that leads men and women to work in order to supply the needs of their loved ones. The apostle said: "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather *let him labor, working with his hands, . . . that he may have to give to him that needeth.*" Ephesians 4:28. Such an incentive makes work a delight and a pleasure.

The difficulty today is that so many are earning their bread by the sweat of the *brain* instead of the sweat of the face, as God designed they should. When God made man, He did not intend that he should be shut up within four walls, seated on a revolving chair. He placed him in a garden "to dress it and to keep it." Genesis 2:15.

Every family should aim to have a small piece of land to cultivate. A portion of time spent each day in such occupation is highly beneficial.

Exercise creates the demand for air and for food. The working man never complains of lack of good appetite, neither is he troubled with sleepless nights; for "the sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much." Ecclesiastes 5:12.

The one who spends his time on a swivel chair in a poorly ventilated office naturally loses his appetite. Nature takes the appetite away. The apostle said: "If any would not work, neither should he eat," and he might have added, "neither shall he sleep." 2 Thessalonians

3:10. There is no better way of improving the appetite than to engage in out-of-door work. There is no better means of inducing sleep than to work in the soil. In my fifty years' practice of medicine I have had a great many patients who were troubled with insomnia. Among them all, I am not able at this moment to recall *one* who had a large family and who had to work hard out-of-doors to provide them with the necessities of life.

Civilization has made it impossible for all to engage in work on the farm or in the garden or to do physical work in the open air. Many will have to continue to earn their bread by the sweat of the brain, and are doomed to indoor, nerve-wrecking office work. Those who are so unfortunate can, however, derive some benefit by taking a few simple exercises. Seated at the desk, the body may be kept erect and energized instead of permitting the body to bend forward, a posture which interferes with respiration and causes the blood to flow sluggishly through the stomach and liver, thus slowing digestion. Walking erect

and sitting erect cause freer circulation of the blood through the brain and tend to sweep the cobwebs from it, enabling better thinking.

MY PRAYER

Oh, for a quiet shady nook,
By deep clear lake or babbling brook,
Where the wild birds sing at break of
day—

There let me work and think and play.

Some city folks, who live in shelves,
Pretend to smile—they fool themselves;
For this same breed, if given a chance
In God's fresh air, would sing and dance.

Some of the healthful things they shun
Are cool night air and noonday sun,
But these are blessings nature brings,
To cleanse and vitalize all things.

Then back to nature let me go,
Where the sun shines bright and breezes
blow;

These things I need—they bring me
health.

I'll be content, for health is wealth.



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.

Does the use of alcohol in moderation affect the body in a serious way?—B.R.G.

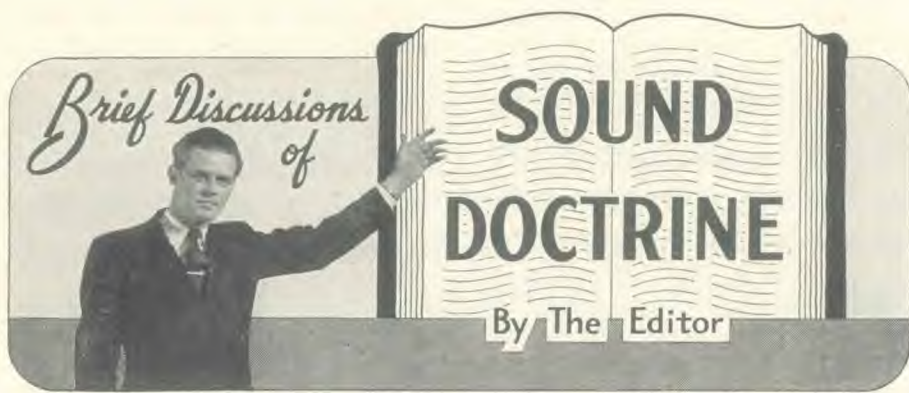
Probably no question has been discussed more than that of the effect of alcohol on the body, and particularly the effect of so-called moderate drinking. Alcohol's main effect upon the body—regardless of the amount taken—is to slow down the reaction time of the nervous system. It also lifts the person taking it out of the real world where we have to live into an unreal world where things are a bit less drab. Precision tests, such as type setting, etc., have shown that accuracy and speed begin to slow down, or diminish even, with the taking of small amounts, and increasing as more is imbibed. One rather funny result of these tests is that the person drinking the liquor practically always insists that he believes he is doing better and faster work, when the opposite is true. Thus the power of alcohol to deceive and fool people is still the same as it was when the wisest man who ever lived, King Solomon, warned against its use.

The so-called judgment centers give way first, removing the sense of fear according to the amount imbibed, thus contributing to accidents. The city emergency surgeon of Pasadena blames alcohol for 80 per cent of that city's auto accidents.

He who drinks one teaspoonful of alcohol is one teaspoonful drunk. It is true that so

far as we can learn the taking of small amounts of alcohol regularly may not be inconsistent with a fairly long life, provided the person's eating and other hygienic habits are good. The very nature of the drug alcohol is such as to call for ever-increasing doses, which many are unable to resist. Many drink to drown their troubles, but troubles can swim in alcohol and still remain alive.

The hereditary affects of alcohol have been warned against by no less an authority than the late Sir Victor Horsley, England's greatest brain surgeon, in his book, *Alcohol and the Human Body*. In a personal letter, the late Dr. Charles Mayo states that alcohol taken internally has no use in the field of medicine as a drug. It is well known that any infection in the body is more difficult to combat if the person takes alcohol. Erysipelas is a typical example, for it may even prove fatal to persons taking alcohol. There can be no doubt but that the insidious and subtle working of alcohol as a tissue poison when taken even in small quantities, such as are often thought harmless, will often tip the scales the wrong way when a crisis comes, such as a severe accident or illness when the body needs every ounce of reserve strength and energy possible to carry through. Thus many persons die who might otherwise make a "live" of it were they not undermined by the termitelike effect of this poisonous anesthetic drug.



THERE is an increasing tendency today to spiritualize the second coming of Christ. There are groups springing up which declare that the kingdom of Christ is within you, and that there is no such thing as a literal return of our Lord in person. Of course, we know that the spiritual presence of Christ is a blessed reality, and that those who have been redeemed have become members of His kingdom of Grace, but we firmly believe that there is more to be expected. We expect, in all confidence, that Christ will come again—bodily, visibly, and gloriously. We do not believe that heaven is reached only in the mind. We believe that heaven is a real place, and that Christ is coming again to take His saints to that place.

When Christ tells us that there are many mansions in His Father's house, and that He has gone to prepare a place for us, and will come again to receive us unto Himself (John 14:1-3), He is not talking about mansions in our minds. He is referring to a literal place.

At the ascension of Christ, over 1900 years ago, two angels informed the apostles that He would come back "in like manner" as they saw Him go. (Acts 1:9-11.) He went away visibly and bodily. He was caught up in a cloud, and "behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." Revelation 1:7. Now, by what stretch of the imagination can anyone believe that Christ's second coming is only a matter of the mind, when the Bible says that He is coming in person, as He went away, and "every eye shall see Him"?

God's Word plainly says that "He shall appear the second time." Hebrews 9:28. This is unequivocal! The same Word tells us that His coming will be glorious, for He is coming "in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels." Luke 9:26. Christ said that "as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:27.

It is evident that the second advent will be dazzling to the eyes—resplendent in glory. It is difficult to conceive how anyone can refer to it as a "secret rapture." There will be trumpets sounding, billions of angels filling the skies, millions of graves breaking open, the voice of the Archangel, shouts of victory and praise, a great army of risen saints ascending to meet the Lord, many others translated, the angel choruses singing thrilling anthems that will literally make the heavens ring, a host of lost, wicked men crying for the rocks and mountains to fall on them to hide them from the glorious presence of the Lord. By what manner of reasoning can all this be interpreted as something that just takes place in the mind? We go a step further, and ask, "How can such a colossal event be interpreted as a "secret rapture"?

"When those that upheld the banner of truth almost lost heart, and Protestantism seemed failing, John Knox accepted the invitation from the truehearted ones, and left Geneva for Scotland. When he landed, quick as lightning the news spread abroad. The cry everywhere arose,—'John Knox has come!' Edinburgh came rushing into the streets; the old and young, the lowly and the low, were seen mingling together in delighted expectation. All business, all common pursuits, were suspended. The priests and friars left their altars and their masses and looked out alarmed, or were seen standing by themselves, shunned as lepers. Studious men were roused from their books; mothers set down their infants and ran to inquire what had come to pass. Travelers suddenly mounted and sped into the country with the tidings, 'John Knox has come!'

"At every cottage door the inmates stood and clustered, wondering, as horseman after horseman cried, 'Knox has come!' Ships departing from the harbor bore up to each other at sea to tell the news. Shepherds heard the tidings as they watched their flocks upon the hills.

The warders in the castle challenged the sound of quick feet approaching and the challenge was answered—"John Knox has come!" The whole land was moved; the whole country was stirred with a new inspiration, and the hearts of the enemies withered."—Told by Dr. Andrew Bonar.

If a man like ourselves can arouse such excitement by his presence, what will it be like when Jesus comes? Can you not imagine the thrilling sensation that will come to the redeemed, and on the other hand, the terror that will clutch the hearts of sinners when the news is flashed over the earth, "Behold, He cometh!" "Jesus has appeared!" Some will fall on their knees in fear and confess their sins, but all too late. Others will kneel to thank God that deliverance has come. Some will be rushing about trying to make restitution, trying to correct the wrongs that had been done. Others will be rushing about with tears of joy streaming down their cheeks, broadcasting the good news. Will you be one to joyfully say, "Oh, Jesus is here!" Or will you cry with terror, "Why did I not prepare?"

Our Youth Lead the Way

(Continued from page 2)

were in town. Lines a block long stood for over thirty minutes at restaurants to be served. One day while I was standing in line, a delightfully charming lady joined me in conversation. She said she had been sitting at the entrance watching over three hundred people passing for nearly an hour. "I did not see anyone smoking, and they all seem to be so healthy looking. You can certainly be proud of such fine representatives of your organization," she stated. Then I proceeded to tell her that not one of these young folk drink even the social glass. "That is marvelous!" she replied eagerly.

One of the young lady delegates was eating a sandwich in the hotel Coffee Shop. She was informed that the proprietor had ordered several extra cases of beer for the convention, but not one of the young people had purchased even a glassful.

There and then this Christian young lady had the opportunity to share her faith with this apparently non-Christian man, telling him of her faith and that she and members of her church do not drink.

From the stage of beautiful Memorial Auditorium the coast-to-coast broadcast of the Voice of Prophecy was given, excellent music, including choir, male

quartets, the "Adventist Hour" Male Chorus of twelve men from Orlando, Florida, fine instrumental numbers, and the beautiful organ music so ably rendered by Bradford Braley of Atlanta, Georgia, contributed to the success of this thrilling meeting for youth.

The *Chattanooga Times* and *Free-Press* gave generous coverage, with full stories and pictures of the convention. Radio stations presented to the city three fifteen-minute broadcasts of interviews and music and a thirty-minute broadcast from the stage of Memorial Auditorium, from 7:30 to 8:00 o'clock on Saturday night. Certainly the city of Chattanooga extended every courtesy to Adventist youth delegates.

An attendant of the Auditorium who has been there for twenty-five years declared that this was the largest crowd he had ever seen in a convention and also the best behaved. What a testimony for young men and women who believe that NOW IS THE TIME to SHARE YOUR FAITH! I believe it is a timely challenge to every Adventist youth in America, to every reader of this foremost monthly journal, OUR TIMES, to be sure that we are so living that men will see Christ in us, that they will know that NOW IS THE TIME to SHARE YOUR FAITH!

I saw in Chattanooga the most heartening demonstration of the greatest potentiality which the church has—its youth. May these youth and others who could not attend this Youth's Congress catch the fire of the youth evangelism, and determine by the grace of God to work for youth. The church needs leadership and aggressiveness. The youth have it. If Christian standards are held high—purity of mind, thought, and deed—with the added blessing of Christ our Pattern, America can look for a great revival and reformation. The challenge is here, Youth! Accept it and SHARE YOUR FAITH!

Christ's Keeping Power

(Continued from page 5)

As they go forward with Him on the way to heaven, they are led to dwell from time to time upon the happy hour at the end of life's long road, when they will see His face as He ushers them into their great reward.

"When I come to the end of the long,
long road,

And trials will all be past,
I shall look in the face of my dearest

Friend,
Safe home in His heaven at last.

"When I come to the end, the end of
the road,

To the land of eternity,
When I come to the end of life's long
road,

The face of my Lord I'll see."

—L. DeArmond.

The Fearsome Riders of the Apocalypse

(Continued from page 7)

tions were brought into the church. This is the time covered by the third seal, from about A.D. 323 to 538.

So completely was the truth perverted during this period that, as shown in the contrast between white and black, the system which now claimed to be the church of Christ was just the opposite of everything which Christ placed in His church at the beginning. It was not that church at all. It was a counterfeit of it in every detail. It had a counterfeit God, a counterfeit Saviour, a counterfeit sanctuary, a counterfeit priesthood, a counterfeit confession, a counterfeit forgiveness, a counterfeit worship, a counterfeit sacrifice for sins, a counterfeit infallibility, a counterfeit baptism, a counterfeit law, a counterfeit Sabbath, a counterfeit communion, a counterfeit salvation, a counterfeit righteousness. It was in every detail the substitution of the false for the true.

The crying of the wheat and barley for sale under this seal indicates that commercialism came into the professed church. Instead of ministering freely to the needs of the lost, it attempted to sell even the grace of God and His salvation. All that the church had by way of pretended blessing and benefit was sold. At the birth of a child the church was paid. When the child went to catechism the church was paid. When the child was confirmed and baptized the church was paid. When the child went to confession the church was paid. When the time to marry came the church was paid. When children were born to the union the church was paid. When death came and extreme unction was given the church was paid. And even after death, to get the soul out of purgatory, the church must be paid. Thus in life and in death, the church collected for every service rendered.

The total perversion of Christianity, with its consequent persecution of the truth, during the darkest ages of human history, is the subject matter and time covered by the fourth seal.

As the apostate church abandoned the power of the Holy Spirit, it gathered to itself the power of worldly government. Its spirit of self-exaltation was

never satisfied. It reached out for more and more power over human affairs. Finally, it seated itself on the throne of world dominion. Once there, it began the work of extermination of all that opposed it. Being a perversion of Christianity masquerading as the true church of Christ, its anger naturally burned most hotly against the church, the truth, and the people of God. It sought to destroy them all. This is the record:

"And when He had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." Revelation 6:7, 8.

Responding to the "Come" of the fourth living creature, a pale horse is driven forth by a fearsome rider accompanied by Hades, the grave, their chief work being to wage unrelenting warfare against men, over a great multitude of whom they were given authority.

The color of this horse is most unusual. It must not be thought of as a partial return toward white. Rather it is something worse even than black. The Greek word is *chloros*, meaning a greenish-yellow, livid, sickly, deathly color, which is used to describe the human face when terror-stricken, or dead, or dying. It is altogether an unnatural color.

The dread conception that this conveys to the mind is carried further by the fact that the rider of this appalling horse is called Death, and that Hades, the grave, followed with him. Surely this is an awesome trio. And this is God's picture of apostasy.

This darkness and ignorance and superstition and persecution which was the glory of the papacy, was the midnight of the world. It continued until the Protestant Reformation began to recover some of the lost and perverted truths of the gospel. This was the time of the fourth seal, from A.D. 538 to the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century.

Turning now to the prediction of death for those who would not follow Rome, we find the appalling vision of the livid horse, driven by Death and accompanied by Hades, fully justified when the history of this period is studied. Lecky, in his *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*, is justified in saying:

"That the church of Rome has shed

more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history. The memorials, indeed, of many of her persecutions are now so scanty that it is impossible to form a complete conception of the multitude of her victims, and it is quite certain that no powers of imagination can adequately realize their sufferings."—Vol. 2, page 32.

When Was Christ Crucified?

(Continued from page 4)

exactly as Christ predicted He would be.

Over and over again, we read that His enemies came to take Him but He escaped out of their hands and disappeared "because His hour had not yet come." But when He had fulfilled His allotted time, as recorded by the prophecies, He said to His enemies: "This is your hour, and the power of darkness." For three days He was in the hands of Satan and His enemies, when they had full possession of His body and did with Him as they listed. It was this period of time when He would be forsaken of God and forsaken by His disciples that Jesus alluded to when He said to the scribes and Pharisees, who were asking for a sign from Him that He was the Son of God: "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah: for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:39, 40. The expression "in the heart of the earth" is a Hebrew idiom and is equivalent in significance to Christ's expression to the Jews when they came to take Him as their prisoner, and He said to them: "This is your hour, and the power of darkness."

"The power of darkness" and "the heart of the earth" both refer to the concentration of all the forces of evil around Jesus from the moment the priests arrested Him till He stepped from the tomb a conqueror. During that time He was surrounded by Satan's full forces and by men completely under Satan's control. Christ was Satan's prisoner for just three days, the same as Jonah was the whale's prisoner for three days.

But we must remember that it was not three full days that His dead body lay in the tomb because Christ said He would raise up His own temple, His

body, "in three days," and that Jesus told His disciples ten times that He would rise from the dead "on the third day." To the two disciples who witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus, and talked with Jesus as He walked with them on their way to Emmaus, and "their eyes were holden that they should not know Him, . . . He said, . . . What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And He said unto them, What things? And they said unto Him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him. But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done." Luke 24:16-21.

Here is positive proof from eyewitnesses of Christ's crucifixion that the day that Christ rose from the dead was Sunday, and it was "the third day" after His crucifixion. So the crucifixion of Christ must have taken place on Friday—the day of preparation before the Sabbath. As Luke says, "And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on. And the women . . . returned and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." Luke 23:54-56. The next day, which was "the first day of the week," Christ rose early in the morning.

As Jesus later talked with His disciples, the record in Luke says: "Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day." Luke 24:45, 46. Here Christ Himself gives us positive proof that He rose from the dead on "the third day" after His crucifixion. The claim of some that, in order to fulfill the sign of Jonah in the whale's belly, Christ was crucified on Wednesday and rose on Saturday afternoon, at 3:00 P.M. has no foundation in Scripture.

Pilate understood when Christ promised He would rise from the dead. He issued a "command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day. . . . So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone,

and setting a watch in the end of the Sabbath." Matthew 27:64, 66; 28:1. The phrase "in the end of the Sabbath" belongs to the last sentence in chapter twenty-seven. Most Bible commentators are agreed on the division of the text as set forth above. The period should have been put after "Sabbath" and not after "watch." "As it began to dawn toward the first day of the week," refers to the resurrection day of Christ. Mark says, "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven devils." Mark 16:9.

It is therefore preposterous to claim that Jesus rose at 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, the seventh day of the week, when the Scriptures expressly say, "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week." He purposely appeared on that day to His disciples to have witnesses who could testify to the certainty that He rose from the dead on "the third day" after His crucifixion, and not to set that day apart as a holy day to be observed in place of the Sabbath day, the seventh day of the week. Neither the crucifixion day, nor the resurrection day, nor the ascension day was ever commanded to be observed as a sacred day in the Scriptures, and they were not so observed for the first two centuries after Christ by the early Christian church.

Jesus told His disciples in the great commission as He left them to go back to heaven: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19, 20. Since there is no command given by Christ to observe the first day of the week, but He did give a commandment to observe "the seventh day" as "the Sabbath of the Lord," we ought to teach only those things which He has commanded, and turn from error to Bible truth.

Does the New Covenant Abolish the Ten Commandments?

(Continued from page 9)

ever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4.

Therefore a person commits a sin when he transgresses the law of God. This agrees exactly with what Paul, writing under the new covenant, says in these words: "By the law is the knowledge of sin." Romans 3:20. And in Romans 4:15 he says that "where no law is, there is no transgression." He also says: "Sin is not imputed when there is

no law." Romans 5:13. Thus it is very clear that there cannot be any sin when there is no law to transgress; and if there is sin in the world today, that is proof that God's law still exists.

What law do men break when they commit sin? The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 7:7 what law it is, for he says: "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Here he refers to the Ten Commandments, for he quotes the tenth precept of the Decalogue, which forbids covetousness. Note that he says: "I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."

The Bible says that in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall a thing be established. (2 Corinthians 13:1.) We have another apostolic witness to produce, who wrote under the new covenant. He is James. He writes: "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For He that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." James 2:10-12. To show what law he had reference to, James here quotes two of the Ten Commandments: (1) "Thou shalt not commit adultery," and (2) "Thou shalt not kill." Note also that he speaks of "the whole law." He is not speaking of nine tenths of the law. He also calls this divine law "the royal law." (Verse 8.) Hence the Ten Commandments are the kingly law, for it is the law governing the kingdom of God under the new covenant plan.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would never permit men to lie, murder, steal, kill, blaspheme, dishonor their parents, commit adultery, worship false gods, adore idols, covet, and desecrate God's holy day. Christ came to save men from doing those abominable things. We read in Matthew 1:21 what Jesus came to do: "Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins." Did He come to save us from the law, or did He come to save us from sin, which is the transgression of the law? The Bible says that He came to save us from *sin*—that is, from transgressing God's law.

A man who tells you that he is a Christian, and that because Jesus Christ died on the cross the new covenant permits him to disobey the Ten Commandments—to lie, to murder, to steal, to kill,

to commit adultery, and to do all the other wicked things forbidden in the law of God—is greatly mistaken. John says: "Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him." 1 John 2:3-5. And again the apostle says: "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:2, 3.

A Continent Slides to Ruin

(Continued from page 13)

the cultivated slopes and in the central part of the country on *all* the slopes where cattle were grazed. In this entire distance I saw only one field plowed on the contour!" Another statement of Mr. Vogt caps them all for its revelation of the serious plight of the Latin-American continent: "Over most of the southern continent, soil erosion is all but universal on cultivated lands."

The truth of the matter is that much of the soil in other lands is in poor condition also. Even in the United States the conservation program maintains a continual battle to bolster up and save our rapidly depleting soil. The vitamin and mineral content of the foods grown on such soil is deficient.

This all sums up to the fact that this old earth waxeth old as a worn shoe, and that the blight of sin has left it thin. Man certainly must work by the sweat of his brow to keep it producing the essential foodstuffs. With the bugs, blights, weeds, thorns and thistles, and drought, it becomes exceedingly difficult to win out in the battle for sustenance. Evidently the invitation of God is falling on deaf ears, judging by the way large portions of the earth are turning into desert and dust bowls. He says, "If My people . . . shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, *and will heal their land.*" 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Words of Wisdom

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

The longer you gaze at a difficulty, the bigger it looks. Tackle it at first sight, and lick it!

Moses and the Alphabet

(Continued from page 3)

carried them along with them into Canaan.

Recently, however, the epoch-making discovery has been made that about 1600 B.C. a true alphabetic script was coming into use in Syria, Palestine, and Sinai—that is, shortly before the birth of Moses, to whom God was to communicate His first written revelation for the benefit of all mankind.

This script, in which the number of characters had been reduced to a hundred or fewer signs, seems to have been invented in Phœnicia, to the north of Palestine. Some ten inscriptions in this new writing discovered at Jebeil, or Byblos, on the Syrian coast, have just been brilliantly deciphered by French archeologists.

Shorter inscriptions in this same alphabetic script had been discovered earlier by Sir Flinders Petrie in the Sinai Peninsula and by J. L. Starkey at ancient Lachish, but not until the deciphering of the Byblos inscriptions was it known that a fully developed alphabetic script was in use as early as the middle of the second millennium before Christ.

This script was further simplified during the next few centuries, and by 1100 B.C., had become practically identical with the Hebrew script of the Siloam inscription belonging to the days of Hezekiah.

Thus we now know that just at the time when God had determined to begin the communication of the Sacred Scriptures to ancient Israel He had caused certain ancient scholars and scribes—not in far-off China or in the distant West, but right there in Syria—to apply themselves to the invention of a new and simple system of writing, and that this was available in time for Moses to begin to write the informative book of Genesis during his Midianite sojourn.

When we add to this recently discovered providence the fact that the modern paged book superseded the cumbersome ancient roll in the second century of the Christian Era, just when the New Testament began to be "published" by the Christian church, and that printing came along just in time to give a mighty impetus to the Reformation movement, we cannot but realize that the omnipotent hand of God has worked in a wonderful way in the giving, preservation, and multiplication of His written Word to the children of Men.

The Beautiful LIFE

The Saguaro Plant Gives Us an Object Lesson

By INEZ BRASIER

THE other day I read the story of the saguaro, and through the hours since, I have thought how like it are the lives of some folk I know.

The saguaro, that strange plant of sandy wastes where the pitiless sun beats down for months on end, grows slowly through the years until it is fifty or sixty feet high and weighs five or six tons. Water, stored in its great stem during short periods of rain, enables it to live and blossom and bear fruit even in the longest periods of drought.

I thought of one whom I know well. Heartbreaking experiences came to her—four little children sleeping under the lilacs, and the tragic loss of her husband. As though that were not enough, she lay on a hospital bed for months upon months, far from friends and loved ones. Thoughts of how she would live and care for herself and of the heavy financial burden pressed upon her mind. Then, one day, the words of Peter sang through her weary heart like a refrain. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." 1 Peter 4:12.

Beloved. . . beloved. . . The thought that God still loved her, that in His love for her, He had permitted all these overwhelming troubles and the bitter grief, gradually filled her mind. She clung to that love and slowly grew stronger, not only physically, but in her heart life, as the saguaro through its strong, cylindrical core of rods extending the full length of the plant resists violent windstorms and bears lovely flowers and life-giving fruit.

How often those who have seemingly been crushed under the cruellest experiences life can bring are the loveliest in character. Their lives breathe the rarest fragrance compounded of these very difficulties.

"My son, never make light of the Lord's discipline, never faint under His reproofs; for the Lord disciplines the man He loves, and scourges every son He receives." Hebrews 12:5, 6, Moffatt.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten." Revelation 3:19. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:11.

"Happy is he who has Thy discipline and Thine instruction, training him calmly to wait on, in adversity! . . . for the Eternal will not leave His people, never will He forsake His own." Psalm 94:12-14, Moffatt.

He places us where, in His providence, we may learn the lessons He would teach us—lessons of faith and endurance, of love and trust, and of His providing care. Thus in time, we, even as the saguaro, after years of wind and sun-born struggle, blossoms in heavenly beauty, shall become beautiful, like Him.

