

JANUARY . . . . FIFTEEN CENTS

# *Our* **TIMES**

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS



# The Ministry of Sorrow

Suffering Should Bring Out  
the Best That Is in Us

By Daisy McIntyre Loftin, R.N.

EDWIN MARKHAM, that beloved poet who revealed such a deep insight into both the woes and the dignity of man in such poems as "The Man with the Hoe," and "Lincoln, the Man of the People," has this to say in his little poem, "Victory in Defeat":

"Defeat may serve as well as victory  
To shake the soul and let the glory out.  
When the great oak is straining in the wind,  
The boughs drink in new beauty, and the trunk  
Sends down a deeper root on the windward side.  
Only the soul that knows the mighty grief  
Can know the mighty rapture. Sorrows come  
To stretch our spaces in the heart for joy."

How useless it is to resist God's dealings with us, His creatures! "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof: the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1. God never takes anything away from us but that He is waiting with us in the shadows to give something better, perhaps Himself, in its place, yet how often we hold on with a death grip to what we consider our own.

In John Lord's book, *Beacon Lights of History*, he speaks of the sale of Joseph as a slave, and then he says, "In it we see permission of evil and its counteraction,—its conversion into good; victory over evil, over conspiracy, treachery, and murderous intent. And so marked is this lesson of a superintending Providence over all human actions, that a wise and good man can see wars and revolutions and revolting crimes with almost philosophical complacency, knowing that out of destruction proceeds creation; that the wrath of man is always overruled; that

the love of God is the brightest and clearest and most consoling thing in the universe. We cannot interpret history with-



KEYSTONE

*Life in this world is short and full of trouble, which should make us long for the better life to come.*

out the recognition of this fundamental truth. We cannot be unmoved amid the prevalence of evil without this feeling, that God is more powerful than all the combined forces of His enemies both on earth and in hell; and that no matter what the evil is, it will surely be made to praise Him who sitteth in the heavens. This is a sublime revelation of the omnipotence and benevolence of a personal God, of His constant oversight of the world which He has made."—Vol. II, pp. 60, 61.

There are two kinds of sorrow: "Godly sorrow worketh repentance: . . . but the sorrow of the world worketh death." 2 Corinthians 7:10. Are you troubled by the perplexing things about you? Learn the meaning of the cross. In certain

branches of mathematics we let a little cross mark equal the unknown quantity. When we have found the value of that little mark, our problem is solved. When we learn the significance of the *cross of Christ*, the seeming injustices of life come into their true light and fall into their right places. Shall we not take our Lord's word as He speaks through His prophet: "All things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28.

After our own hearts have suffered we can better reach other hearts and so our life becomes a channel of service. Have we been called to suffer and sorrow? Let us consider. It can be that God is choosing us for some special work. Job, as he sat upon his ash heap may not have known that God was using him as a spectacle to other worlds and as an example, even to the coming generations.

Let us go forth with Him through any path of sorrow to victory, knowing that His banner over us is love.

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OUR TIMES, JANUARY, 1949

# "The Heaven Departed as a Scroll"

## Nearing the Climax of Earth's History

EACH TIME one of the 105mm guns roared and belched huge puffs of smoke, every fiber in my body quivered with responding vibrations. When the order to stop firing echoed through the pungent air, and the clouds of dense smoke rolled away, my memory seemed automatically to recall these words in Revelation 6:14: "The heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places."

Several months later I was studying this verse and realized as never before the solemnity of the times. We are living immediately before this momentous event which will not only shake the earth but the heavens also.

of each of these prophecies in the order in which John gives them. The falling of the stars, which was the last one, took place November 13, 1833. The next great event for which we are watching and waiting is prophesied in the fourteenth verse, "The heaven departed as a scroll." It is obvious that we are living in the time between the thirteenth and fourteenth verses, the latter verse foretelling the second coming of Christ. One hundred fifteen years have elapsed since the last prophecy of verse thirteen was fulfilled, a longer time span than between any of the previously mentioned predictions in these verses. God, in His bounteous mercy, is undoubtedly giving this wicked generation an extra allot-

Sinai. The entire mountain shook violently, and fire and smoke completely obscured it from the vision of Israel as they waited for Moses' return. (Exodus 19:16-19.) In the near future God will speak again, this time to the Israel of our generation, to the ones who have "forsaken all and followed Him." Then "every mountain and island" will be "moved out of their places" (Revelation 6:14), the earth will "reel to and fro like a drunkard" (Isaiah 24:20). The heaven will be "dissolved" (2 Peter 3:12), and the earth "utterly broken down" (Isaiah 24:19). Every element will be moved and transformed, while destruction and desolation take their courses, as directed by Omnipotence. Nature in its former beauty will be defaced, rendering God's creative miracles unrecognizable. Jeremiah presents a picture which is analogous with the world before creation: "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heaven were fled. . . . For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate." Jeremiah 4:23-27.



CLYDE PROVONSHA, ARTIST

*The great phenomenon of the falling stars on November 13, 1833, was a mighty witness of the nearness of Christ's second advent.*

Our position in the rushing order of closing events is unmistakably defined in Revelation 6:12, 13. "And I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind." History has witnessed the fulfillment

of time in which to renounce sin and claim the promises of His love.

The shaking of the powers of the heavens is further elucidated by additional scriptures. From Hebrews 12:26, 27; Joel 3:16, and Jeremiah 25:30-33, we learn that it is the voice of God, speaking with majesty and great power from heaven, that causes this movement of the elements. The Lord spoke audibly to Moses when He gave the law at Mount

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By T. Austin Davis

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The thought that we are living under the latter part of the sixth seal should be sufficient stimulus to every Christian to "work while it is yet day." The first five seals of Revelation 6 were fulfilled during the period of the apostolic church, the time extending up to the latter part of medieval history. The Lisbon earthquake, the signs in the sun, moon, and stars constitute the fulfillment of the first four predictions under the sixth seal. The last and most momentous aspect of this prophecy is embodied in the fourteenth verse, "The heaven departed as a scroll." This event, with its resulting consequences, concludes the prediction making up the fifth phase of the sixth seal. So we might apportion the seal under which we are living into five

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# Security VERSUS Freedom

## Selling the Birthright for a Mess of Pottage

THERE IS a saying that you cannot eat your cake and have it too. Equally true is it that you cannot obtain security from the governments of earth by surrendering your liberties to them. Millions of good Americans fall for what they call "state economic security," a term now used by scheming politicians who promise to furnish a full breadbasket, shelter, clothing, medical care, and old-age sustenance, provided you surrender your individual initiative, free enterprise, freedom of speech, of press, of politics, and of religion to the government.

The term "state economic security" as defined and presented by certain so-called social and economic reformers is

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By C. S. Longacre

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nothing less than state servitude. When a government offers security at the price of slavery, the people will have to choose between being free men or bureaucratic slaves of the government.

Do the American people want the government to offer them "economic security" by furnishing them food, shelter, and the common necessities of life, or do they want the state to offer them the liberties guaranteed to them under the Constitution and the bill of Rights? The people can have one of these two alternatives, but they cannot have both.

Every government in the past that has offered security to its citizens under government patronage and subsidies has administered its grants and gifts to the people at the price of their liberties, both civil and religious. The state, whenever it becomes the dispenser of gratuities to the people, demands an equivalent surrender of the fundamental prerogatives and sovereignty of the people. We must never forget that liberties once surrendered to governments in lieu of "economic security" are exceedingly difficult to regain.

The slaves, before they were emancipated by Abraham Lincoln, enjoyed eco-



EWING GALLOWAY

*We cannot afford to sell our freedom of speech or any of our other freedoms for so-called governmental security measures.*

omic security at the hands of their masters. Likewise the serfs in Russia and in all other totalitarian governments have limited security. But that is all that the state does offer them. They are merely tools for the state, which is deified. The state is everything. The individual is nothing. Let a citizen say one word in opposition to the aims and schemes of a totalitarian government and he is sent to a concentration camp or has to face a firing squad before sunset.

A prisoner in jail has "economic security" furnished him by the state—food, shelter, and clothing. Only criminals and vagabonds who are too lazy to earn

a living for themselves elect to go there to get "state economic security." Men who love freedom and economic independence elect to obtain their security outside instead of inside a prison under state supervision.

There are only a few abnormal people who crave government security. No normal, healthy person with red blood flowing through his arteries wants the security a government offers to its indigent citizens. Does a sane and capable man want economic security from the government, or an opportunity to hoe his own row and earn his own livelihood? Does

*(Continued on page 18)*

**W**ONDERFUL indeed is the transformation that comes from a true and living faith in Jesus. The satisfied look of the eye, the tender tone of the voice, the brightened features of the countenance, the abiding peace within, the victorious power in the life, and the sweet spirit manifested in the daily life, all bear witness to the heavenly transformation that has come to pass.

The privilege of exercising saving faith is one of the marvels of God's dealings with man. It is founded on the fact that He comes to the wicked through Christ, no matter how deeply sunk in sin they are, and offers them divine power to overcome their sins if they will only accept it through His beloved Son, by believing that it is theirs through Christ. The apostle Paul thus expresses the form of faith: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

How reasonable is God's plan of salvation by faith in Christ. Let us notice another clear statement made by Paul: "I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to *every man* the measure of faith." Romans 12:3. Think of it! To every man on earth has been given the exact measure of faith needed to be exercised in being saved. It can therefore be used in the saving of the soul. The exercise of faith, in some form, in one another is one of the common attributes of mankind that is being continually manifested from morning till night by all. Why should it not be exercised in a saving relation toward Christ? The foundation of learning is a knowledge of the alphabet and of figures. But a knowledge of these comes only through the child's simple faith. He is

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**By John W. Halliday**

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told what they stand for, and he then believes it. So by the exercise of simple faith in Christ, the sinner is led into the blessings of salvation.

How clearly and definitely God has promised in His sacred word that He will transform those who are willing to follow Him by obedience, since He has declared: "A *new heart* also will I give you, and a *new spirit* will I put within

you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and *cause* you to walk in My statutes, and ye *shall* keep My judgments, and do them." Ezekiel 36:26, 27. What triumphant promises! God promises not only a new heart

and a new spirit, but also that He will see that His plan will be really successful, that we really *will* serve Him. What encouragement for those who are afraid they might not hold out if they decided to yield!

How plainly Jesus has taught us how  
(Continued on page 19)

## *Transformed by Faith in Jesus*

Exercising Saving Faith



A. DEVANEY

*Faith in Christ changes our outlook to uplook, and brings peace, joy, and spiritual satisfaction that is gained in no other way.*

# The SABBATH and the Resurrection of Christ

## *Should Christians Keep Sunday in Honor of the Resurrection?*

A FAVORITE argument of those who observe the first day of the week is that they do so because the resurrection of the Lord Jesus on that day constituted it the Christian Sabbath, to supersede the seventh day of the week, which they designate the Jewish Sabbath.

Those who observe the seventh day are often told that if they believe that Christ arose from the dead on the first day of the week, they have given away their whole argument for the seventh-day Sabbath to the Sundaykeepers, because the resurrection constitutes the day on which it occurred as the Christian Sabbath.

But in each case the argument is based on a deadly fallacy. It is assumed, totally without foundation, that the occurrence of an event as important as the resurrection makes the day a sabbath. Such an assumption betrays a lack of comprehension of what constitutes a sabbath and how it is instituted. A sabbath is a sacred day of rest appointed, instituted, by the Ruler of the universe. There is no connection between the instituting of the Sabbath and the resurrection—and that is not meant to be derogatory to the importance of either.

The only Sabbath known to the Scriptures is called "the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." (Exodus 20:8-11.) Never in Holy Writ is it called either the Jewish Sabbath or the Christian Sabbath. Those terms are later inventions, unknown in apostolic days.

"The Sabbath of the Lord" was instituted by the Lord—by the fiat of the Almighty—in the most solemn and public manner in which any decree or law has

the Divine Lawgiver, the fact that an event of even such transcendent importance as the resurrection took place on a certain day cannot make that day the Sabbath. The occurrence of an event on a day does not institute a Sabbath—only the command of God institutes a Sabbath. Therefore as far as having any bearing on which day is the Sabbath, the question as to which was the day of the resurrection is irrelevant, immaterial, and not pertaining to the point under discussion.

I may illustrate by an analogy. The proclamation of the president of the United States constitutes a certain day in November as Thanksgiving Day. Someone might say, "But I believe that the adoption of the Declaration of Independence is a more important event in our history than the colonial feast day. Therefore the Fourth of July is Thanksgiving Day." Everyone at once

absence of such a proclamation, no event, no matter how important, could make the anniversary of its occurrence Thanksgiving Day.

Sundaykeepers, therefore, in appealing to the resurrection of Christ on Sunday as authorization of the first-day Sab-



B. PLOCKHORST, ARTIST

*Many people claim that it is more important to observe the day of Christ's resurrection than the Sabbath that He kept and commanded.*

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By Mary Hunter Moore

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ever been promulgated. Any change, substitution, ending, or alteration of such a law must be promulgated with equal solemnity and publicity. Before a new Sabbath can be instituted, the first must have been repealed by the same Power that promulgated it in the first place. Such a repeal of one Sabbath and institution of a different Sabbath has never taken place. Without such fiat acts of

sees the absurdity of such an argument. The proclamation of the president constituted a certain day Thanksgiving Day. Only his proclamation could abolish or change Thanksgiving Day. In the

bath are using an argument which does not apply. And seventh-day keepers, in believing in a Sunday resurrection, are not giving away their argument, for their appeal is to the fiat of the Lawgiver, not to an event.

Having defined how the Sabbath was instituted, we are ready to consider what is the real relation between the Sabbath of the Lord and the resurrection.

A Sabbath is a rest—a cessation from labor, from a finished work. A resurrection is the resumption of activity after a cessation. It is the beginning of activity, not its end. The seventh-day Sabbath was instituted as a cessation from activity in honor of a finished creation. The seventh-day Sabbath was appropriately celebrated by the Son of God as a day of rest from the finished redemption. The first day means the beginning of work and activity. It was the first day of creation; it was the first day of the gospel work. Therefore Sunday can never be the Sabbath. It was not so constituted by divine command. Christ did not rest on it. Rather, on it He did His first work under the gospel dispensation. The same divine command which constrains us to rest on the seventh day orders us to work on the other six days. Sunday, then, is the first working day of creation and of the gospel.

Many conscientious Sabbathkeepers think that, in order to answer the arguments of Sundaykeepers, they must interpret the gospel record to show that Christ arose on Sabbath afternoon, after having been in the grave exactly seventy-two hours. But the necessity of seeking for a Sabbath-afternoon resurrection entirely ceases when it is clearly understood that the time when the resurrection took place does not institute a Sabbath. It is then possible to accept without fearfulness what has been believed from apostolic times and what is amply expressed in the gospels: that Christ died on the preparation day before the seventh-day Sabbath, rested in the tomb during the entire sacred day, and arose to begin the gospel dispensation on Sunday, the first working day of creation and redemption. (Luke 23:50-56; 24:1-3.)

A rule of Biblical exegesis of the highest importance is that obscure texts are to be interpreted in the light of clear texts. One obscure—or even apparently contradictory—expression cannot be used to overthrow an interpretation that is established by a number of clear and uncontrovertible texts. Those who feel that in order to support their Sabbath-keeping they must prove a Sabbath-

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## New Year's Resolutions

By C. L. Paddock



**D**ID YOU ever hear of a person making a long list of New Year's resolutions at the beginning of the new year and breaking most of them before the end of January? Maybe you have done this very thing yourself. A great many people have. Because of this you may have decided it is of no use to make resolutions, that no good comes from it.

The way to right doing is not downhill. It is not crowded, either. Most of the good things we have done have been the results of resolutions, a determination on our part. We do not drift into the harbor of goodness. We first pick our landing place and then do some vigorous rowing to get there.

Any progress we make is largely because of setting a goal and determining to reach it. There would not be much progress in commerce, in science, in the giving of the gospel, or in our lives, without some resolutions.

Visiting us recently was a family with a dear little girl of about ten months. She had been crawling all over the place on her hands and knees, but was just learning to take her first steps. I saw her let loose of a chair to which she had been clinging and start for a near-by table. She took a couple of steps and went down with a thud. She cried a little, crawled back to the chair, pulled herself up again, and started for the table once more. She fell more than once, but each time, with resolution in eye and action, she kept at it until she could make the short distance on foot.

The Wright boys resolved that they would make a machine that would fly. The citizens of Dayton called them "the crazy Wright brothers," but they kept on with their experiments. The first contraptions they made did not fly, but they tried again and again.

Samuel Morse was told by the United States Congress that they would just as soon give money to

build a railway line to the moon as to vote funds for him to build an experimental line over which he expected to send messages. Morse had made some resolutions, and in 1844 he sent over the wires the message, "What Hath God Wrought!"

Fulton resolved that he would propel a boat by steam, and he did. Columbus determined that he would find a shorter way to the Indies, that he would go east by sailing west, and he discovered America. Ford resolved that he would make a horseless carriage, and he succeeded.

Westinghouse made some resolutions or he would never have invented the air brake. The promoters of the first railroad made some resolutions, too, or the railway would not have gone through to the West. Carey was a man of faith and courage, and although the heads of the church tried to discourage the young man, he determined that he would carry the gospel to the ends of the entire earth.

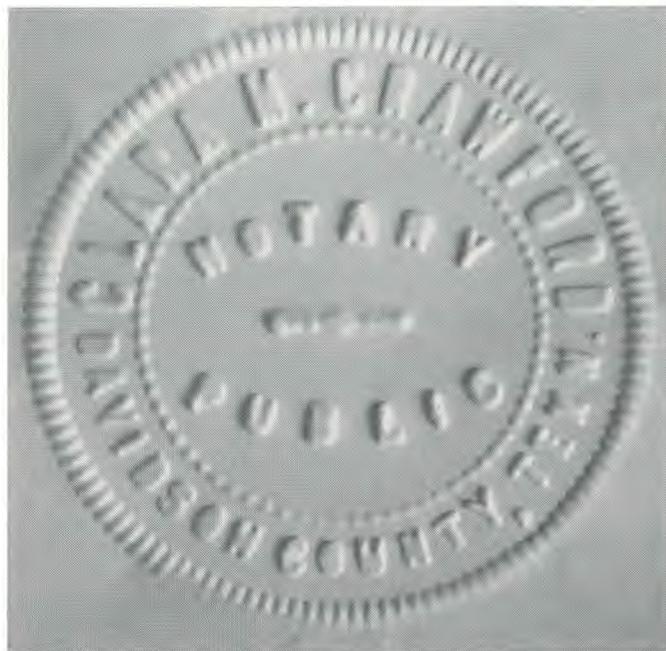
Many have resolved and broken their resolutions. Thousands have started and have fallen out by the way. But not many people have really gotten anywhere who did not set a goal for themselves and make a start toward that destination. Not many have done anything worth while without a determination to do. I am inclined to believe that heaven is very much interested in the individual who is going some place, who has made resolutions to do better, to overcome, to accomplish something for God and man.

I can think of many, many good things that have come to us because of resolutions. But I cannot think of much harm that will come to any of us because at this New Year's time we resolve to change our ways, to overcome a bad habit, to grow, to improve, to accomplish new things. Even if we may have tried and failed before, we would not want to cease in our striving.

AT THE very beginning of our search for the seal of God our attention is directed to the law of God. As in the case of all other laws, so here, there is a seal, the seal of the Law-giver.

"Bind thou up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples. And I will wait for Jehovah, that hideth His face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for Him." Isaiah 8:16, 17, A. R. V.

This passage in Isaiah is a counterpart to the prophecy of the sealing work in Revelation 7:1-3. It has reference to the same time, the time when men "wait for Jehovah," and "look for Him." It is a time when men are girding themselves and con-



A seal placed on a document or law must contain the name, title, and territory of jurisdiction of the sealer to make it legal. Where do we find these three things in God's Law?

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Exodus 20:3.

The Author of this command, His authority for giving it, and the extent of the jurisdiction in which it is to be obeyed, are not given in this commandment. This is not the seal.

A careful examination of the second commandment, the third, the fifth, the sixth, the seventh, the eighth, the ninth, and the tenth will reveal that none of these contain the name, the authority, and the jurisdiction of the true God. The second commandment forbids the making and the worship of images, but fails to disclose who the true God is. The third forbids taking the name

## What Is the SEAL of GOD?

### Is It Necessary for Christians to Have It?

By Carlyle B. Haynes

federating themselves in great combinations and unions and parties, only to be broken to pieces. Verses 9-14. It is a time when the delusions of Spiritualism are widespread. Verses 19, 20. It is a time of distress and famine, and all the troubles of the last days. Verses 21, 22. In that time God's message to His people is, "Seal the law among My disciples."

This both indicates that the seal of God is in His law, and that at some time it had been removed from the law. The time of waiting for the Lord's return is the time for the restoration of His seal. It is to be returned to its rightful place in the law, and also in the observance of His people.

A seal, in the ordinary usage of the term, contains three features, and it constitutes an official signature to a legal document. First, it identifies the sealer by giving his name. Second, it sets forth his authority, or office, or title, or position. Third, it describes his jurisdiction, or the extent of his authority. No seal would be complete without these three features, for it would not be sufficiently identifying. Thus if it is the seal of a Notary Public, it must contain his name,

his title, and the area, or territory, in which he has the right to serve as a Notary Public. Thus: *Arthur P. Ransome, Notary Public, County of Mercer, New Jersey.*

If it is the seal, or signature, of a higher officer, it must contain the same three features. For the highest officer in a state it would be *Thomas E. Dewey, Governor of New York.* If a fully identifying seal for the chief officer of the nation is required, it would still need the same three features, thus: *Harry S. Truman, President, United States of America.*

The seal of God must contain these three distinguishing features in order to constitute a genuine seal. It will contain His name, His authority, and the extent of His jurisdiction. It will be a part of His law, according to Isaiah 8:16, 17, and it will be a part of that law in order to give it validity and force, for that is the purpose of a seal.

In searching for God's seal we examine the first of the Ten Command-

ments of God in vain, but does not reveal who this God is. The fifth inculcates honor for parents, the sixth forbids murder, the seventh forbids impurity, the eighth forbids theft, the ninth forbids lying, and the tenth forbids covetousness, but none of them make plain who the Author of the law is, and what claim He has, in the way of authority, to obedience.

The fourth commandment, however, contains all three features of a seal. Of all the ten, it alone sets forth the name, the authority, and the dominion of the Author of the law. This is the fourth commandment:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is a Sabbath unto Jehovah thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Jehovah blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11, A. R. V.

Here is every feature of a seal. "In

six days Jehovah [this is His name] made [here is His authority and title, for this shows Him to be *Creator*] heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is [this is His dominion, or the extent of His jurisdiction]." After reading this commandment there can be no question as to who the Author of the Ten-Commandment law is. And by the revelation here contained, that He is the Creator, every other god is shown to be a false god. There are gods many, and lords many, but there is but one Creator. He is the true God. This is *His* law. And this commandment is *His* seal, "the seal of the living God."

He claims it specifically as His sign, or seal, or mark.

"Verily ye shall keep My Sabbaths: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generation; that ye may know that I am Jehovah who sanctifieth you." Exodus 31:13, A. R. V.

"I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am Jehovah that sanctifieth them." Ezekiel 20:12, A. R. V.

"And hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am Jehovah your God." Ezekiel 20:20, A. R. V.

The great sign of the creative power of God, wherever and however that power may be manifested, is the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. That power was manifested in creation, and the Sabbath is the sign of it. That power was manifested in redemption, and the Sabbath is the sign of it. That power is manifested in sanctification, and the Sabbath is the sign of it.

The fourth commandment, then, contains the "seal of the living God." The prophecy of the "sealing of the servants of our God" in these last days is a prophecy of a reformation in Sabbath observance in which the seal, which was removed from the law when Sunday observance was substituted by the apostate system for true Sabbathkeeping, will be restored to its rightful place, in obedience to the prophecy of Isaiah to "seal the law among My disciples."

It is of more than ordinary significance to observe that the keeping of the true Sabbath of God, the seventh day, in these days does set a person apart, and puts upon him a distinguishing mark. It sets him apart from other Christians and from unbelievers alike. He becomes at once a marked and a peculiar person by merely endeavoring to carry out the plain teaching of the fourth commandment.

The glorious appearing of our Lord at His second coming is the event covered

by the seventh seal. Each seal has carried us nearer to this final consummation. Now the long-looked-for and eagerly awaited event itself takes place. Short and terse are the words of the prophecy:

"And when He had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour." Revelation 8:1.

All periods of time used in connection with symbolic prophecy are themselves symbolic. The divine rule of reckoning such time is given in Ezekiel 4:6, in the words which contain a key for all prophetic time. "I have appointed thee each day for a year."

Using this rule it is not difficult to determine the exact period of literal time covered by the expression "the space of half an hour." Half an hour is a forty-eighth part of a literal day. As each day stands for a year, all that is required is to divide a year by forty-eight and the time covered by this silence in heaven is disclosed. It results in a period of about seven and one-half days.

The prophecy indicates, then, that there will be silence in heaven for approximately a week. The significance of this can be seen when it is considered that silence would be obtained in heaven by the absence of all its inhabitants. Just such an emptying of heaven is to take place when Jesus comes to the earth.

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit on the throne of His glory." Matthew 25:31.

The reason why all the angels of heaven accompany their Lord on His second visit to the earth is stated by the Lord Himself in His own prophecy of His coming.

"He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 24:31.

As all the angels will come with Christ at His second advent, it is natural that there would be "silence in heaven." This silence will prevail for about a week. This indicates that from the time Christ and the angels leave heaven to come to this earth, until the time they return with the redeemed people of the Lord, a period of a week will elapse.

With the great event of our Lord's return the prophecy of the seven seals closes. We are now confronted with the grandest event in the entire history of the human race. Through all the centuries the eyes of our Lord have watched

(Continued on page 19)

## TERSE TOPICS

**ANIMALS TOLD TO BE GOOD**—"The animals came to church here (Hereford, England) yesterday, and they sat very solemnly as they heard a Church of England clergyman say there is a very good chance they will go to Heaven. They will have to be good, of course. The extraordinary occasion for such piety in the animal kingdom was a special service at the Holy Trinity Church on the eve of the Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of the animals. Children of the community were invited to bring their pets."—*Associated Press*.

**"DON'T BURP THE BABY"**—"This advice, contrary to that in all the baby books, was given by Dr. William F. Burdick, associate professor of pediatrics at Georgetown University School of Medicine, at the meeting in Washington of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

Twins who at two and one-half months started vomiting most and sometimes all of their feedings were cited as an example of the trouble burping can cause. Their mother reported she never put the babies down until they got up their 'bubbles.' When she was persuaded to let them suck without interruption until they seemed satisfied and then to put them down without burping, their vomiting stopped.

If baby shows discomfort, there may be some value to the burping procedure, Dr. Burdick said, but he thinks it is often carried too far. It takes a reversal of the normal peristaltic movement of the digestive tract to achieve a burp, he pointed out. The same reversal occurs in vomiting. This may explain the vomiting of some babies. Or, he suggested, they may vomit from resentment over being forced to burp."—*Science News Letter*, October 9, 1948.



ADOLPHE BOUGUEREAU

*The birthplace of Christ was named in the prophecies of the Old Testament many years before He was born.*

# Good OR GOD-M

*Old Testament Evidences That*

By Robert H. Pie

political divisions of Palestine is designated—Judea. The finger of Inspiration is placed on the very town in which, centuries later, the Christ Child would be born—Bethlehem.

“There’s a song in the air!  
There’s a star in the sky!  
There’s a mother’s deep prayer  
And a baby’s low cry!  
And the star rains its fire  
While the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem  
Cradles a King!”

The rejection of Christ by His own people is foretold in Isaiah 53:3: “He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.”

The tragic fulfillment of these words is to be found in John 1:10, 11: “He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.”

“He came to His own—  
to the ones that He  
loved;  
The sheep that had  
wandered astray—

“AND THAT the Lord may send Jesus your long-decreed Christ. . . . Ages ago God spoke of this by the lips of His holy prophets.” Acts 3:20, 21, Moffat.

In these words Peter, standing on Solomon’s porch of the temple, declared that Jesus Christ came as the direct fulfillment of prophecies uttered “since the world began.” Verse 21, A. V. This claim, boldly stated by the disciple, is well substantiated by New Testament revelations of Old Testament prophecies. According to Scripture He who should come as earth’s Messiah must stand many exacting tests. No loopholes were left for imposters to come in and deceive. Only One has ever successfully met all these tests. That One was the God-Man Jesus Christ.

Prove it for yourself.

Many of these prophecies were penned hundreds of years before the Saviour’s earthly ministry. In Isaiah 7:14, speaking of the Messiah-to-come, Inspiration records: “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

The prophet here says that earth’s redeemer should be born of a virgin.

More than seven hundred years later the gospel writer Matthew records the fulfillment of this prophecy in the experience of our Lord. “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 1:18.

Then we have the words of the angel as he spoke to Joseph concerning the child to be born: “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.” Verse 21.

Another prophet, Micah, over seven hundred years before the Saviour was born, foretold the very place of His birth: “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2.

Here can be no happenstance. The country, Palestine, is named. One of the

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# AN?

## *Was the Son of God*

They heard not His voice, but the  
Friend of mankind  
Was hated and driven away."

—J. W. Van De Venter.

The nature of the Messiah's work was also referred to prophetically by the gospel prophet in Isaiah 61:1-3: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me: because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the

*Christ's unfair trial and sentence were revealed  
centuries before they occurred.*



ANTONIO CISERI

day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified."

Hundreds of years later, as the Saviour worshiped one Sabbath day in the synagogue, He announced His own fulfillment of Isaiah's words. Taking the book that was handed to Him, Jesus read:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18, 19.

The Holy Scriptures foretold that Christ was to be betrayed by one of His own disciples. (Psalm 41:9.) Zechariah predicted the exact price for which Jesus would be sold, also declaring that this money would be cast down upon the floor of the temple and would finally be used to purchase a potter's field. (Zechariah 11:12, 13.)

The tragic scenes in connection with the closing days of the Saviour's earthly ministry were clearly delineated by the writers of Old Testament prophecy. The psalmist foretold that false witnesses would be brought. (Psalm 27:12.) Isaiah was shown the silent resignation with which the Saviour received the taunts of his accusers. (Isaiah 53:7.) That gall and vinegar would be given Him was foreseen by the psalmist (Psalm 69:21) who also mentioned that not a bone of His body was to be broken (Psalm 34:20).

"One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain,

One day they nailed Him to die on the tree;

Suffering anguish, despised and rejected;  
Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He!"

Isaiah gave a foresight into the experience of Joseph as he sought the body of our Lord to lay him in the tomb of the rich. (Isaiah 53:9.) But this was not the end. Satan's prison house could



G. SCHONNHERR

*Greatest of all the promises in the Old Testament is the promise of Christ's victory over death and the grave.*

not contain the Lord of heaven and earth. (Psalm 16:10.)

The life story of most men ends with death, but here was a Wonderful One whom death could not hold. The portals of the tomb were but thresholds of new services for the human race for Jesus Christ. Even in Old Testament times Holy men of God were shown His glorious resurrection.

"Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captivity captive: Thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them." Psalm 68:18.

"One day the grave could conceal Him no longer,

One day the stone rolled away from the door;

Then He arose, over death He had conquered;

Now is ascended, my Lord evermore!"

In eloquent strains all the writers of God's Word blend their voices in the glad Hallelujah Chorus proclaiming Christ Lord of all:

"Adam will tell you, It is the seed of the woman that shall bruise the serpent's head.

"Ask Abraham, he will tell you, It is 'Melchizedek King of Salem,' King of Peace. Genesis 14:18.

"Jacob will tell you, He is Shiloh of the tribe of Judah.

"Isaiah will tell you, 'Immanuel,'  
(Continued on page 13)



**Political Pollsters Fail**

THE PROGNOSTICATORS had it all figured out that the Republican Party was sure to win a sweeping victory on November the second, but something went wrong. The predictions utterly failed. This must have been a bitter disappointment to the poll takers. They were so sure that they were right. It reminds us of the failure of *The Literary Digest* in the prediction it made twelve years ago. It never recovered from that experience. Perhaps some of the present pollsters will find it difficult to hold the confidence of the people in their predictions after this failure.

Newspapers, magazines, radio commentators, and news analysts all believed the public-opinion polls. Dr. George Gallup led a veritable army out on a limb. The general public believed that his prediction would come true.

The campaign of the Republican Party was planned on the firm belief that it could not lose. Perhaps if the party had foreseen even a close race, it would have planned a more aggressive campaign, and it might have won. Perhaps many who would have made an effort to get out and vote did not do so because they were lulled into a sense of security as regards the final victory.

All this just goes to show how undependable men's predictions can be. It also proves that public opinion can be wrong. Public opinion no doubt robbed many people of life in the days of Noah. They believed that a flood could never strike this world.

We came down a little further in history to the day when Jesus Christ walked among men. Public opinion was against Him. The leaders, the wise men, the would-be prognosticators predicted His defeat. They told the people that He was not the Son of God, and the people believed them.

We can come down even closer, yes, even to our day, and we find that there is little faith in the greatest event in all the world's history—the second coming of Christ. Public opinion is against it as far as the masses are concerned. Oh, yes, there are many who do believe that the events of our day reveal that His glorious coming is near. But how many are preparing for that great day? The prognosticators soothe the people by tell-

ing them that they have time, that everything is going to be all right, that they need not get excited. Great numbers of people are deceived into thinking that victory will be theirs, that they will get by somehow.

The only safe chart and compass for the inhabitants of the world in these crucial days is the Bible. The prophecies in this Book are sure. They never have and never will fail.

Peter has well said: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19.



**"U. S. Eating Unfit Meat"**

"UNSUSPECTING" Americans are eating millions of pounds of unfit meat each year, the American Veterinary Medical Association's convention in San

Francisco was warned." (See the *Science News Letter*, August 28, 1948.)

Because city and state inspection is inadequate, more than 40,000,000 pounds of unfit meat went to public markets last year. The report stated that "complete inspection includes examination of the animal before slaughter as well as after. 'Only a few states' have such a program, the committee charged."

"Only about one half of the clean poultry sold received veterinary inspection, the report said. Nearly one-twelfth of the poultry inspected was rejected for human consumption."

Perhaps we have a clue to the increase of diseases among human beings in this report. It seems reasonable to believe that disease-ridden meat would be a conveyor of disease to human beings. It can hardly be controverted that the consumption of unfit meat is a very dangerous thing for the American public.

At the same time that the above report



INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

The first world council of churches assembled in Amsterdam with more than 1,500 delegates present, representing 150 churches and 42 nations. It is called a "Spiritual United Nations."



INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

One of the most tender spots on the bruised body of this war-battered world is Potsdamer Platz in Berlin, where Russians, Americans, and British are within arm's length of each other.

was given by the American Veterinary Medical Association, it was also reported that "human cases of brucellosis, a disease acquired from infected animals, have increased sixty-fold in the past two decades."—*Ibid.*

These facts give us cause for concern. No doubt the vegetarian diet that God originally planned for man had more merit than the present heavy meat diet that man is indulging in. Man evidently thrived under God's plan, for the ages of the early patriarchs numbered into the hundreds of years, while today, in this disease-ridden and heavy-meat-eating world, man is lucky to reach the age of three score and ten.



### When God Shakes the World

IN THE September, 1948, issue of *Coronet* there appears an article entitled "Sudden Death from the Sky," in which an imaginary word picture is given of the destruction of New York City by a meteorite. We quote:

"Disaster came without warning. A frightful roar filled the air and the skies above New York City were suddenly lit with ghastly radiance. A moment later there was the titanic scream of a huge missile dropping onto a helpless city. The shattered remains of skyscrapers leaped into the air. Giant spurts of flame burst from a thousand different spots. . . . The seismographs of the world indicated a major earthquake. Meanwhile a stunned world heard the news: not a human being left alive in the ruins of greater New

York—tens of thousands more injured within a fifty-mile radius."

The article also refers to the greatest meteorite of modern times that crashed into the wild and bleak area of Siberia in 1908. In a circle twenty-five miles in diameter "not a living thing, plant or animal, survived the onslaught by the incandescent mass from space." The story also is told of the meteorite that dug a huge crater 600 feet deep in Arizona.

In connection with these hair-raising stories of catastrophes, we have had a number of predictions lately by scientists warning that the world is getting ready to tip over. They say that the weight of the Antarctic ice cap is increasing and will cause the world to roll over. As the *Science News Letter*, September 11, 1948, states, "Such a drastic event would presumably flood most of the lands of the earth."

Men who have faith in God's Word know that there will never be another world flood. The rainbow seen in the heavens from time to time reminds us of God's covenant of promise. Neither do Bible believers expect the world to suffer destruction from collision with some other heavenly body. Of course it is not denied that there is the possibility of certain areas being struck by meteorites. But when it comes to the matter of the destruction of the earth, we know that God is reserving it unto the day of judgment for punishment. When God does destroy this wicked world it will be a thorough work. Yes, the earth will tip over all right, it will roll and turn and shake when God gives the command. Here are a few striking texts from the Bible that reveal what is

to come: "Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of His fierce anger." Isaiah 13:13. Again we read: "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof." Isaiah 24:1. The Lord also declares: "The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." Isaiah 24:20.

These and other prophetic revelations in God's Word give us an impressive picture of the final destruction of the earth. Scientists seem to be getting more fearful of some calamity occurring, or, if not that, of atomic obliteration. But it will be God who will settle the destiny of our world, and in His own good time. Realizing that we are in the hands of an omnipotent God, and that He can speak the word that will smash the earth and cause it to shake, rend, and tremble from end to end, ought to bring a sense of respect to our hearts. As we view the cross and the sacrifice that God made there for us in order to save us from the wrath to come, it should force from our lips the declaration: "What manner of love is this!"

### Good Man or God-Man?

(Continued from page 11)

'Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.' Isaiah 7:14; 9:6.

"Jeremiah will tell you, The branch of David, 'the Lord our righteousness.' Jeremiah 23:6.

"Daniel will tell you, He is the Messiah.

"Hosea will tell you, He is 'the Lord God of hosts; the Lord is His memorial.' Hosea 12:5.

"John the Baptist will tell you, He is 'the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.' John 1:29.

"The great Jehovah has proclaimed from His throne, 'This is My beloved Son.' Matthew 3:17.

"We, His disciples, declare, This is Jesus, the Messiah, the Prince of life, the Redeemer of the world.

"And the prince of the powers of darkness acknowledges Him, saying, 'I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God.' Mark 1:24."—*Desire of Ages*, pp. 578, 579.

Jesus was "preached unto you . . . by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:20, 21.

**I**N OUR FRIGHT and panic over the present epidemic of poliomyelitis and our present inability to either cure or to definitely control its spread, we are likely to forget the tremendous progress made in preventive and curative medicine in recent years. Much of this has been within the memory of the writer. Hence a little review of past accomplishments and those occurring almost every day will hearten us. While the cure for every ill of the human body cannot be expected, or preventive measures attained, those already achieved are little short of miraculous.

When our forefathers landed in America, they brought smallpox with them. Many historians think that the rapid spread of this disease and the consequent destruction of thousands of hostile natives had much to do with the ease and speed of the settlement of this new land. But people both here and in Europe, as well as in the rest of the world, were constantly being destroyed by smallpox, bubonic plague, typhus fever, typhoid fever, dysentery, tuberculosis, and diphtheria. The epidemics we usually call "childhood diseases" (measles, scarlet fever, chicken pox, infantile diarrheas, etc.) were severe. Malaria and other fevers were very destructive. Insect pests, such as lice, fleas, bedbugs, flies, mosquitoes, and others, were regarded as necessary evils.

Now we can completely prevent many of the above-mentioned diseases, cure many others as well as prevent them. But they do still occur through carelessness, stubbornness, stupidity, or lack of knowledge on the part of many people. Others can be partly controlled or cured if doctors get them early. Still other diseases baffle us more or less completely; but we have conquered or largely overcome many of the destructive diseases of the past. Today thousands of our best medical brains are working on these problems, with almost limitless financial support and all the resources of science backing them, so there is great hope of soon advancing to the control of some that are still great problems.

Let us refresh our minds on what has been done, as an encouragement to the future. It was only 152 years ago (1796) that the vaccination against smallpox was used for the first time. With it came the beginning of the control of this most destructive disease which had ravaged all humanity up to this time. Since then we have learned to control smallpox so completely that, with co-operation of a population, it can be completely eliminated, as it has been from many communities. If it occurs

now, we regard it as something to be much ashamed of.

Diphtheria was very destructive when the writer was a young doctor. While I was an intern, the discovery of the

a single case for years. This is one of the terrible infections that can also be cured by early treatment.

Typhoid fever next fell under our attacks and has disappeared from all

# POLIOMYELITIS

## The Doctor Advises About Infantile Paralysis



PHOTO BY ANN ROSENER, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

*Great progress has been made in combatting the advancing tide of poliomyelitis in our land. We must fight it down!*

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**By Colonel George A. Skinner, M.D.**

---

antitoxin was made, and we saw the disease that had destroyed thousands of children annually gradually disappear. Today many communities have not had

well-governed communities. It does not need to occur anywhere. Hydrophobia (rabies), tetanus (lockjaw), yellow fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever,

tularemia, typhus fever, brucellosis (Malta, or undulant fever) and bubonic plague can largely be prevented by vaccination.

The control of practically any insect or rodent pest is possible where a community will pay the price. Animal diseases that also attack men are mostly preventable.

The above-mentioned maladies have largely yielded to preventive measures, but as yet we have no certain cures, though many are promptly relieved by proper treatment. Diphtheria, scarlet fever, tularemia, malaria, venereal diseases, and many tropical diseases, some forms of cancer, and many surgical conditions now respond promptly to treatment and the patients often quickly recover. Recent reports indicate that brucellosis is also being cured.

Tuberculosis can be almost certainly prevented, and many cases that are discovered early are completely arrested (some say cured) by modern methods.

It is true that we do not yet know the answer relative to poliomyelitis. We all recognize its gravity, yet it is much less serious than many other diseases. It is much in the headlines because so many children are suddenly crippled or die from its attacks. But we do know that, compared to the number attacked, the death rate is relatively low and the number of cripples is comparatively small.

There are thousands of cases so mild that they are not recognized at all as polio. Some authorities go so far as to say that practically all of us have had or will get the disease sometime, and those who recover have complete protection for life.

We have learned that some treatments are partly successful. If paralysis does occur, much can be done in re-educating the child to use the partly paralyzed muscles. In some cases, transplanting other muscles that are active secures considerable motion.

We have not yet found out how poliomyelitis spreads most commonly, though it is known that the virus is found in the secretions of the nose and throat and in bowel movements. Insects have been charged with the spread of the disease, but this has not yet been proved.

We know that when polio is about, children are the ones most often attacked. It is, however, not confined to children and many young adults also suffer. No age is completely exempt, but as we grow older the immunity (resistance) to the infection seems to be almost complete. But we do know that children should be kept from swim-

ming pools and away from unnecessary crowds, like movies, etc. No place is exempt from attack, but the fewer people around, the less likely attacks are.

With the great amount of investigation being carried on by the most skilled talent, we are certain that, difficult as the problem is, it will be solved in the near future. Other difficult problems have been solved, perhaps by a lucky accident, but more often by persistent, hard work. In the meantime panic and fear are of no use.

If there is the slightest indisposition on the part of a child during an epidemic of polio, such as a "cold", slight fever, fretfulness, apparent pain upon movement, mild convulsions, stiff neck, vomiting, drowsiness, especially if these symptoms develop suddenly, competent medical advice should be secured at once and a careful watch kept, as early treatment is of much greater value than later efforts.

If an epidemic of poliomyelitis does start, the local community, unless fully prepared, should not attempt to handle it alone, but should call upon the Red Cross or the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis of New York City, New York. These organizations have

properly trained personnel and are equipped in every way to combat the disease.

All cases should be treated in hospitals if possible. Complications may come on suddenly and only prompt and skilled treatment, often with complicated equipment such as the "iron lung," can save life.

By far the great majority of those who are attacked recover completely. Those partly disabled at first usually greatly improve or recover.

The writer has great faith that there will be an early discovery of control of poliomyelitis. He has seen established most of the controls of the many diseases mentioned and there are many others less known that have not been included in the list.

Everyone can help to this end by assisting the present efforts through the "march of dimes," the Red Cross, and other drives, and thus have a part in the conquest of this dreaded disease. Those interested, and having time, may be instructed to assist in the care of polio cases on a volunteer basis, and they will be of great value in assisting doctors and trained nurses in their war on poliomyelitis.



*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.

*Is tobacco known to have any effect on a child in the embryonic state when the mother is a heavy smoker?—F.L.*

While we do not have a great deal of statistical material regarding the effect of smoking mothers on their unborn offspring, there is much evidence that such an exposure of the fetus to so virulent a poison is not without effect upon the infant. The more immature the tissue or cells, the more easily they can be injured by any chemical or mechanical agent. Embryonic tissue cells, when exposed to something harmful are destroyed before the surrounding normal cells are killed, just as cancer cells which resemble embryonic tissue, are destroyed by X-ray, heat, etc., before neighboring cells. Something is happening to American hearts and blood vessels. Reports in daily papers are enough to show that deaths from bad hearts and high blood pressure are almost assuming epidemic proportions. One package of cigarettes may often contain enough poison to kill ten men if it were extracted and injected into them. It is doubtful if any man could smoke and inhale the entire package and live if he were to smoke one after another without stopping. The interval between smokes allows the man

or woman to recover partially from the effect of the previous smoke.

I have, I believe, observed the stunting effect of smoking by young mothers on the children, and abortions seem to be more frequent among young mothers who smoke. A lady physician friend who does much obstetrical practice tells me that she has had cases of nonviable children that she felt could only be accounted for by the excessive smoking of the mother. I have also seen infants almost overcome by the fumes of tobacco of persons smoking heavily in the room. We have hardly had time enough yet to observe what the full effect of the smoking of mothers upon their children will be to our future population, but with heart disease already killing twice as many persons as its nearest competitor, cancer, it would seem that the destruction of the human race is well on its way. It is a careless and selfish mother that will subject her unborn babe to a poison known to have such a violent effect upon the circulatory apparatus. After all, what does life hold for any of us if health is missing? If a mother insists on smoking, she should, since her breast milk contains nicotine, turn the job of nursing her baby over to the cow, who would never think of thus poisoning her offspring.



U. S. FOREST SERVICE

*We know very little about the whys and the wherefores of bird migration, but what we do know makes interesting reading.*

make their long migrational flights from one land to another, guided through trackless space by the hand of Infinite Power."

The statement of Jesus, the Creator of the birds, found in Matthew 10:29 is significant, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall to the ground without your Father." This surely indicates the fact that the Creator keeps an accurate record of all the resources of wild life and is no less observant of the death of a sparrow than that of a human being.

The "why" of migration is the practical solution of a food problem. If the birds normally migrating north remained in the tropics, both the migrant and the resident species would face a serious food shortage during the nesting season due to the enormous quantities of food required by fast-growing fledglings. For instance, the tiny house wren will feed its young about 1200 times from sunrise to sunset.

When it is considered that the breeding range of a bird must be roughly ten

# The Mystery of Bird Migration

*The Creator's Hand Is Seen in the Actions of Birds*

By R. N. Montgomery

FOR AGES man has marveled at the amazing extent of bird migration. Each passing year contributes its quota of articles in numerous publications advancing some new or old idea as to the "why" or "how" of this strange, northward movement of millions of birds in the spring and their return later to familiar scenes. Theory after theory has been advanced to account for the phenomenon of migration, to establish a reason for, and to determine how, the birds are able to navigate the uncharted skies with such unerring accuracy. Scientists generally hold to two theories, which are, by the way, contradictory. The greatest living authorities on bird life freely admit that the "how" of bird migration remains an unfathomed mystery.

Recent investigators noticed that in the vicinity of radio-sending antennas released carrier pigeons seemed to be confused and required some random flying to orient themselves before taking off for the home loft. This confusion has thereby been attributed to the effect of

the radio wave upon some faculty of the bird which might respond to electrical energy. This tied in with the theory advanced some years ago that birds possess some sensory faculty which enables them to "feel" the magnetic field of the earth, and thus are guided north or south in much the same way as the compass needle is held. As related to migration, however, this fails to solve the problem for the reason that yearly millions of young birds migrate southward to areas absolutely unknown to them, and they, therefore, cannot know which is north or south or the reason for migration. Besides that, some migrational routes necessitate changing the course several times en route.

One writer has aptly said: "The swallow and the crane observe the change of the seasons; to find a suitable climate they migrate from one country to another, as God designed they should. So the birds fulfill God's purpose as they

times as large as its winter range, it becomes plain that overcrowding would occur quickly in the smaller winter-home area. In other words, the entire North American continent is necessary to support the great numbers of nesting birds that easily found winter living and foraging space in a comparatively small area in Central and South America. The bobolink is an excellent example of this fact. Breeding from New Jersey to the prairies and north to central Canada, this bird confines itself in winter to an area in Central America somewhat larger than the state of Texas.

The length of time spent in the breeding area is comparatively short. For instance, the orchard oriole arrives in the middle Atlantic states in early May and leaves in mid July, having accomplished the task of family raising in two and one-half months, thus spending nine and one-half months in winter quarters with nothing more tiring to do than to feed itself.

Methods of migration vary with the species. Some fly by day or by night,

such as ducks and geese. Hawks, swallows, nighthawks, and swifts fly by day. The night migrants include the tanagers, warblers, thrushes, shore birds, and sparrows. This time element in migration brings to light the wonderful protective care exercised over the birds as indicated in the above-quoted text. Thousands of birds that have no idea of where they are going congregate in Florida and Louisiana preparatory to the flight across the Gulf of Mexico and Central America. Instead of leaving early in the morning, they feed all day and leave at dusk for the twelve- to eighteen-hour flight. Let us see why. If they left in the morning they would arrive near or after dark and thus would be forced to go without food for thirty-six hours, which would prove fatal to many birds due to their high rate of metabolism. Let it be remembered that the birds do not have this knowledge, that they cannot know the length of the flight, or know that there are no stopping places en route, hence they must be guided by some outside power which does know. It is a further fact that more birds use this route than any other, even though it would be possible to fly over an easier course, namely, from Florida to Cuba, to the Bahamas, to Puerto Rico, to the Lesser Antilles, and on to South America. Only about six species, however, do this.

The length of the migrational route flight varies from a few miles to half way around the globe. Bobwhite rarely wanders more than ten miles from the spot where first hatched, while other birds seem possessed by an insatiable wanderlust. For instance, the scarlet tanager migrates from Canada to Peru. Blackpoll warblers nest in Alaska and vacation 5000 miles away in South America. The champion globe trotter among the land birds seems to be the nighthawk, or bullbat. Nesting along the Yukon, it winters happily 7000 miles away in the Argentine. This record is, however, surpassed by several shore birds, nineteen species of which nest north of the Arctic circle and then fly across the world to South America, six of the nineteen species penetrating to Patagonia, some 8000 miles away.

Migrational routes are not by any means "bee lines" but change direction from point to point. Our friends, the blackpoll warblers, winter in South America and to arrive in Alaska for nesting they could possibly fly directly north and save many miles of flight, but instead they fly northeast to Florida, then northwest to the Mississippi valley, then due north to Minnesota to avoid the treeless plains of North Dakota. Upon

arriving in the forests of Saskatchewan, they alter their course to the northwest until the dark green forests of Alaskan spruce lie below. The blackpolls have winter neighbors, the cliff swallows, many of which nest in Nova Scotia, but instead of flying northeast, as one would suppose, they take a course hundreds of miles west to Panama, then on through Mexico, around the Gulf shore to Louisiana, flying eastward, then north to Maine, and east to Nova Scotia. This seemingly erratic course is 2000 miles longer than necessary. Why? The answer is interesting. The warblers are night fliers and hence take the shortest route from point to point; the swallows migrate by day, feed on the wing instead of making stopovers for this purpose, therefore they follow the insect-teeming shore lines. Surely our text, "and one of them shall not fall to the ground without your Father," indicates that more than instinct or a sense of orientation watches over these feathered folk.

### *The Heaven Departed As a Scroll*

*(Continued from page 3)*

major divisions, four of which have gone to make up history, the remaining one being the culmination of all things, and the ushering in of the kingdom of God.

We have also other omens which are suggestive of the nearness of Christ's return to this earth. Many signs are prevalent around us every day, signs that are unfolding at an accelerated pace, which are indicative of Christ's soon coming. There are signs among the people, signs among the nations, and signs in the religious world—all stupendously crowding themselves together and pointing directly to the "epic of all ages," the "fulfillment of man's hope"—the coming of the Son of man.

The question may be asked, How near are we to the climax of earth's history? The answer is, "Nearer than you think." "The Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." Luke 12:40. We have not been left in darkness concerning the time of the second advent. Christ's coming is not only near, but He is "even at the doors." (Matthew 24:33.) He is knocking at every heart door, pleading and showing His nail-torn hands that He may gain entrance. This should be sufficient admonition to all who are interested in their soul's salvation.

The second question we may ask is, What delayeth His coming? "Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message

of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 450. Knowing that Christ delayeth His return because of our irresponsibility should fill us with fire and zealous effort to work that His delay may not be longer. Another reason for Christ's delay is the sealing process. We are given more time to prepare ourselves for this great occasion. "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." Revelation 7:3. In this connection four angels are pictured standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the winds of strife until the 144,000 have received the seal of the living God (verses 1-4), which is their passport into the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the earth. The gospel of the kingdom has not yet been preached in all the world. This must also be accomplished before the end comes.

In that day sin and sinners will cease and they will be blotted out forever. In that day the very antithesis of emotions will be displayed; the righteous who have loved God will rejoice, the wicked who have served the evil one will weep and wail. The loved of God who have endured to the end will shout, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us" (Isaiah 25:9), and the lovers of Satan and his wiles will cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them and shield them from the brightness of His glory (Revelation 6:16). The very air will be rent with cries of consternation and despair. Moaning and wailing will mingle their echoes against the rocks and mountains that refuse to fall at the desperate beckoning of the wicked at the last day of earth's history, as a realization of their lost condition seizes them. Arms that have never before reached heavenward will be outstretched in vain anguish; calloused tongues that have blasphemed and challenged the name of their Maker will suddenly plead and beg in agonizing prayers. "Those who will not now pray to God in penitence, will then pray to the rocks and mountains in despair; and this will be the largest prayer meeting ever held."—*Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 451. Fear of punishment rather than sorrow for guilt has possessed them, but refuge and concealment are not to be found. In that day no fissure in the rocks, no hiding place will be invulnerable to the penetrating glory which will smite the wicked. The judgment day of the Almighty has at last come, "and the involuntary language of their anguished hearts is 'The

great day of His wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand.'—*Id.*

"The longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." 1 Peter 3:20. The longsuffering and patience of God abounded for Noah and the seven members of his family. An extension of time was granted to righteous persons in the early days of earth's history. So in our generation God is also granting a time extension, this time to the millions of earth's inhabitants who have not heard or accepted "the gospel of the kingdom." This message should present a challenge to everyone who speaks the name of Christ. The end will not come until every nation and people have heard the story of salvation.

Are our examples witnessing for God in a way which indicates that we are cognizant of the last great event? And do we realize its proximity? What are we as individuals doing in order that we may be able to stand the final test of God's wrath? Now is the time for preparation.

## ***Security Versus Freedom***

*(Continued from page 4)*

an individual enrich his life by depending upon others for his sustenance? Does he put valuable metal into his moral character by depending upon the government to supply his every want—food, clothing, medicine, housing—or would not such subserviency and dependence paralyze all ambition and aspiration and cause him to settle down on his leas and retrograde?

It is a solemn fact, proved from all past experiences and historical observations, that security under totalitarian governments is insecurity and means the surrender of civil and religious liberties. Whenever the people are fed and clothed, and their every need supplied by the government, the citizens become leaners instead of lifters. Instead of being motivated by their own energies and initiative, they become trailers attached to the government. A person who knows that he has nobody to lean upon but himself will call into action all the native resources of his ability and put the best into life. Many like Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Jackson have climbed out of the cabins in which they were born, to fame and greatness. Poverty, instead of being a handicap, has been a spur to many a person of will and determination, worth more to them than a gold mine.

One of the most absurd and fallacious

slogans ever invented by man was that of being free from want. Freedom from want means stagnation, profligacy, deterioration, and the ultimate extinction of the human race. Want is a basic principle of life. Why does a man build a home? It is want that drives him to establish a home. A young person who wants an education and has a burning desire to obtain it stops drifting down the stream and starts rowing against the current, up the stream. A person is religious because he wants salvation. Want conquers want. But nobody wants security at the price of slavery, yet too many people are like the monkey who saw a gourd he wanted lying within a barred cage. The monkey reached in between the bars and laid hold of the gourd he wanted so badly but which he was unable to extract between the bars. After he got his hands on the gourd, he was unwilling to release his grip, thereby allowing himself to get caught. There are altogether too many people who, for the sake of temporary relief from the state in times of distress and emergencies, are willing to accept state subsidies at the price of their freedom and independence.

All history teaches the unerring lesson that whenever men and governments have attempted to create a Utopia here on earth through social-security planning and religious reforms by legislation, they have always turned this earth into a hell. It is simply not God's way of bringing heaven and a reign of permanent peace here upon this earth. God has not ordained in this sin-cursed earth that man should get something for nothing. We are informed in Sacred Writ that in the earth made new, or the world to come, the redeemed of God "shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat." Isaiah 65:21, 22. In the world to come each individual will live from the fruit of his own labor. The inhabitants of the earth made new will not have all things in common.

It is not until then that want and fear will be banished. But the nation of the redeemed, we are told by the prophets of old, after "the house of the Lord shall be established . . . shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it." Micah 4:1, 3, 4. Then "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as

the waters cover the sea." Hab. 2:14.

Those who are looking for men and an earthly government to establish a Utopia through government subsidies and thus grant them economic security at the price of liberty are chasing a will-o'-the-wisp. The kingdom of God will never be ushered into this world through social planning, political evolution, religious reforms, or the deceptive promises of security of politicians based on government patronage at the cost of the people's freedom.

The remedy of this world's ills is not in men but in God. The liberties of the people have always been betrayed and destroyed by some new freedom promised the people provided they would temporarily surrender certain freedoms to bridge a crisis. The people thought they were entrusting their liberties to benevolent benefactors who promised them a fuller breadbasket in lieu of their miseries, and they surrendered their liberties in the hope of obtaining greater freedom in the future.

But the bestowal of absolute authority and power is so bewitching that the best of benefactors are transformed into tyrannical dictators. The exercise of absolute power over the liberties of the people is more than human nature can stand. All history teaches that unfailing lesson. How long, oh, how long will it be before the people learn that lesson?

## ***The Sabbath and the Resurrection***

*(Continued from page 7)*

afternoon resurrection largely, if not entirely, depend on two gospel expressions—Matthew 28:1, "In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week," and Matthew 12:40, "three days and three nights"—which they insist mean Sabbath afternoon after Christ's having been in the tomb exactly seventy-two hours to the minute.

But these two expressions are each only one form of expressions used a number of times elsewhere in the Gospels and which clearly mean that the resurrection took place on Sunday morning just before sunrise, after Christ had been dead part of Friday, all day Sabbath day, and part of Sunday. A number of versions of the Bible translate Matthew 28:1 in complete harmony with all other records in the Gospels. The phrase "three days and three nights" occurs in a number of forms in both Old Testament and New, as well as in contemporary Jewish writings outside the Bible, and can plainly be seen to be an idiom for what we would today call "day after tomorrow." (Matthew 12:40; 27:40, 63, 64;

Mark 8:31; 14:57, 58; 15:29; John 2:19-21; 2 Chronicles 10:5, 12; Esther 4:16; 5:1.)

The next to the strongest argument for a Sunday resurrection is the fact that at the time when the death and the resurrection of Christ occurred, two classes of persons, neither of whom were endeavoring to sustain a seventh-day Sabbath or institute a new Sunday-Sabbath, anticipated the resurrection on Sunday.

The murderous Jewish rulers had pretended to believe that Christ's prophecy that He would rise on the third day meant a wicked threat against the temple. But they really knew what He meant, as is shown by their going to Pilate on the Sabbath day and asking for a guard for the tomb over the next day. (Matthew 27:62-64.) They knew that Sunday was the day on which a fulfillment of this prophecy was to be feared. And the disciples on the road to Emmaus clearly understood Christ's prophetic words to refer to that first day of the week, even though they were not yet convinced of their fulfillment. (Luke 24:19-21.)

But the greatest proof of the resurrection's being on Sunday morning is that for nearly fifteen hundred years the Jews had been acting out an annual ceremony that symbolized the death, burial, and resurrection on three consecutive days, the middle one being a Sabbath, not the third one.

Everyone who has the slightest comprehension of the typical meaning of the Passover, knows it pointed forward to the crucifixion of Christ. "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." 1 Corinthians 5:7. But we carelessly fail to study the rest of the symbolism, which points to His Sabbath rest in the tomb and His rising again. Leviticus 23 deserves earnest study in this connection.

According to Leviticus 23:5, the Passover occurred on the 14th of the month Nisan. The next day, Nisan 15, began the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the first day of which was a sabbath—a ceremonial sabbath. (Verses 6, 7.) This particular ceremonial sabbath is more than once in Leviticus 23 called "the sabbath," as though some extraordinary significance pertained to it. (Verses 11, 15.) However no outstanding ceremonial service was performed on that day.

But "on the morrow after the sabbath," on Nisan 16, occurred a ceremony that was of supernal significance. It was the offering of the wave sheaf. This was the first fruits of the harvest. A sheaf of the first-ripe grain was gathered and presented by the priest before the Lord with

thanksgiving. No man began his harvest until after this offering of the first fruits. (Verses 9-14.) The apostle Paul tells us that this sheaf was typical of Christ's resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:20.)

Note the antitype of the symbol: the death of the vicarious Lamb on one day, a Sabbath day of cessation of His life, then the first day of the harvest, His resurrection from the dead. The symbol was perfectly fulfilled in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. In the year Christ died the ceremonial sabbath and the seventh-day Sabbath came together. Christ died on the Passover. He rested quietly in the tomb on this double Sabbath (both "the Sabbath according to the commandment" and the ceremonial sabbath), and on the first day of the week He arose as "the first fruits of them that slept" (1 Corinthians 15:20), bringing with Him a multitude of trophies from the grave, and thus performing on that laboring day the first work of the gospel harvest (Matthew 27:50-53).

Thus Sunday can never be the Christian Sabbath. It was never constituted a Sabbath by command of the Lawgiver. Christ never rested on it. It was the first working day of creation and of the gospel age. The seventh day is forever the Christian Sabbath. Christ rested on it after His death as our Passover, thus keeping His Father's commandment, which had constituted it the Sabbath, followed by a working day. Let us keep the day Christ kept.

### **Transformed by Faith**

(Continued from page 5)

to exercise saving faith: "I say unto you, What things soever you desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. Since the divine promises are so definite, the one longing to be saved has simply to ask and receive by faith, as has been so helpfully expressed by the following heartfelt words:

"You have confessed your sins, and in heart put them away. You have resolved to give yourself to God. Now go to Him, and ask that He will wash away your sins, and give you a new heart. Then believe that He does this because He has promised. This is the lesson which Jesus taught while He was on earth, that the gift which God promises us, we must believe we do receive, and it is ours. . . . Do not wait to feel that you are made whole, but say, 'I believe it; it is so, not because I feel it, but because God has promised.'"—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 53-55.

Let us consider a great example of the exercise of transforming faith in Jesus.

It is that of the thief on the cross, who was saved at the eleventh hour. What a scene he beheld! The pitying Son of God, all glorious in compassionate love, nailed to the cross; His face, so tender in beneficent mercy, pale from loss of blood; His features, so heavenly, haggard from His supreme sufferings; His tender Spirit, so innocent and holy, tortured by the weight of the penalty of the sins of an ungrateful and despising world, for whom He was suffering the extreme penalty for their sins in order to set them free from their debasing slavery to sin. All this and more the dying thief beheld, and it touched his heart. So at last he cried out in contrition of soul, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." Luke 23:42. For the moment the burden is lifted from the suffering Saviour, and as He looks with tender compassion upon the repentant and pleading thief, He says with tones full of assurance and power the wonderful words, "Verily I say . . . shalt thou be with Me in paradise." Verse 43. Then with all his remaining strength the dying thief grasped by faith the assurance and certainty of being with his beloved Redeemer at last.

Jesus is still the same tenderly loving Saviour, drawing compassionately every contrite one to come to Him and plead: "Dear Saviour, I also cry unto Thee, 'Remember me!' Remember me now, as I plead for Thy salvation. Transform my life by saving faith in Thee, for I now believe and will believe Thou hast given me a new heart and a new spirit, and wilt keep me so day by day."

### **What Is the Seal of God?**

(Continued from page 9)

the progress and experiences of His people. From His place at the right hand of His Father He has seen the tragic history of the church unfold century after century. He marked the perversions of truth of the early centuries, the departure from the faith once delivered to the saints; He beheld as apostasy came in, and grew, multiplied, and changed the truth of God into a lie; He saw and mourned over the persecution and martyrdom of His people; He sent forth His Spirit and His power and brought about the Reformation; He imparted His own life to His people in the great closing work of the gospel; He commissioned His angels to seal His servants in connection with the final message of Sabbath reform; He preserved them in the chaos and wreckage of the world in the last days; and now He comes to receive them to Himself, that where He is, there they may be also.

# DON'T FAIL CHRIST

*He Has Stood by You, Will You Not Do the Same for Him?*

By Etta Mae Crawford

The wind started blowing that dark night. Soon the rain descended in torrents. The winds reached hurricane proportions. The dark, black clouds sped across the sky. A small Christian family gathered in their little home near large Lake Okeechobee, Florida. The father prayed for protecting power, then gave each of the children careful instructions in case the storm grew worse and they would have to leave the house. Each person was to care for himself, but the father would care for the baby.

It was only a few minutes till the house was swept off its foundation, floating away in the swirling waters loosed by the broken protecting walls around the lake. Each person started swimming to save himself. The father put his little boy on his back, hoping to find higher ground. He swam and swam for several hours, but became so tired that he felt he could not go on another minute.

"I must let you down, sonny. Daddy is too tired to go on."

"O, don't let me down, Daddy. Don't let me down," the little boy cried.

The father could not let him down, so he mustered up more strength and started on. But this time he tired more quickly, and thinking he was surely too exhausted to move,

he said again, "Bobby, daddy can't swim any more. I will have to let you down."

"No, no, Daddy, you can't let me down to die."

Of course he could not put his child down to die; he determined he could go farther. After swimming a short distance, he touched solid ground. He was thankful and happy that he had at last saved himself and his child. The urgency of the situation had given him the needed strength and determination to keep on till they reached safety.

Jesus our Saviour never lets us down to perish in the dark waters of this world. He bore us to safety. We are in the world today to save our fellow man from eternal death. Let the urgency of this last hour strengthen us to reach out farther to help save humanity. By various means we can all do this. First, God gave us the ability to earn wealth only for the benefit of others. Then, our time can be used in service for the needy. Those who are teachers should instruct others in Bible truths. We all can, at least, give the message to any who will take it. If we would clearly see the disaster soon to take place, we would take every opportunity to do good.

Do not forget that Jesus never lets us down, so we cannot let Him down. In helping others we save ourselves. He is planning on your assistance.

