

DECEMBER . . . TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Our **TIMES**

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS



The Season's Greetings!

LETTERS

From Our Readers

Sirs:

I am referring to the August, 1949, issue, article on cigarette claptrap. It is absurd. . . . If kids want to smoke, it is their business. I don't think it is sinful, and I don't think that the Bible does either.

Sherman, Texas

B.B.

Editor's Note: Perhaps this reader is not aware of the fact that God says: "If any man defile the temple of God [the body], him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:7.

Sirs:

Why is OUR TIMES so strongly opposed to the world calendar when everyone knows that it would be to the advantage of business to adopt it? Why not get behind this new world calendar for the sake of better business and a more logical arrangement of days?

Los Angeles, California

M.R.

Editor's Note: We are not convinced that the world calendar will be of any advantage to business. Neither do we consider it a more logical arrangement of days. The hardship and confusion that would result religiously cause us to strongly oppose the calendar change. Christians who conscientiously keep Sunday would find that they are keeping Monday in one year and Tuesday in another year, and so on. There is nothing logical or sensible about this.

Sirs:

I want to thank you for the help I received in the article entitled "What To Do With Doubt" that appeared in the August OUR TIMES. I have found that God and His Word are the greatest help that can be found when one is troubled and worried. Perhaps there would not be as much doubting, worry, and fear if we would all return to a simple faith in God.

Houston, Texas

B.W.

Sirs:

It seems to me that the great truth that needs to be brought to the attention of the world is that of the soon coming of Christ and the end of the world. Robert H. Pierson's article in the August OUR TIMES on the end of the world was very striking and it stirred my heart. I wish that this information could be brought to the attention of every man, woman, and child alive today. Without a doubt we are facing the end of this present world as we know it today. This is the biggest thing ever. I want to thank OUR TIMES for the good work it is doing in propagating this great message.

Miami, Florida

L.O.H.

Sirs:

I purchased a copy of OUR TIMES from a woman on the street just recently, and I want you to know that it has opened up to me more truth on the Bible than I have ever found before. Thanks for this good publication.

El Paso, Texas

J.P.

Sirs:

I received the new OUR TIMES magazine and felt so impressed with it I decided to write and tell you that I believe the OUR TIMES magazine is really developing and coming right to the forefront. This last issue especially is just brim full of very timely material which I believe will do a great deal of good.

Syracuse, N. Y.

J.J.R.

Our TIMES

SINCE 1891, A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS

DECEMBER 1, 1949

VOL. 58

No. 13

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

Editor - STANLEY C. HARRIS
 Circulation Manager - RALPH E. CRAWFORD
 Art Director - ROBERT M. ELDRIDGE

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

★ Rates: 25 cents a copy, and \$2.50 a year, in the United States. Rates higher for other countries.

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

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

Special Features

The Highway of Faith—Dallas Youngs	3
I Believe Jesus Christ Is Truly God—Fenton Edwin Froom	4
Prophecies of the Kingdom—Varner J. Johns	6
The Epoch of State Religion—Taylor G. Bunch	8
Some Things to Forget—James Wallace	9
Fellowship With Christ in Our Atomic Age—John W. Halliday	11
What Happens to Man When He Dies?—Herbert R. Thurber	12
The World's Biggest Lie—George S. Belleau	16
Proposed Calendar Changes Analyzed—J. C. Kidwiler	20
Limitations of Human Science—W. E. Videto	21
Givers—Weldon Taylor Hammond	36

Regular Departments

Letters From Our Readers	2
Events of Our Times	10
The Sermon of the Month	14
Interpreting Our Times, by the Editor	18
For Better Homes and Health	22
Choice Thoughts for Children	23
For the Teens of Our Times	23
Let's Ask the Doctor	26
What Says the Bible?	28
Science Insights	31
God's Two Books	34

Poetry

O Thou, the Christ of Galilee—Inez Brasier	5
"My Peace"—L. M. Spear	15

The Cover

This attractive picture was furnished us by Camera Clix of New York.

The Highway of Faith

Though It Is Not the Popular Way, It Is by Far the Only Safe Way



By
Dallas Youngs

THE HIGHWAY of faith, we regret to say, is not a crowded thoroughfare, although many notables have passed that way. It has never been popular, because of the fact that hazards and obstacles block the road at intervals. It is the uphill way over the mountains; perhaps that accounts for its unpopularity, since many prefer the smooth valley road. Along the highway of faith Satan sets his snares to take any traveler who lapses into a moment of carelessness. Billboards, brilliantly lighted, announce the lurid pleasures of the world, and in places virtually shut out the heavenly perspective. There are morasses of sin which, if the pilgrim so much as touches with the sole of his foot, plunge him into discouragement and despondency.

Some of the strongest travelers have sunk into the morass of utter dejection. Luther tells of the time "when sorely vexed by my own sinfulness, by the wickedness of the world, and by the dangers that beset the church," he became hopelessly depressed and dejected. Seeing his condition, his wife dressed all in black. When Luther noticed it, he asked the reason.

"Do you not know that God in heaven is dead?" said the good woman.

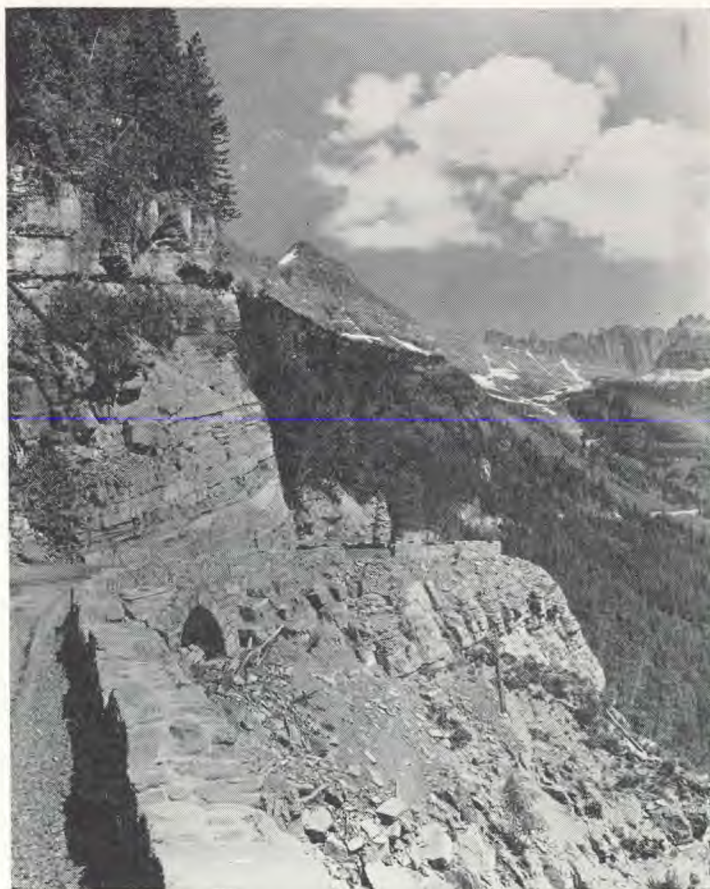
Luther's look betrayed his amazement. "What nonsense! How can God die? He is immortal and will live through all eternity."

"And yet you," replied the wife, "go about hopeless and discouraged."

Obstacles on the faith highway test the wayfarer's caliber. Abel met his successfully when he accepted the atonement which his brother rejected. Noah met his in the jeering

of the multitude, Abraham in the offering of Isaac on Mount Moriah. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were tested on the point of idolatry, and were not found wanting. Daniel was tried in the matter of his private devotions, and feared not the lions' den. Uncounted men and women, through the centuries of time, have surmounted obstacle after obstacle and hurdle after hurdle in the journey of life. Faith—and we are glad it works that way—strengthens with each successful trial.

Faith is kept untarnished only by use. "A woman who was showing a beautiful, massive piece of family silver, apologized as she took it from the cupboard
(Continued on page 32)



GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY
It is an inspiring experience to travel on a highway like this one in Glacier National Park, but the greatest thrill of all is in traveling the highway of faith. Comparatively few have tried this elevating experience.



CARL BLOCH

One of the greatest evidences of Christ's divinity was in His life-giving power as manifested in the experience of resurrecting Lazarus.

"the Word" is Christ, John restates and reaffirms his declaration in verse 14: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Yes, Christ, "the Word," the only-begotten Son of God, has an existence which dates back into eternity with the Father. Another inspired writer tells us that His "goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2.

In the statement, "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us," we have a synopsis of the plan of redemption in action. The angel said of the virgin Mary: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from

I BELIEVE

Jesus Christ Is Truly God

His Teachings and His Works Prove That He Was Not Only Human but Also Divine

THE FINITE mind of man stands amazed at the fact of supreme importance that Jesus Christ is truly God, being of the same nature and essence as God the Father. How can we fathom the depths of such a profound truth? All that is necessary to accept such a premise is to believe God's Word.

Jesus is God! Let John the Beloved tell us: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1. Our inspired writer assures us that Christ (the Word) was in the beginning, that He was with God, and, furthermore, that He was God. Again he says, "The same was in the beginning with God." Verse 2. In the next verse John clearly sets forth the work of Christ the Word, or God the Son. "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." Verse 3.

That we might have no question as to whether

By Fenton Edwin Froom

their sins. . . Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Matthew 1:21, 23.

Christ laid down the glory of His heavenly home. The power with which He had created the worlds He largely left behind. However, though He was born as a babe in Bethlehem, subject to like passions as we are, for His mother was human and not divine, there was a difference between Christ and us. He was not only human but also divine.

Paul in writing to the Hebrews says: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same. . . Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren. . . For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:14, 17, 18.

Again the apostle informs us that Christ "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

OUR TIMES, DECEMBER, 1949

Hebrews 4:15. With all the help of heaven, with His divine nature as well as the human nature which He possessed, He was not above the simple, everyday, complex temptations which come to you and me. If Christ had been exempt from temptation, without the power and responsibility to choose, or without the sin-filled inclinations and tendencies of our sinful nature, He could not have lived our life without sin, He could not have atoned for our sin and have become the Saviour of mortal, lost beings.

At the age of thirty Jesus began His public ministry. His life was an exemplification of the principles of righteousness. In His memorable Sermon on the Mount, He laid down principles which, if followed today, would bring peace to this chaotic world. His mission and purpose in life was to alleviate and relieve suffering of the body and to restore in man the moral image of his Maker. No suffering one ever came to Him whose needs He did not supply. On more than one occasion He healed all the sick in the village as He passed through. Those who were brought to Him always received attention and aid, no matter how hungry or tired He was nor at what hour of the day.

Far greater than even the power to restore sick bodies to health was His power to call men back from death to life. Three times our Saviour pierced through the valley of the shadow into the unknown and called back those who had come to an untimely death. Once it was a little girl, the daughter of Jairus. On another occasion it was the son of a widow of the village of Nain.

Christ's crowning miracle was raising Lazarus from the dead. He had been dead four days. It was thought a thing incredible that anyone could come back from death after so long a period of time. But Christ assured us of His divinity. He left Christian posterity something to hope for. Christ was not just a man, but a God-man. He was divine-human. Though He partook of our human nature, still He retained His divine nature. This evidence given to the people, to the priests, and to the rulers, further established His rightful ownership of the souls of men. Had He not breathed into the nostrils of Adam and Eve the breath of life?

As foretold in Bible prophecy, Jesus was to die in the midst of the seventieth week according to Daniel 9:27. His death upon the cross, at the exact moment in relation to the types and shadows of the ancient Hebrew services which pointed forward to His death, forever sealed the fact that He was the only Man that has ever lived who could make the supreme sacrifice to save lost humanity. His ignominious death forecast a thousand years before by David met its complete fulfillment with unerring accuracy. His death met the demands of the law.

Not only His death but His resurrection had been foretold. Prophets over five hundred years before the

O Thou, the Christ of Galilee

*O Thou, the Christ of Galilee,
Where demons fled at Thy behest,
Who stilled the angry waves at sea,
Still Thou for me this life's unrest.
Though waves of grief and sorrow break
O'er my frail bark till morning wake,
Bid me not sink in deep despair
But hear Thy voice and know Thee there.
Calm Thou the tempest in my soul,
The storms that touch my life control;
May I but hear Thee speaking peace
Although outside the winds increase.
Grant me the harbor of Thy heart—
A shelter whence I ne'er depart,
A haven safe, close to Thy side,
Where I may anchor and abide.*

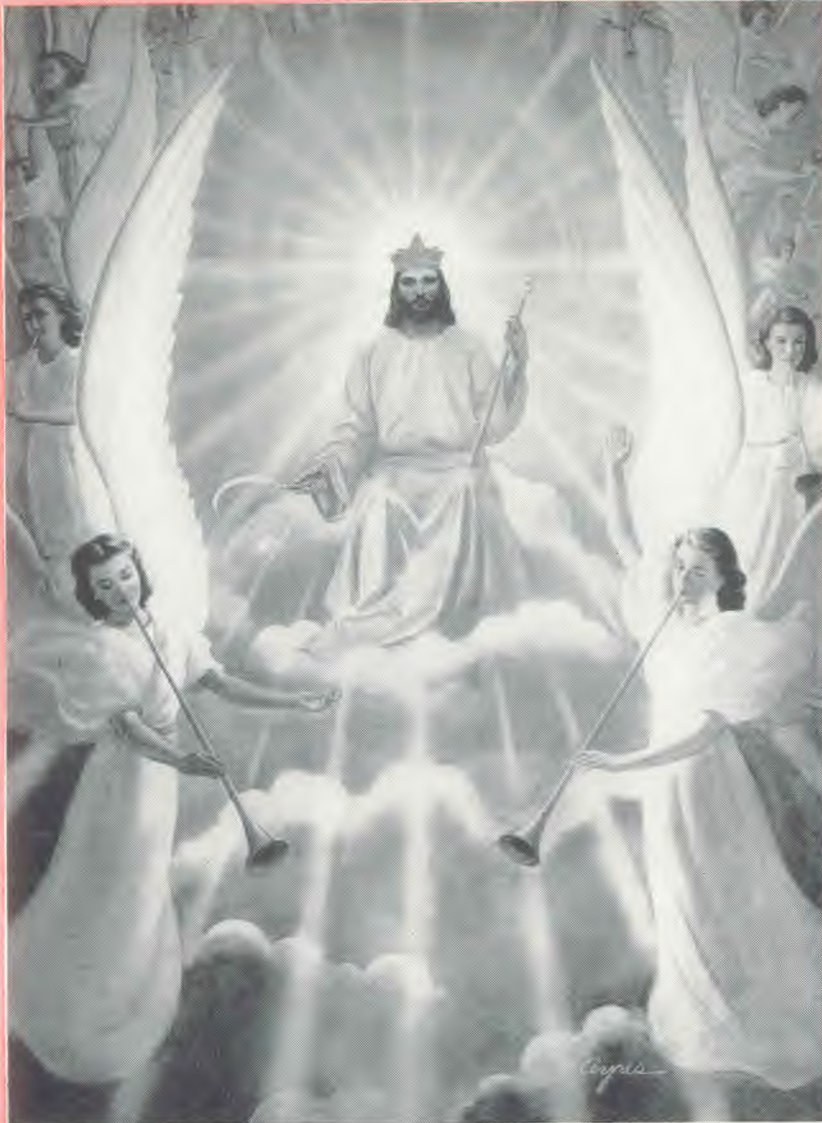
—Inez Brasier.

time of Christ had predicted that He would rise from the grave the third day. Dr. Luke gives an accurate description of the resurrection morn. "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus." Luke 24:1-3. The angel declared, "He is not here: for He is risen." Verse 6.

This glorious truth has turned the world upside down. It is one of the pillars of our spiritual foundation and heritage. Paul defines the gospel he preached as being "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4.

Darkness was turned into day, gloom into glory. Yes, the glory of the Son—not s-u-n, but S-o-n, the Son of God—shone forth in all its beauty, sorrow vanished, joy filled worlds afar. The apostles had something to tell men now. Their Teacher, Master, Prophet, Physician, and Friend had gone into the unknown and had returned. A new day had dawned!

(Continued on page 32)



AYRES AND FLOCKHORST

Christ's kingdom of grace was celebrated at the triumphal entry into Jerusalem just before His crucifixion. The kingdom of glory which is to be established at His second coming will be celebrated with the grandest display ever seen by human eyes.

NO SUBJECT is of greater interest and importance than the coming kingdom for which Christ's followers have prayed for nineteen centuries. No subject is more misunderstood and misinterpreted than this. Modern Dispensationalism does great violence to the kingdom teachings of Jesus by ascribing the kingdom

Prophecy

to the Jewish nation, postponing the kingdom to a future dispensation, and linking the kingdom teaching with a future opportunity for salvation. The Jewish leaders looked for a kingdom of worldly glory—a Jewish nation restored. Jesus dared to run counter to the teaching of Jewry. "My kingdom is not of this world," said the Master. John 18:36. His kingdom is the "kingdom of heaven." Surely blindness has happened to modern teachers who revive the ancient rabbinical fallacy of a Jewish kingdom in old Judea.

The kingdom is spiritual. Citizenship is determined by the new birth. It is not a Jewish or a worldly kingdom. Gentiles and Jews are "fellow citizens" of the kingdom when they receive the new birth through faith in Christ. Character is the one and only test of citizenship.

In the very beginning of His ministry Jesus answered with finality the false rabbinical teachings about the kingdom, "Abraham is our father," was the proud boast of those who trusted in their ancestry for a place in the kingdom. Jesus tore away the ancestral masks

OUR TIMES, DECEMBER, 1949

which covered corrupt hearts. "Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. All the teachings of Jesus through the days of His ministry sustain this statement. It is the pure in heart, the meek, the peacemakers, those who love righteousness and hate iniquity, who are citizens of the kingdom.

Moreover it is in this present time, this present day of salvation, that men enter, if ever, the kingdom of heaven. Born again by the precious blood of Jesus,



Of the Kingdom

*The Time of the Establishment of the
Kingdom of Grace and the Kingdom of
Glory*

By Varner J. Johns

men are translated into His kingdom of grace. God "hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:13, 14. This text represents a very real and a very present experience. We are all citizens of the kingdom when we have found redemption through His blood. If citizens now of the kingdom of grace, we shall be translated at the second coming of Christ into the kingdom of glory.

It is well to keep in mind that there are two phases of the kingdom of heaven.

1. The kingdom of grace, instituted at the fall of man and established through the sacrifice of Christ, is the present kingdom in this present day of grace. According to the word of Jesus, this kingdom is "at hand," "nigh unto you," "in the midst of you," and is entered through the preaching of the gospel and by the new birth. "Jesus went about all Galilee, . . . preaching the gospel of the kingdom." Matthew 4:23. To His disciples Jesus said: "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 10:7. This was the message of all the apostles. At the very close of His ministry the apostle Paul was still

faithfully "preaching the kingdom of God." Acts 28:31.

2. The kingdom of glory is established at the second coming of Christ, and after the close of probation. "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory." Matthew 25:31. Then it is, according to this word of our Lord, that eternal separation comes between the righteous and the wicked. Unbelievers do not have a "second chance" for salvation when this kingdom is established. Rather, they go away into "everlasting punishment." Verses 32-46. It is the saints of God, not the Jewish nation, who take the kingdom and reign forever and ever. "But the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever." Daniel 7:18.

With this understanding of the meaning of the kingdom all the prophecies of the Old Testament are illuminated with heavenly light. Some of the prophecies were fulfilled when Jesus came the first time. Some of them will be fulfilled at His second coming. All of them are as sure and as certain as the word of the living God. Notice the following verses gleaned from Isaiah 7-11, and the New Testament comments on them:

"Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Matthew 1:21-23.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever." Isaiah 9:6, 7. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:32, 33.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the
(Continued on page 30)

THE EPOCH of *State Religion*

The Third in a Series on the Seven Churches of Revelation

THE THIRD of the seven epistles of Christ was addressed to the church in Pergamos: "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write: These things saith He which hath the sharp sword with two edges: I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast My name, and hast not denied My faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

"But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit

saith unto the churches: To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Revelation 2:12-17.

Pergamos, or Pergamum, was located about forty miles northeast of Smyrna on the banks of the little river Caicus, a branch of which, the Selinus, flows through the present town of Bergma. The city of Pergamos was built in the twelfth century before

Christ, and rivaled Ephesus and Smyrna for first place in Asia Minor. The name means "height, or elevation," as the city was built on a lofty hill or rock rising one thousand feet above the valley. It was the exalted city. The name also indicates union through marriage. With almost perpendicular walls or cliffs on all sides but one, the city was considered an impregnable fortress. It was captured only by stratagem.

Pliny said that Pergamos was the most illustrious

By Taylor G. Bunch



EDWIN LONG

When the Roman Empire was supreme, it tried to control the consciences of its subjects. This young Christian girl is being urged by her lover to offer incense to the goddess Diana. If she refuses, she must die.

city of Asia, and because it was an educational center with a library second only to that of Alexandria in Egypt, Homer, one of the earliest of poets, and Herodotus, "the father of history," spent much time there. When Sir William Ramsey visited its ruins, he called it "the royal city," not only because of the impression made, but also because it had been the seat of royal authority for five hundred years, half of which time it was the capital of the Roman province of Asia and thus the official residence of the governor. From this stronghold went forth the decrees of the Cæsars for the province, giving force to the language of the introduction to the epistle, "These are the words of Him who wields the sharp sword with the double edge" (Moffatt). This is clearly a description of the broad, double-bladed Roman sword which was the emblem of official authority with the power of life and death.

In the letter Christ declares that He is cognizant of the environment under which the Christians of Pergamos lived. They dwelt "where Satan sits enthroned" (Moffatt). The seat of pagan Roman authority was also the headquarters of paganism for the province, and hence of Satan. In all ancient nations paganism was the state religion and thus "the god of this world," who was also "the prince of this world," ruled over both church and state. In fact he ruled the state through his counterfeit system of religion, the ruler being also the chief pontiff. Cæsar was known as the "Pontifex Maximus" of the pagan Roman religion and was, therefore, "the protector of the Roman gods." What was true of the empire was also true of each province and its proconsul.

Pergamos was a city of many heathen temples and a pantheon of pagan worship and deities. The legendary Jupiter is supposed to have originated there. To him and other Greek and Roman gods were erected beautiful temples, so that Pergamos was known as "the city of temples." Æsculapius, the Greek god of medicine, was known as "the god of Pergamum." Here also the Roman emperors were worshiped and received divine honors. Domitian decreed that all peoples should address him as "Our Lord and our God." One writer called Pergamos the symbol of "rampant paganism."

To Æsculapius was dedicated the most celebrated temple. He was known as "the serpent god," "the god of healing," and "the great Physician and Saviour." In this temple a living serpent was kept and worshiped. Coins have been found in the ruins of Pergamos with the likeness of a serpent entwined around a pole, the origin of the caduceus of the modern medical profession. It is unfortunate that the pagan emblem of healing, which was really the symbol of poison and death, should become the emblem of medical science in this enlightened age. The temple of Zeus or Æsculapius was one of the seven wonders of the ancient

(Continued on page 27)

Some Things to Forget

By James Wallace

MY MOTHER used to tell me I had the best forgetter of any boy she had ever known. When she sent me to the store for a half-dozen articles, I was sure to come home with only part of them. It was not hard to forget to wash my neck and brush my teeth—no, not hard for a boy to forget these things. I had to be reminded to bring in the wood and to fill the water bucket. It was not often I remembered to put the chairs up to the table without being told. I forgot to say "please" and "thank you" and to tip my hat. I was often sent out to clean the mud off my shoes, and was told again and again not to whistle at the table. In desperation mother would tie a string around my finger to help my faulty memory. I often forgot the string was there.

Our memories are tricky, it seems to me, for the things I want to remember I forget, and the things I try so hard to forget seem to be glued in my memory. Even now some of the things I learned in boyhood, and which I have tried to banish from my thoughts, come stealing back, knocking for entrance.

It is a virtue to be able to forget with discrimination. A good many things have accumulated in our minds—mental and spiritual debris—which we should clean out once and for all.

Let us take the old grudges first, if there be any stored in our hearts. Someone may have spoken harshly about us or mistreated us. We have lugged the old load long enough. Let us forget the grudges and meet our fellow men with a soul free from hatred and malice. They are too big a load to carry here, and if we do not discard them, they will keep us out of heaven. We will never be able to squeeze through the gates of the New Jerusalem with a grudge as a burden.

Then there are the mistakes and the failings. We have all made mistakes. We think back on the unkind words and deeds. Some of us are brooding over the good we might have done—opportunities unimproved. We have sinned, and we look back on a blurred and blotted page. There is no use worrying about the water that went over the dam yesterday. It is gone—gone forever. The devil whispers in our ears that we have made too many mistakes, that our lives are complete failures. Do not believe him; sins can be forgiven. "If we confess our sins, He [Christ] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

(Continued on page 35)



EVENTS

of Our Times



AMERICA GOING SOCIALIST?—Mr. Byrnes sounds an alarm that the country may be “going down the road to statism.” On June 19 at Washington and Lee University he said: “Where we will wind up no one can tell. But if some of the new programs seriously proposed should be adopted there is danger that the individual, whether farmer, worker, manufacturer, lawyer, or doctor, soon will be an economic slave pulling an oar in the galley of the state.”—*Pathfinder*, July 13, 1949.

BRITAIN PRESSES FOR ATOM BOMBS.—The British want to make atom bombs of their own and U. S. scientists say they know how—almost. British scientists at Los Alamos during the war had full access to American bomb-design secrets. But the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 barred the U. S. from giving the British any bombs or further weapons data. They now want: 1) more up-to-date information on weapons, 2) a larger share of the world supply of uranium. The latter would handicap the U. S. atomic programs. But Britain has some encouragement from Belgium to seek more of the atomic materials produced in the Belgian Congo in current British-U. S. renegotiations on the subject. Belgium wants some atomic strength close at hand.—*Quick*, July 25, 1949.

CATHOLIC—COMMUNIST SHOWDOWN.—Pope Pius met the growing Communist war on the Church with a decree that any Catholic who willingly supports Communism will be excommunicated. It came just as Red Poland prepared a crackdown on the Church under Cominform instructions to follow the anti-Catholic drive in Czechoslovakia. Czech Communists retaliated with a call to crush the Roman Church.—*Quick*, July 25, 1949.

CANCER MYSTERY WILL DISAPPEAR—With the development of atomic knowledge, the mystery of cancer will disappear in about seven years.—*Robert M. Hutchins*.—*Pathfinder*, June 29, 1949.

POLIO THREAT RISES.—Polio cases were up 43% across the nation. Doctors foresaw no immediate danger of epidemic outbreaks—but spiraling medical

costs threatened to wipe out funds of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.—*Quick*, July 25, 1949.

MacARTHUR CHARGES RUSSIAN PLOT IN JAPAN.—Gen. MacArthur charged Russia with a “nefarious plot to absorb Japan into the Soviet orbit of influence.” The accusation—bluntest yet—was in reply to Soviet complaints of “brutal” suppression of “democratic” (i.e. Communist) elements.—*Quick*, July 25, 1949.

DIVORCE AND DRINK—“At least 60 to 65 per cent of the divorces granted in my court are caused either directly or indirectly by drinking,” according to the Hon. T. Hicks Fort, Judge of the Chattahoochee, Georgia, Circuit Court.—*The Civic Bulletin*, April, 1949.

RUSSIA PRODUCING TRANSOCEAN ROCKETS.—German scientists are producing for Russia transocean rockets they designed for Hitler just before the war ended, Soviet zone informants have claimed.

The informants, who have access to offices of the Soviet-backed east German police, said the mammoth underground munitions plant at Peenemuende on the Baltic coast is turning out rockets at full speed.—*The Nashville Tennessean*, Sept. 27, 1949.



- “This Fast Moving Age,” by Donald W. McKay
- “Faith of the Forty-Niners,” by Dallas Youngs
- “Rapture or Revelation—Which?” by Varner J. Johns
- “Does Snake Handling Please God?” by R. F. Radke
- “The Church of the Middle Ages,” by Taylor G. Bunch
- “The Unpardonable Sin,” by J. Walter Rich
- “Better Than Gold,” by Robert Leo Odom
- “How Alcoholism May Be Prevented or Cured,” by C. S. Longacre



H. M. LAMBERT

our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the *fellowship* of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:7-9.

Perhaps the outstanding Bible example of one who entered into deep and true fellowship with Christ, is that of the apostle John, known as the disciple "whom Jesus loved." (John 21:20.) Although John's love for Jesus was awakened by the love of Jesus for him, John definitely *chose* to be near Jesus—as near as he could be—to listen all the better and become more like Him. So Jesus responded and manifested an appropriate love for him. John had, by nature, a fiery disposition, so strong that even while with his Master and engaged in active soul-winning work, he felt led to inquire whether he might call down fire from heaven to consume those who in a Samaritan village had refused to respond to the need of Jesus for their hospitality. What a marvelous transformation took place in the beloved disciple because he set his soul so resolutely on entering into and abiding in close fellowship with his Lord and Saviour!

A like transformation can, therefore, take place

Fellowship With Christ

IN OUR ATOMIC AGE

IN OUR ATOMIC AGE many are longing for they know not what—for a peace that is deep and lasting; for a joy that truly satisfies; for a hope in the future that is inspiring; for a conscience that is void of offense toward God and man; for a kindly spirit to dwell in the heart; for a clear conviction that they are having victory in the battles of life; for a knowledge of their being in close touch with heaven; and for an absolute certainty that they are being saved from sin day by day.

All this they may freely have and more, for this is God's will for them that may be realized through fellowship with His beloved Son, our Saviour. How plain are the teachings of the Scriptures concerning the fellowship we may have with Christ at this very time, as His coming draws near, so that in no respect at all need we be lacking in the blessed results of fellowship with Christ! Thus we read: "So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of

By John W. Halliday

in all who will as earnestly seek to enter into close fellowship with Christ, for Jesus said, "If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our *abode* with him." John 14:23. John entered into this close fellowship with both the Father and the Son, for he wrote: "Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ." 1 John 1:3.

So sweet and refreshing and heavenly is this experience of true and close fellowship with Jesus that Paul declares: "God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, . . . and hath raised us up together, and made us *sit together in heavenly places* in Christ
(Continued on page 27)

What Happens to Man

*Has Anyone Ever Come Back
From the Dead to Tell Us?*

By Herbert R. Thurber

HAVE YOU ever considered what happens to man when he dies? Maybe you smugly rest in a trust in the church and the preacher to take care of that.

Whatever the attempted methods of escape from your concern over this obvious tragedy that circles the globe, if some one offered you positive truth about death, you would be ready to listen. You may ask, "Well, does the writer of these words propose to do this? What does he know beyond the rest of us?"

Fortunately, or unfortunately, I have never experienced death, and so cannot tell you what sensations accompany it, nor have I recently returned from the grave to relate what happens there. A man named Lazarus had this experience, however, hence it is interesting to read what is said about it.

"Jesus therefore again groaning in Himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto Him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me. And I knew that Thou hearest Me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go." John 11:38-44.

The friends of Lazarus were gathered around the tomb on the memorable day when he came forth from the grave. Yet in connection with this great experience no amount of Scripture reading reveals what Lazarus said he experienced while in the tomb. Evidently Lazarus had nothing to tell.

Though Lazarus' body had already begun to decompose, the Saviour called him forth from the tomb, not down from heaven or up from hell.

King David did not ascend to heaven at death. The apostle Peter referred to David's prophecy of Christ in his great Pentecostal sermon. He emphasized the prophecy, noting that David was not speaking of

himself when he spoke of the resurrection of Christ. "Men and brethren," spoke Peter, "let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day. . . . For David is not ascended into the heavens." Acts 2:29, 34.

The converted thief, dying on a cross by the side of Jesus, did not ascend to heaven at death. The day of the crucifixion he was promised fellowship with Christ in paradise. He could not have been with Christ that day for Christ was that day laid in the tomb. On the third day after the crucifixion "the angel of the Lord *descended from heaven*, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it." Matthew 28:2. We are not told that the angel brought Christ from heaven with him. Jesus did not come from heaven when He was resurrected; He came forth from the tomb. To have gone to paradise the day of the crucifixion, the thief would have had to precede Christ there. Christ did not return to heaven until after the resurrection.

After Christ had arisen, Mary approached Him. "Jesus saith unto her, Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father." John 20:17. The conclusion from Luke 23:42, 43 that the thief went to paradise the day of the crucifixion is based on improper punctuation. The complete story of the crucifixion and resurrection supports the teaching of the whole Bible, and the promise Christ gave the dying thief that day: "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise."

Lazarus, David, the penitent thief—all went to the grave at death. So do all mortal beings. This is part of the curse pronounced upon Adam. It is the lot of all flesh. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Genesis 3:19. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Ecclesiastes 12:7.

WHEN HE DIES?

That this spirit that returns to God at death is not some conscious part of man is readily seen from several Bible texts: When man dies "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." Psalm 146:4. "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence." Psalm 115:17.

The impossibility of dust in itself, without the breath of life from God, having consciousness, feeling, and intelligence is further stated in these words: "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion

forever in anything that is done under the sun." Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6. "What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit [grave]? Shall the dust praise Thee? Shall it declare Thy truth?" Psalm 30:9.

A study of the Hebrew word translated "spirit" in Ecclesiastes 12:7 shows it is often translated "breath." For an example of this read Job 27:3: "All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils." The "spirit," or "breath," of God, as used in these verses, is not the soul. The soul is the combination of the body and the breath of God. It is the being formed by God at the beginning of life. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7.

We know no more about the secret of the soul's existence than we know about the secret of life itself. We can know this: Body and spirit, or breath of God, make a soul. At death these two parts are separated, the body returning to dust and the breath of life returning to God who gave it. Consciousness ceases until the resurrection, when life is restored. The soul does not live on in hell or heaven.

From boyhood I have been puzzled by the awful
(Continued on page 35)



A. DEVANEY

It is a comforting thought to the Christian that God "giveth His beloved sleep." (Psalm 127:2.) Death is a restful sleep that will not be disturbed until the resurrection morning when "many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake." (Daniel 12:2.)



The SERMON of the MONTH



THE GLORIOUS RAPTURE

By H. M. S. Richards, *Speaker on the Voice of Prophecy Radio Program*

THE word "rapture," as used theologically today, refers to the catching away of the people or the church of God at the second coming of Christ. It is from the Latin word *rapere*, which simply means "caught up" or "caught away," and as such is found in the Vulgate translation of the New Testament in 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

What is the manner of Christ's return? We read in Acts 1:11: "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." His ascension was literal and visible and actual. The brilliance of that coming lights the heavens and the whole world, for we read in the words of Matthew 24:27: "As the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Some time ago Walter Lippmann, the brilliant journalist, wrote in his column, "Today and Tomorrow," in the *New York Herald-Tribune* (March 2, 1935): "The signs are multiplying. The stage is set for an event of world-wide importance and of unpredictable consequences."

Yes, friends, there is an event of world-wide importance about to occur, but it is not unpredictable. It has all been predicted in the Holy Word of God. The Lord in His prophecies has told us that these things would happen and what the result would be.

As we walk among the silent monuments of God's acre, we whisper to ourselves, "Shall these dead live again?" As we walk through the crypts of the Church of the Capuchins in Rome, and see its walls lined with skeletons, skulls, and bones, we whisper, "Shall these dead live again?" As we climb about the ruins of a cliff dwelling in Arizona, built by unknown hands unknown centuries ago, and see the evidences of a vanished race, we inquire, "Shall these dead live again?" As we stand in a darkened room where a precious life is ebbing away and hear the last sigh, the last heartbeat, through our tears we murmur, "Shall the dead live again?"

Yes, thank God, they shall live again! Listen to these words of promise in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18: "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

There are many who need the comfort of these words. Yes, the coming of our Lord means the resurrection of the righteous dead, a relinking of the family chain. It means also that the living mortals will instantly become immortal; for "we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

The cemeteries all about us are still growing. The dead have not been raised. Therefore we know that our Lord has not yet returned. The second coming of Christ is not death; it is the end of death for God's people. As the inspired apostle continues: "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." Verse 54.

Every funeral that Jesus attended was broken up. Death was conquered by His presence. He brought life to the dead. He was, and is, the Prince of life. (Acts 3:15.) When our Lord raised Lazarus from the dead, He said, "Lazarus, come forth." And someone has beautifully said that had not Christ mentioned Lazarus by name, all the dead would have risen. So when He comes again, He will call forth the righteous dead to endless life. We read in John 6:40: "And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

The second coming of Christ is not to be confused with conversion, nor yet with death. The wicked do

not flee in terror at the death of a righteous man, nor are the righteous raised from the dead at death. Yet the fleeing of the wicked and the raising of the righteous will characterize the second advent of Christ.

There is nothing secret about our Lord's return and the rapture of His people. Notice, He descends with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, with the trump of God. These three expressions—shout, voice, trump—do not suggest secrecy, do they? Matthew speaks of the trump of God in these words: "And 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.

This great sound of the trumpet would hardly be so silent that the world would be in ignorance about it. Says the inspired psalmist: "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people. Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." Psalm 50:3-5.

This glorious appearance of Christ and the rapture of His people will not be without effect upon unbelievers in all the world. We read what happens then to them in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10. The wicked will not be able to endure that glorious sight. The glory of Christ's coming will be their destruction.

The Bible compares the coming of that day with the coming of a thief in the night. Some might draw from that the idea of a secret event, but what does the prophecy say about it? Let us read two passages of Scripture: "But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up." Matthew 24:43. "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3.

Now notice verse four: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."

That day comes as an unexpected thief only to those who are unprepared. You see, friends, in both these texts the figure of the thief is used to describe the unexpected, sudden appearing of our Lord; but they also positively teach the violence and destructiveness of that great event. The Saviour Himself illustrated the destruction of the wicked at His coming by two historical events—the destruction of the world by the Flood, and the annihilation of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire, as we read in Luke 17:26-30.

(Continued on page 34)

"My Peace"

By L. M. Spear

This world has much of beauty,
With its birds and trees and flowers,
Glad sunshine and green meadows,
Blue sky and gentle showers.

But a fear has spread upon it
With a darkness like a pall,
Like a fearsome, dread miasma,
With its mantle over all.

For the world is full of sorrow,
Disappointment, grief, and tears,
And forebodings of the future
Are increasing with the years.

And around the earth's circumference,
Petty bickerings are rife,
And the mutterings of the war-clouds
Presage a day of strife.

But the Christian should not worry,
For the Hand that guides the stars
And the planets in their courses,
Guides this little world of ours.

And at His glorious advent
All war and strife will cease,
And tears and sorrow vanish
With the coming Prince of peace.

Though storms may rage around us,
Yet amidst the battle's din,
We may have this blest assurance
That His peace abides within.

"Not this world's, but My peace
Do I give unto thee,"
A "perfect peace" to every one
"Whose mind is stayed on Me."



IT WAS IN the Garden of Eden that the master rebel of the universe gave the first doctrine of his counterfeit religion. Christ and His angels had cast Lucifer out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-9); thereafter Satan made this earth his abode. Christ said of Satan, "He is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44); so we can expect that his first doctrine, in his efforts to set himself up as god, would be a lie. All paganism has for its foundation this lie as stated in Eden by the serpent.

God told Adam and Eve when he placed them in the Garden of Eden, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:16, 17.

The father of lies, Satan, contradicted God. "And the serpent said unto the woman, *Ye shall not surely die*: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4, 5.

The serpent's lie has been the foundation of the pagan lies of the immortality of the soul, spiritism, astrology, transmigration of the soul, ancestor worship, and saint worship. Do away with immortality of the soul, and all paganism will cease to exist.

J. N. Andrews, a Bible student, writes: "The doctrine of the immortality of the soul is something indispensable to almost every prominent religious

The World's

Peddled by the World's Greatest Liar

system. It is the cornerstone of heathenism. All, or nearly all, the gods of heathenism are dead men who were turned into gods by dying. They are simply the immortal souls of the dead."—Quoted in *Past, Present, and Future*, by J. E. White, p. 149.

In *A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory*, Rev. A. R. Faussett, A. M., says in his notes on 1 Timothy 6:16: "As He *hath immortality*, so will He give it to us who believe; to be out of Him is death. It is mere heathen philosophy that attributes to the soul indestructibility in itself, which is to be attributed solely to God's gift."

On the origin of the doctrine of immortality, Mr. Pantan Ham, of Bristol, England, says: "Let it be registered as the genuine genealogy, that pagan Plato was its father, and the profligate Pope Leo its foster-father. Born and bred by the pagan philosophy, the protégé of popery, this notion of the soul's immortality has become a pet dogma of popular Protestantism, which, with a strange forgetfulness of its low lineage, openly declares it to be the honorable offspring of a true orthodoxy!"—Quoted in *Past, Present, and Future*, pp. 153, 154.

We will now examine the belief of the ancient pagan countries and see that the belief in the natural immortality of the soul is really pagan.

Babylonians and Assyrians.—"The Babylonians and the Assyrians believed that it was possible by certain magic rites to call up spirits of the dead to answer questions or to injure enemies. The person who possessed this power was



The heathen have always believed in immortality, and, consequently, have worshiped their ancestors whom they believe are alive and have much to do with what goes on in this world. These are Burmese girls worshipping their ancestors.

Biggest Lie

known as 'raiser of the departed spirits.'"—Lewis B. Patton, *Spiritism and the Cult of the Dead in Antiquity*, London, Hodder & Staughton, Ltd., p. 213.

Egypt.—Herodotus, a Greek historian, born 484 B.C., says: "The Egyptians were also the first who asserted the doctrine that the soul of man is immortal."—Quoted in *Facts for the Times*, p. 283.

By George S. Belleau

"The belief in the immortality of the soul was strong among the Egyptians. The tomb was called, literally, 'the eternal dwelling.' The departed are called 'living'; the sarcophagus is 'the lord of life'; and the coffin is 'the chest of the living.' Only evil spirits are spoken of as 'dead.'"—Rev. J. N. Frandenburgh, *Fire From Strange Altars*, Cincinnati, Cranston & Stowe, pp. 295, 296.

China.—"Confucius was scrupulous about sacrifices to ancestors. 'He sacrificed to the dead as if they were present. He sacrificed to the spirits as if the spirits were present.'"—Gains Glen Atkins, *Procession of the Gods*, New York, Richard R. Smith, Inc., pp. 306, 309.

"The worship of ancestors enters into all the home life, manners and customs of the entire Chinese people."—Frank S. Dobbins, *Story of the World's Worship*, Chicago, The Dominion Company, p. 486.

"Chinese religion is inherently an attitude toward the spirits or gods with the object of obtaining a benefit or averting a calamity. . . . Suffice it to say here that it originated in ancestor-worship, and that the greater part of it remains ances-

tor-worship to the present day."—E. T. C. Werner, *Myths and Legends of China*, New York, Farrar & Rinehart, p. 52.

Greeks.—*Alger's Doctrine of a Future Life*, p. 101, tells us: "It seems plain that the Greeks derived many of their notions concerning the fate and state of the dead from Egypt."—Quoted in *Facts for the Times*, p. 283. "The immortality of the soul is both departure point and goal for Plato. The Greeks always believed it."—*Procession of the Gods*, p. 357.

American Indian.—"They generally believe in a future state, in which the souls of brave warriors and chaste wives enjoy a tranquil and happy existence with their ancestors and friends, spending their time in those exercises in which they delighted when on earth."—*Story of the World's Worship*, p. 364. "The Indians worshiped the spirits of their dead ancestors."—*Ibid.*

When Babylon, Assyria, and Egypt were teaching the immortality of the soul in their religious rites, contemporary Job, the man of God, was proclaiming God's truth that man was mortal, that at death man lost consciousness and was in an emotionless sleep till the morning of the resurrection. Notice the words of this prophet denying paganism's teachings: "Shall mortal man be more just than God?" Job 4:17.

"So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep." Job 14:12. Job calls death a sleep from which the dead will not awake "till the heavens

(Continued on page 24)



HOWARD HOLLEM, EDWARD MEYER, MACLAUGHARIE

A counterpart of heathen ancestry worship is this modern view of a contemporary church in which a devotee is praying for dead people whom she believes still live.



INTERPRETI

In the Light
By

★ Women Drinking More Than Men

A UNITED PRESS release appearing in many newspapers recently stated, on the authority of a veteran cafe owner, that the average woman is now outdrinking the average man. This cafe owner, whose name is Joseph Colucci, claims that 75 per cent of his bar patrons in his New York establishment are now women. "Before the war," said Colucci, "there were few women who visited bars unescorted. Nowadays we have almost three times as many women drinkers. They all like to sit at the bar."

According to this cafe owner, the average woman patron downs three cocktails before dinner, as compared to one in prewar days, and they continue drinking after dinner, which they never did before.

It is regrettable that women are becoming heavy drinkers, for it is bound to have very harmful moral

and physical effects. Womanhood has always been respected for its high standards. Now that the standards are being dragged in the dirt, we wonder what our future will be. The boys and the girls model their lives after the standards of their mothers. But now the children see mothers, as well as fathers, drinking, smoking, gambling, and they also see immodesty.

God once said, "Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10. The fulfillment of this command is needed now before the world loses sight of all standards of righteousness.



In a ceremony at the White House Atlantic Pact, which commits this signatories



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Kansas has become a wet state for the first time in sixty-nine years. This motorist changes the state slogan on his license tag from "The Wheat State" to "The Wet State." What a pity!

★ Is World War III in the Making?

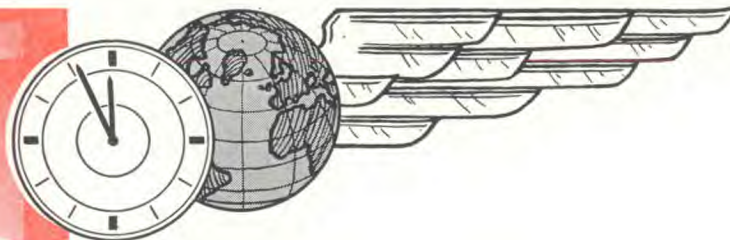
AMERICA'S signature on the North Atlantic Security Pact commits our nation to war in the event that any of the signatories are attacked. This is another military alliance similar to the Triple Entente of 1907. Such defensive military alliances have been considered by historians as one of the major causes of war. Therefore the signing of the Atlantic Pact will reassure only those people who choose to ignore the record of the past. Not only has the United States aligned itself with the nations of Europe against the communist threat, but the arming of the signatories of this pact seems to be a foregone conclusion.

No one knows the limit that this program will reach, but when it is once begun, there is no doubt but that it will involve this country in an expenditure of at least ten billion dollars before it is finished.

It seems that Russia has now, before all the world, been pronounced an aggressor, and the most powerful armed might of all history is being assembled to bring her into submission. All attempts at reaching a peaceful solution have been abandoned. The President of the United States has declared the Soviet Union an aggressor state. He has asked Congress to give him

OUR TIMES

Bible Prophecy
tor



ACME

Truman formally ratified the North war in the event that any of the by Russia.

complete control of an armed program that he may apply in Europe—which seems to be America's first line of defense. This is necessary, says the President, to prevent further aggression by Russia.

With Europe fearing the biggest land army in the world, the United States, with the biggest air force and the largest navy in the world, and the sole possessor of the atom bomb, takes over the responsibility to help organize and militarize Europe as a counterbalance to Russia's military forces.

In an editorial by David Lawrence in the *U. S. News & World Report* of

August 5, 1949, under the title, "The Start of World War III?" the following statement appears: "History records that when two opposing nations or groups of nations place their chief reliance on military force and begin mobilizing their armed strength as a means of bringing pressure on one or the other to refrain from a specific line of policy, the end result is war."

Now that the use of moral force as the means to peace has been abandoned, it seems that we are committed to an eventual use of physical force. We do not feel that all moral means have been exhausted in the program for peace. We feel that moral force is still worth a trial. If we could see the end from the beginning and realize what griefs, destruction, and slaughter total war would bring to us, perhaps we would strain ourselves to try to make peace.

According to the prophecies of the Bible, however, we will eventually become involved in a terrible world conflict. This might well be the last conflict of the ages that will terminate the world's history and usher in the kingdom of God. The longer this last conflict is avoided, the more time men will have to prepare to meet God. But it seems that time is running out, and the efforts for peace are just about to be shelved, and an armament race is underway.

OUR TIMES, DECEMBER, 1949

We are told in Revelation 16:13, 14 that the spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. No doubt the devil is endeavoring to mobilize the world for this final war at this time, and thereby is fulfilling prophecy.

★ Catholics Becoming Protestants

AMONG THE 1,000,000 new members received into the Methodist church last year, it is reported by Dr. Elmer D. Clark, editorial secretary of the Methodist Board of Missions, "in the New York area alone, more than 1,000 of the new members came from the Roman Catholic Church." The same report is coming from many cities in the U.S. of Catholics joining Protestant churches.—*The Civic Bulletin*, June, 1949.



ACME

In this holiday season we are reminded of the suffering that prevails in our world by this picture of an Arab refugee boy who holds his younger sister and wonders what will happen to them. They are among 700,000 refugees who have fled their homes in Palestine.

Proposed Calendar Changes Analyzed

By J. C. Kidwiler

NOTHING is more distinctive of our modern age than the ease with which it has abandoned long-established customs and ways and manners of life. In no particular have changes and growth been more marvelous than those along business lines. And thereby hangs the story of the change of the calendar. Businessmen declare that one month cannot be compared with another, for one month has thirty days, another thirty-one days, and still another has twenty-eight or twenty-nine days. "Big business" points to the ease with which our modern world had discarded numerous customs and practices, and says, "Why not the calendar also?"

In 1923, under the League of Nations, there were 185 calendar proposals. Of these many proposals the one by Moses B. Cotsworth of England, and supported by George Eastman, millionaire Kodak manufacturer, was the most prominent.

Under the Cotsworth plan there would have been thirteen months in the year, every month would have the same number of working days, pay days would recur on the same monthly date, holidays and other fixed monthly dates would always occur on the same week day. But the blank day was a part of the calendar reform. Every month would have had twenty-eight days. Finally Saturday, December 28, would be reached. You retire that Saturday night and awaken the next morning to find that it is not Sunday. No, that is not a mistake. After living through this Blank Day, which, of course, may be filled with as many hours of useful activity and pleasure as any other twenty-four-hour period, you will retire once more and awaken the next morning to discover that it is Sunday, January 1. What could prove more unnerving than to arise on what may be called Sunday morning and find it is in reality Monday? Then next year it would be Tuesday, Wednesday the next year, and so through the week.

More recent attempts at a World Calendar before the United Nations and the Congress of the United States provide for a 364-day calendar, beginning every year and every quarter with Sunday; ending every year and every quarter with Saturday. Its four quarters would each have an equal number of days, ninety-one, each containing seventy-eight work days and thirteen Sundays.

The months are arranged in a pattern of 31-30-30; that is, the first month in each quarter, January, April, July, and October, having thirty-one days, the last two months in each quarter having thirty days.

Every month of the twelve has twenty-six work days, plus Sundays. As each year closes, a day is lifted from its place in the week, so that the following year may begin again on Sunday. And so again, as above, one will retire on Saturday night and awaken the next morning to find that it is not Sunday but a Blank Day. This Blank Day will be called World Day, World Peace Day, United Nations Day, Year-End Day, or some other name. The following day, which should be Monday, is called Sunday. And so, during the years that follow, Sunday will rotate all through the week as noted above.

Notwithstanding the use of 364 as the number decided on for the days of the year, that is not the true number of the days of the year, which consists of 365 days and a fraction. A day is not gotten rid of by ignoring it, or by refusing to count it, or by pretending that it does not exist.

The calendar revisers plan to insert an eight-day "week" into the calendar once in ordinary years and twice in leap years. They seem to forget that the week owes its existence to a regularly recurring holy day—a day set apart for worship of the Deity and for rest from secular labor.

Whenever the perpetuity of the week is being discussed, many people sincerely ask the question: Wasn't the week disrupted when the Julian calendar was discarded for the present Gregorian calendar? The Julian calendar was established by Julius Cæsar some time before the birth of Christ. He believed the solar year to be exactly $365\frac{1}{4}$ days in length, whereas it is twelve minutes and fourteen seconds short of this. In time his calendar became out of step with the solar year. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII published a bull annulling ten days from the calendar. The correction was effected in several Catholic countries in the month of October, 1582. After Thursday, the fourth day of the month, ten days were dropped out of the count. The next day was Friday, but instead of being the fifth it was the fifteenth. France made the change in December by calling the tenth the twentieth.

"It is to be noted that in the Christian period the order of days of the week has never been interrupted. Thus, when Gregory XIII reformed the Calendar, in 1582, Thursday, 4 October, was followed by Friday, 15 October. So in England, 1752, Wednesday, 2 September, was followed by Thursday, 14 September."—*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. III, p. 740, art., "Chronology."

IN "THE TIME of the end [the last days] many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4. Thus the prophet Daniel was instructed by the angel of prophecy. This prophetic statement seems to predict, not only an increased volume of travel in the last days, but increased speed as well. This conclusion is strengthened by Paul's statement in Romans 9:28: "He [God] will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." If the work which heaven has mapped out for the last generation of men is to be "finished" and yet "cut short," an increase of speed is indicated.

Sir Isaac Newton, more than two centuries ago, was led to take this



How thankful we should be that, though the size of God's universe is tremendous, the angels fly back and forth through space with swiftness and ease and bring to God's children the help they need!

Limitations of HUMAN SCIENCE

*Man's Great Scientific Knowledge Is Small
Compared to the Understanding of the Infinite*

By W. E. Videto



CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Mt. Palomar telescope reveals distances so great that it exposes the insignificance of man in this world. The utter futility of ever reaching the distant points of the universe without God's help is quite evident.

OUR TIMES, DECEMBER, 1949

view of the prophecy and predicted that men would yet travel at the then-incredible speed of fifty miles an hour. For his prediction he was scoffingly criticized by the French infidel, Voltaire, who intimated that much Bible study had "befuddled" the brain of a really great scientist. But the passing of time has shown that the Bible, like a strong anvil, has again broken the hammer of the scoffer.

The railroad locomotive has reached a record of speed more than twice that of Newton's prediction, but this wonder has been eclipsed by the coming of the airplane with its new and sensational speed records. The speed with which sound travels through the air has been reached and even exceeded by daring aviators. Supersonic flight has become a reality.

But nature presents a still higher speed goal. Light reaches the eye much more quickly than sound waves strike the drum of the ear—more than 186,000 miles a second. Of course, such a speed is incredibly greater than mortals could ever hope to attain.

In a book, *The Universe and Dr. Einstein*, the author, a friend and disciple of the scientist, discusses the speed of light from the standpoint of the theory of relativity. He says (on page 51 of this book): "If a yard-

(Continued on page 26)

For BETTER HOMES and HEALTH

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

By Truma Elizabeth Rhodes

THE MORE I read, hear, and see of the alarming number of juvenile delinquencies in our land today, the more convinced I become that it is the parents who are delinquents.

Children are not born bad; the present-day generation of babies born into the world are just as good babies as those born into the world a century ago when the juvenile delinquency rate was low. Of course, the enticing, alluring temptations of our day have much to do with the problem of child training, which, therefore, demands more time, effort, thought, and careful planning on the part of the parent than at any other time in history. But I hold to the profound belief that if we "train up a child in the way he should go: . . . when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. And I feel if my thirteen-year-old Jimmy and eight-year-old Mary go wrong, I have failed some where, in some way, along the line of training their young minds.

I acknowledge heredity does have a part to play in our lives, but such a very small part, and too often the blame of juvenile delinquency is placed upon heredity. It is used as an excuse rather than diverting the attention to the actual fault. Nine cases out of ten the fault is due to neglect and a lack of understanding on the part of the parents.

If we can help our mothers and fathers of America feel the tremendous responsibility that rests upon them as parents in training their boys and girls for a life of service, both for God and their country, then we will have accomplished much in helping to combat juvenile delinquency.

The responsibility of child training is no easy task. To train the child aright is a task that demands the very utmost efforts of any parent, and is certainly a full-time job requiring every day, every hour, and every moment, and is a lifework.

I would not expect to be successful if I worked in a business office as a secretary, and tried to farm the rest of my time. Soon I would find that I would be neglecting one or the other of the duties, for both are full-time jobs, and all my work would be inefficient.

Child training is like that; it demands more time than many unwise parents are willing to give their

children, and, as a result, we have the sad state of affairs referred to as juvenile delinquency.

The greatest sin we commit against our children is neglect. All over America there are countless numbers of mothers who do public work every day. In every community there are mothers who work, and whose children are left foot-loose and fancy free to roam the streets and neighborhood. We cannot expect our children to grow up to be the fine loyal citizens of our country that we would have them be, living a life like that. The mother who works has little time to instruct, advise, and counsel with her little ones of things pertaining to life, so little time to care for their personal needs, and often in her haste the food they eat is poorly prepared.

Recently while doing some missionary work in a certain little town where there are two factories operating, I dare say that in one fifth of the homes where I called I found that the mothers were away working and the children were alone. I have often wondered why a levelheaded father will permit a mother to leave her home and neglect her children to go out into the world to help earn a livelihood, unless he is handicapped and unable to do so alone.

We parents need to be educated to the ways and methods of training our children. Every other vocation in life demands training; is it any wonder that the most important vocation in life (which most assuredly is child training) should require more? I know of no better way to begin than to follow the advice Christ gives: "Learn of Me." (Matthew 11: 29.) Not until we become Christlike are we capable of giving our children the training they deserve. We must ourselves be the type of character that we desire our children to be. One of the laws of human nature is, "By beholding we become transformed," and it is an old saying, "Like father, like son." Children are great imitators. Your child's character will be formed by what he sees in those about him. If you are absent, his character will be formed by beholding those less concerned than yourself about his future. It is your privilege and responsibility to train your heritage to live a life of usefulness.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover says, "Our nation is sadly in need of a rebirth of the simple life—a return to

the days when God was a part of each household, when families arose in the morning with a prayer on their lips, and ended the day by gathering together to place themselves in His care."—*Listen*, July-September, 1948, p. 5. And I heartily agree with him. No man or woman is capable of training their heritage aright without God's help. It has been wisely stated that "the best way to bring up a child is on your knees."

Oh, parents, that we could see that every child born into our homes is a sacred trust from God, that we brought the responsibility of training him when we brought the baby into the world! We cannot sidestep that responsibility without great suffering on someone's part. Children must be taught to choose between right and wrong if they are ever to know the difference. It is the all-important duty of every parent to give his children nothing less than the best in training. We should ever remember that the boys and girls of today are the men and women of tomorrow, that we have little time for other things of less importance. Let us as parents dedicate ourselves to the service of God in raising our children to be servants of God and friends to man.



By Archa O. Dart

The Little Preacher

ONE DAY a lady was busy with her morning duties of sweeping and dusting when a knock came to her door. "Who is that?" she thought to herself. "It isn't a friend to visit at this early hour. It must be some salesman, but I do not need a washing machine, or vanilla extract, or the *Ladies' Home Journal*. I do not need a thing." And here she opened the door.

There stood a little ten-year-old boy with something under his arm. His hair was combed, and his shirt was all buttoned up neatly, and there was no jam on it anywhere. "Good morning, lady," he said as he tipped his hat, "would you like for me to give you a Bible study?"

"Give me a what?" asked the lady in astonishment. "A Bible study."

"Well, sonny, I have been teaching a Sunday-school class over there in that church for several years. And you want to give me a Bible study?"

"Yes," he answered.

"Well, ah-ow-why-I—I," the lady hesitated, "oh, all right, you may give me a Bible study if you want to."

"Very well, then, next Wednesday at three-thirty I shall be here," he replied as he turned to leave.

(Continued on page 25)



By Caris Lauda

A Wonderful Gift

SEASON'S greetings, Teen-agers!

This is the month for "gifts," and today I want to write to you about one of the most wonderful "gifts" ever given to you and me. What is it? How much is it worth? Who gave it? Oh, you have all kinds of questions, haven't you?

Well, it is a letter—the greatest letter ever sent to you. And the queer thing about it is that you have forgotten to read this letter. You have put off reading it until some other time.

Now let's just think for a moment. Suppose today you received a letter from your mother, and when you received the letter you said, "Oh, I'm too busy to read it just now; I will read it a little later." And then when evening came you would say again, "Oh, there's that letter from Mother. I must read it, but I am too tired now. I will wait until in the morning." And when morning came, you found you were still too busy to read the letter. Really, my friend, you wouldn't think very much of your mother if you treated her letter that way, would you? And yet many of us are doing just that with the letter, the great gift, I am writing you about today.

This letter is a nice, long letter and it fills a Book. It is just the Book you need. Yes, and it is the most popular Book in all the world, too. It lives; it lifts. Yes, you have guessed it already—it is the Bible.

America a few years ago raved over the book, *Gone with the Wind*, but its sale of more than one million copies is small compared with the annual sale of the Bible. With no special publicity, the Bible leads everything in the publishing field, and every year more than twenty-five million copies are sold throughout the world.

You know, Teen-agers, the Bible answers the need of every human heart as the sunshine answers the need of the plant. It brings the revelation of a living and a loving Guide. It lifts teen-agers as they take its message into their souls, giving them power to live clean, upright, noble lives. As a young man and a young woman you do need this Book, the Bible. My friend, it satisfies as no other book satisfies, and it will satisfy as nothing else satisfies.

The days through which you and I are passing are eventful and fateful days. The future is all uncertain from the human viewpoint, and yet the future is largely in the hands of us as youth of today. What we do today and tomorrow will certainly have a telling influence upon the younger generation, the chil-

(Continued on page 24)

The World's Biggest Lie

(Continued from page 17)

be no more," or till the second coming of Christ and the resurrection.

"If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." Verse 14. We will see that the change of the righteous from mortality to immortality takes place at the resurrection and the second coming of Christ. Job then shows his faith in the resurrection: "Thou shalt call, and I will answer Thee." Verse 15.

Job then tells us that there is no knowledge in the grave. "His sons come to honor, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them." Verse 21.

In 977 B.C. Solomon taught the same as Job. Notice what he says as to the state of the dead: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.

Then to be sure that there would not be any misunderstanding as to the condition of man in death, Solomon continues: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Verse 10.

The psalmist speaks of death as "the land of forgetfulness." (Psalm 88:12.) David also says: "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence." Psalm 115:17. Daniel speaks of death as a sleep: "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake." Daniel 12:2.

Paul makes it clear that God only is immortal: "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever." 1 Timothy 1:17. Again he says: "Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality." 1 Timothy 6:15, 16.

God intended that immortality be man's destination. Mortal man will receive immortality if faithful through Christ. Christ "hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Timothy 1:10.

When will immortality be given the just? "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." 1 Corinthians 15:51-53. It is on the morning of the resurrection that the faithful, with Job, will hear

the call of Christ and come forth from the grave. Then they will be changed from mortality to immortality.

The belief in the immortality of the soul does away with the resurrection and the second coming of Christ. Why should there be a resurrection if the dead have already received their reward at death? The Bible teaches that the reason for the second coming of Christ is to receive his faithful people. If the righteous dead are already in heaven, why should Christ come? Tyndale, the reformer and translator of the Bible, writing to Sir Thomas More, a Roman Catholic, said:

"Mr. Darby, the leading spirit among the 'Plymouth Brethren,' England, makes this singularly frank acknowledgment:—'I would express the conviction that the idea of the immortality of the soul, although recognized in Luke 12:5 and 21:38, is not in general a gospel topic; that it comes on the contrary from the Platonists; and that it was just when the coming of Christ was denied in the Church, or at least began to be lost sight of, that the doctrine of the immortality of the soul came in to replace that of the resurrection. This was about the time of Origen.'" —Quoted in *Facts for the Times*, pp. 282, 283.

Evangelist G. W. Anglebarger states in his tract, *The Intermediate State*: "If the saints are dead, they are not alive. If they are in the grave, they are not in heaven. If they have no thoughts, then they are not thinking. If they know nothing, then they are not intelligent. If they are asleep, then they are not awake. If they are to be rewarded at the judgment, they are not being rewarded now. Is this not the doctrine of the Bible?"—Quoted in *Past, Present, and Future*, p. 151.

For the Teens of Our Times

(Continued from page 23)

dren who are growing up. Today there must be careful thinking and planning. The moral and spiritual forces of our lives must be brought into greater action. You and I today need a clarity of vision and a guiding hand to aid us through the maze of uncertainties.

In former great movements, leaders of men, like Cromwell, Washington, and Lincoln, went to their Bibles for inspiration and guidance. They knew where to receive light and help. You and I, too, as youth who face even greater problems than the men and women of other days, may today find light and help from this great gift, the Bible. I urge you to accept and use this gift. It offers you a design for living. It offers you a workable and satisfying life. Remember, it is the Book for daily reading and enjoyment. It contains food for the mind and also for the heart. It has inspiration in it, too. There are treasures throughout its pages.

In my next letter to you I'll give you seven reasons why we should study the Bible daily, and I'll have a very interesting diary for you to read, too. May the

Saviour of the world abundantly bless you this Yuletide, and let us give to Him our best gift—ourselves—as He gave to us His best—Himself.

Truly your Pen Pal,
Caris

The Little Preacher

(Continued from page 23)

"Did you ever hear of anything like that?" exclaimed the lady as she watched the little fellow disappear down the street. "I wonder who he is and what on earth he will say. Anyway, it will be interesting to see what he does next Wednesday."

She thought about that little boy that day and the next and the next, then forgot all about him. Again she heard a knock at her door, and there stood that same little ten-year-old boy with his hair combed, and his shirt was all buttoned up, and there was no jam on it at all.

"Good afternoon, lady," he greeted her as he tipped his hat. "I have come to give you a Bible study."

"Oh, this is Wednesday, isn't it? And it is exactly three-thirty," she said as she looked at the clock. "Come right in."

"Let's have a word of prayer before we begin," he requested.

"Dear me," thought the lady, "this is going to be a real little sermon."

After the prayer he asked her a question. But she could not answer it. Before she could become too embarrassed he told her to read the answer from the text he had given her in the Bible. How relieved she was! There was the answer to that question as clear as day. He asked another question and answered it by reading the text from the Bible himself. She would read one text and he would read the next. This continued throughout the study.

At last he said, "Now that is all. Would you like to have me give you another study next Wednesday?"

"Oh, another study like this one?" she asked. "Why, let me see. Yes, I think it would be all right for you to come back next Wednesday and give me another one."

Next Wednesday at three-thirty there was that little ten-year-old lad with his Bible under his arm ready to give her another study. When that study was over, he said, "Now that is all. Would you like for me to give you another study next Wednesday?"

"Yes, indeed," she quickly responded, "these lessons are so interesting I do not want to miss a single one. You be sure to come back next Wednesday."

So the next Wednesday and the next and the next and several Wednesdays after that that little ten-year-old boy gave her a study. One afternoon the lady said, "I would like to join your church."

"Well, I shall bring my pastor with me next time and you can talk to him," he replied.

The next Wednesday about three-fifteen the lady

began looking down the street. Every two or three minutes she would look down the street until about three-thirty she saw two preachers coming toward her house—a big preacher and a little one. The short one said to the lady, "This is our pastor."

The pastor went inside and gave the lady a study that day, and another and another, and several studies after that.

One Sabbath morning after his regular sermon, the pastor said, "We are to have a baptism today. I shall ask those who are to be baptized to please come forward and take these front seats." Several came up. "I believe," continued the pastor, "that it would be very interesting to us all to know how these people heard about this blessed truth. I am going to ask each one to stand and tell his experience."

The first man arose and said, "An Adventist family moved next door to us, and we became acquainted over the back-yard fence, and I am here today."

Then this lady arose. "Several months ago a little ten-year-old boy called at our house and wanted to give me a Bible study. Although I had been a teacher in a Sunday-school class for several years, I was curious to know what a little fellow like this would say and do. He has been coming to my house every Wednesday since, and I am here today."

After she sat down, a man arose and said, "A little ten-year-old boy came to my office every Tuesday afternoon at three-thirty and gave me a Bible study, and I am here today."

Another person said, "A little ten-year-old boy came to our home every Monday afternoon at three-thirty and gave me a Bible study, and I am here today."

Another stood and said, "A little ten-year-old boy came to our home every Thursday afternoon at three-thirty and gave us a Bible study, and I am here today."

Still another said, "A little ten-year-old boy came to my home every Friday afternoon at three-thirty and gave me a Bible study, and I am here today."

The pastor asked, "Is that little ten-year-old boy present this morning?" The little boy stood and his head was about the same height as the rest of the people who were sitting down. "Come right up here to the front," the pastor invited him.

"Are you the young man who gave Bible studies to these people?" asked the pastor.

"Yes," he replied.

"Will you please tell us how and why you happened to get started giving Bible studies?"

"Well, pastor, you see I have been attending the church school so long [he was ten years old, remember], and have been enjoying those good Bible lessons we have every day, and I thought it was time to pass them on."

"Thank God," said the pastor, "for the church school where our boys and girls may be trained to work for Him."



Let's Ask the DOCTOR



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

I have had three skin cancers removed from my face and the side of my neck. I have been told that I may expect others to appear. What is the cause and are they catching? Do these go through the blood stream?—G.A.

Skin cancers are of two varieties: so-called basal celled, and squamous celled. The former is also called rodent ulcer because it stays in one place and keeps growing and may ulcerate. The other kind may spread to other parts of the body by the lymphatic circulation and possibly by the blood stream. They are not "catching" or easily passed to others. As people get older the tendency to skin cancer increases somewhat. The skin cancer is the most favorable for removal of any form of cancer, and radium, X ray, some form of a cautery, or the knife may be used for their removal. If new ones appear, have them removed at once while still small as the scar will be smaller. Local anesthetics can prevent all pain so that need not prevent your going to the doctor as early as possible.

I have suffered very much this winter with rheumatism of the right leg muscles. What is my body lacking or what can I take to prevent its recurrence?—A.M.

The answer to this question is a little difficult without knowing more of the symptoms, since so-called rheumatism may be one of several different things loosely called rheumatism. Localized muscular rheumatism is rather uncommon and might be a bursitis or some disturbance in the circulation of the limb, or even a neuritis. Be sure that the blood is circulating freely in the leg, and if there is any difficulty here, you might give the limb contrast bathing of alternate hot and cold water to improve the circulation. Your exercise should be light and regular rather than severe or strenuous. In general, rheumatism may be brought on by exposure to severe cold, or to worry and emotional strain, this latter now being considered a very important and frequent factor as well as any program of poor hygiene that tends to lower the body vitality.

Limitations of Human Science

(Continued from page 21)

stick could attain the velocity of light, it would shrink away into nothing at all. Similarly, a clock, traveling with the velocity of light, would stop completely. From this it follows that nothing can ever travel faster than light, no matter what forces are applied. Thus relativity reveals another fundamental law of nature. *The velocity of light is the top-limiting velocity of the universe.* (Italics his.)

But the giant telescope on Mount Palomar, with its two-hundred-inch lens, reveals distances so great that some galaxies are a billion light-years from us. If the velocity of light were "the top-limiting velocity of the universe," there could be no communication among the constellations, and this is the conclusion reached by the author, because countless millions of light-years would be required for a messenger to travel, for instance, from earth to heaven.

But the Bible reveals that there are swift messen-

gers who fly back and forth through space and carry messages from Him who created and who governs all. The ninth chapter of Daniel records an intensely earnest prayer by the prophet. Before he had ceased praying, as he says, "whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, . . . being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation." Daniel 9:21.

As to the time consumed in his long journey, we are given this statement: "At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee." Verse 23. Surely the angel did fly swiftly from "the land that is very far off." (Isaiah 33:17.) On arriving he found Daniel still praying.

When, in the garden of Gethsemane, Peter drew his sword and smote off the ear of the servant of the high priest, Jesus rebuked Peter and said to him: "Thinkest thou that I cannot *now* pray to My Father, and He shall presently [immediately] give Me more than twelve legions of angels?" Matthew 26:53.

At another time, on the morning of the resurrection, Jesus talked with Mary, but He said: "Touch Me not; for I have not yet ascended to My Father." John 20:17. Later, on the same day, two of the other women met Him, and "held Him by the feet, [and] worshiped Him." Matthew 28:9. We cannot escape the conclusion that in the time intervening Jesus had ascended to meet the Father and had returned.

Distances so great that a billion light-years would be required for a ray of light to pass over them are as nothing to the "fiery stream" of angels (Daniel 7:10) arriving and departing from "the great white throne" where the King of the universe presides.

Fellowship With Christ

(Continued from page 11)

Jesus: that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4-7. Then those who enjoy close fellowship with Jesus in this life, will enjoy the "exceeding riches" of His still more heavenly fellowship through all the eternal ages to come. No wonder they bear the happy testimony regarding it here below:

"What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms."

There are others, however, who are without this experience. Yet some of them long to enter into it, and do so under favorable circumstances, as may be understood from the following incident: The famous violinist, Ole Bull, was at one time passing through a great American forest when he came upon the hut of a hermit who had left his city home because of disappointment in business, and who was cherishing feelings of bitterness toward all men. He had been living alone for years, finding pleasure in playing his violin. Ole Bull spent the night with him, and in the light of the fireplace in the evening the hermit tried to entertain him by playing the few simple pieces he knew. When he had finished, Ole Bull said, "Do you suppose I could play that instrument?"

The hermit replied, "It isn't very likely you could do much, but you can try."

So the great violinist took the bow, and with tender touch and deep feeling drew it across the strings. Instantly the hut was filled with sweet and tender waves of harmony. He played "Home, Sweet Home" and some beautiful hymns, until the hermit wept as he realized what blessings of fellowship he had been losing those recent years. He freely responded to the efforts thus put forth to lead him back into the fold of tender fellowship with God and man.

Likewise Jesus, by His tender, sympathizing Spirit, draws near to many who have wandered far, far away from God, to draw them back to Him. Some have never known the comfort and power of the

salvation and fellowship of Christ, so He deeply impresses upon them His longing appeal to come home to God and have the comfort of His fellowship. And some listen earnestly, and eagerly give heed to the tender impressions of the Saviour, and a strong desire arises in them to draw nearer and still nearer to Him, that they express in their own way or with words like these:

"Nearer, still nearer, Lord, to be Thine;
Sin, with its follies, I gladly resign,
All of its pleasures, pomp and its pride;
Give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified."

Some plead more directly: "Oh, God, give me the salvation and fellowship with Thee and Jesus that will make me daily a victor over sin, that will maintain a right spirit in me, that will fill me with rest and peace, and give me an assurance of everlasting fellowship with Thee and Jesus at last in the realms of glory through all the ages to come." God so answers that their fellowship is delightful.

The Epoch of State Religion

(Continued from page 9)

world. In Pergamos, Bacchus, the god of wine, and Venus, goddess of fleshly lust, held sway. Paganism, with all its impure and licentious rites, reigned supreme in this city "where Satan dwelleth."

The Greek word *gamos* means "marriage," and the name "Pergamos" not only carries the meaning of exaltation, but also of union through marriage. It was during the Pergamos period of the Christian church that the church was exalted to kingly power and authority by union, or marriage, with the state. Failing to crush the rising tide of Christianity through persecution, Satan changed his policy and accomplished his end through more subtle means. When violence failed, amalgamation and worldly alliance succeeded.

In the person of Constantine, Christianity mounted the throne of the Cæsars and through ecclesiastical Rome ruled the world for almost twelve centuries. The church that was "espoused as a chaste virgin to Christ" was united in marriage with pagan Rome. The Pergamos period covered about two hundred fifty years between the so-called conversion of Constantine and the reign of Justinian the Great whose decrees made the popes the successors of the Cæsars. It was, therefore, during this period that the transition between pagan and papal Rome took place and the church became "that great city, that reigneth over the kings of the earth." During this time came the "falling away" from the true faith "once delivered unto the saints," and "the man of sin" entered the church temple of God claiming to be God and receiving worship as God. The church was so changed by the adoption of heathen beliefs and practices that it virtually became "baptized paganism."

(Continued on page 29)



What Says the BIBLE?

Why Not!

Two schoolmates who shared the hope that Christ's return was near were philosophizing, as students love to do, when one suddenly asked: "How do you know we aren't mistaken in our expectation that the second advent is near? In past times people were wrong."

"It is impossible for us to be mistaken this time."

"How dare you be so positive?"

"Because of the fulfillment of prophecy. In other days the advent expectation was only wishful thinking; the prophecies had not yet been fulfilled. But this time all the prophecies have been fulfilled except those that are part of the actual appearing. Why, then, may I not be positive in my belief?"

Here are some of the fulfilled prophecies:

"In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars of heaven shall fall." Mark 13:24, 25. (The darkening of the sun and moon took place on May 19, 1780; the falling of the stars occurred on November 13, 1833.

"Those days," in Mark 13:24, are the long period of papal supremacy and persecution from the establishment of the papacy in A.D. 538 to the captivity of the pope in 1798, during which many million martyrs perished. This same period is given under a number of symbols in the Bible; only one is quoted:

"And he [the papal power] shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Daniel 7:25. See also Daniel 12:7; Rev. 11:2; 12:6, 14; 13:5.

The longest time prophecy in the Bible, the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14, the subdivisions of which are given in Daniel 9:22-27, was completely fulfilled in 1844. The time prophecies of Daniel 12:11, 12 were fulfilled in 1798 and 1843. Since those dates there are no more time prophecies to be fulfilled.

"And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, and swore by Him that liveth forever and ever, . . . that there should be time no longer." Revelation 10:5, 6.

The political prophecies have been fulfilled in the two world wars and the failure of peace movements.

"The nations were angry." Revelation 11:18. "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against

kingdom." Matthew 24:7. "When they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them." 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

Economic disasters of every kind have multiplied until we have almost lost the power to comprehend them.

"There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matthew 24:7.

Such class warfare as has never been known before has gone on in the past quarter century.

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. . . . Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. . . . The coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:1-8.

Juvenile delinquency, atheism, paganism, the breakdown of moral restraints, the death of spirituality in religion have all taken place.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, . . . having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

All kinds of false religions are multiplying, including many deceptive adventual movements.

"Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. . . . And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. . . . If any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 23, 24.

Crime and resultant disillusionment and cynicism have increased worse than ever before in history.

"Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:12.

Many lines of prophecy have been fulfilled in all but the final details.

The seven churches of Revelation 2, 3; the seven seals of Revelation 5-8; the seven trumpets of Revelation 8-11; the woman and the dragon of Revelation 12; the leopard beast and the two-horned beast of Revelation 13; the three angels of Revelation 14; the scarlet woman of Revelation 17, 18. For study of these prophecies see *Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, by Uriah Smith, procurable from the publishers of OUR TIMES.

The Epoch of State Religion

(Continued from page 27)

But during this time of apostasy and compromise Christ had loyal followers who did not deny His name even "where Satan dwelleth." Evil environment is no excuse for treason. Antipas was one of the martyrs to truth in Pergamos, and is set forth as a type and representative of all the faithful of that period. He was doubtless a prominent member of the local church, probably an elder. According to tradition he died during the persecutions of Domitian and may, therefore, have been the "angel" or "minister" of the church at the time John wrote. Antipas is said to mean "against all," and there is no doubt that he stood against the developing apostasy and, therefore, sealed his protest with his blood.

The language of the reproof given indicates that heresy and worldliness were gaining ground in the church. The Christians of the Ephesian period refused to tolerate evildoers and hated the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, but now they were not only tolerated but their teachings were given respectful attention. This compromise is symbolized by the practice and teachings of the false prophet, Balaam, who set a trap for the Israelites to entice them into idolatry and fornication. Just as Balaam bartered his religion for wealth and royal honor, so the priests of the paganized church were guilty of treasonable conduct in order to gain the same ends. The church was commercialized through the sale of religious rites, relics, and indulgences.

Nikolaos means "those who conquer the people," or the laity, and may represent the pagan forces which had entered the church and gained kingly authority over the laity in religious matters. These modern Balaamites refused to obey the decision of the Jerusalem Council condemning idolatry and fornication, but encouraged a return to the lax practices and standards of the heathen. These apostates first appeared as Gnostics who claimed superior wisdom which they obtained from the writings of the pagan Plato. According to one writer of the early centuries they gave "themselves up to the lusts of the flesh with greediness."

The appeal to the church is to repent or suffer the consequences of the two-edged sword of the Captain of the Lord's host. "I will contend with such men with words that will cut like a sword," is one translation. The threat is that if there is not an immediate repentance and reformation, the wielder of the mighty sword of the Spirit will fight with the heretics and compromisers, just as the angel of the Lord, with a drawn sword, withstood Balaam. If they refuse to heed His cutting message of reproof and warning, they must share the fate of the ancient false prophet who was slain by the sword.

Christ does not say, "I will fight against thee,"

but "against them," that is, the leaders in the apostasy. The church officers must make every effort to recover the apostates to the true faith, or else drive them out of the church for the protection of the cause of Christianity. Christ holds the leaders responsible for the condition of the church, and the solemn warning is, therefore, addressed to "the angel" or "minister" of the church in Pergamos.

After urging the church to accept His message as being also an appeal of the Holy Spirit, Christ promises the overcomer the privilege of eating of the hidden manna, and also of receiving a "white stone" containing the "new name" descriptive of the redeemed and transformed character. According to Hebrews 9:3, 4, a pot of manna was placed in the Most Holy place of the sanctuary beside the law of God. It became known as "the hidden manna" because it was concealed from all except the high priest. Christ declared Himself to be the true manna, or bread of life, which all must eat in order to be saved.

Just as the manna was hidden in the earthly sanctuary, and Christ is concealed from our view in the heavenly sanctuary, the heavenly manna, or the Word of God, when hidden in our hearts, furnishes spiritual nourishment and transforms character and protects from evil. The psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11. Amid the apostasy of the period when pagan dogmas and practices were entering the church, Christ promises the faithful that through Him they could know the truth which would make them free from all error. The Scriptures must still be the rule of faith and practice, the only infallible guide.

The illustration of the "white stone" was doubtless taken from a number of ancient customs in which a white stone or pebble was used, all which were known to the citizens of Pergamos. One of the chief uses of the white stone was in handing down a decision of acquittal in a judicial procedure. In case of condemnation a black stone or pebble was used. The poet Dryden speaks of this custom in the following lines:

"A custom was of old, and still remains,

Which life or death by suffrages ordained;

White stones and black within an urn are cast,

The first absolves, but fate is in the last."

The promise is of acquittal in the final day of judgment. White stones were also given to the successful gladiators and athletes in contests and were, therefore, symbolic of victory. It was called "the pebble of victory." White is the color of purity, innocence, and victory. A white stone was also given as a pledge of friendship, as well as a passport to events and privileges not available to others. The divine promise to the overcomer indicates a passport to heaven because of being absolved from guilt in the judgment. As a friend of Christ, the victor with the new name describing his new character will eat of the manna of heaven throughout the ages of eternity.

Prophecies of the Kingdom

(Continued from page 7)

remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness." Isaiah 10:20-22. "Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: for He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." Romans 9:27, 28.

These prophecies from the book of Isaiah began to be fulfilled when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Through His incarnation, His death, and His resurrection, salvation was assured to all men. By the gospel commission the Lord sent out the apostles to call the Gentiles to the light that they might be grafted in by faith into the tree of Israel. "In that day," said the prophet, "the Root of Jesse" would call the Gentiles into His rest. (Isaiah 11:10.) "In that day"—being the time of the finishing of the gospel preaching just before Jesus returns—the Lord will set His hand the "second time" to recover the remnant of His people. (Verse 11.) Not in some future post-probationary period does the gathering of Israel take place, but in this present time of grace. Salvation was made sure when Immanuel was born among men. This present gospel dispensation is the day of salvation for Jews and Gentiles. From the uttermost parts of the earth they come, having heard the sweet story of salvation. Black and white, bond and free, Jew and Gentile—all are gathered together into one "family," one "household of faith." Moreover, they are all counted as "fellowcitizens" in the kingdom of heaven.

This present experience, however, is not the full fruition of our hopes. The people of God look forward by faith to the glory to be revealed in the kingdom of glory. The prophets glimpsed this glory. They, like Abraham, "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Through their tears they gazed upon the glory and foretold the joy to be revealed in the eternal homeland. For the moment, trials and tribulations; through eternity, inexpressible joy. For the moment, heartaches and heartbreaks; through eternity, universal peace. The prophets of Israel carried the almost unbearable burden of an apostate nation upon their hearts. Their burden, however, was made lighter as God gave them the vision of victory that would come at the end of the way. They were greatly encouraged by the glorious revelations God gave them of the future.

Isaiah, the prophet of hope, dipped his pen in the oil of joy when he wrote:

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. . . . Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. . . . In the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert." Isaiah 35:1, 4-6.

In the very chapter which foretells the birth of Jesus and the salvation of men through His wonderful grace is foretold, also, His coming the second time. Two things take place in that great day:

1. "He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked." Isaiah 11:4.

2. "And with righteousness shall He judge the poor. . . . The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb. . . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Verses 4, 6, 9.

This kingdom of glory towards which our hope reaches out is not a mere Jewish kingdom. Rather, it is a kingdom universal and eternal. It is the kingdom of God, not the kingdom of the Jew or of the Gentile. His kingdom ruleth over all, and not over a special racial group. "The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all," declares the sweet singer of Israel. Psalm 103:19. The angelic hosts and the inhabitants of worlds without number are a part of the kingdom. How strange the teaching which limits the kingdom of God to one racial group! One Bible text shatters completely the dispensational error in regard to the kingdom:

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered *all nations*. . . . Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, *inherit the kingdom* prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:31-34.

The righteous of *all nations*—not one, but all—are heirs of the kingdom. The kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world is for all the inhabitants of the world who have been prepared in heart through the new birth to receive it. It is the "saints of the Most High," according to the prophetic Word, who take the kingdom. (Daniel 7:18.) The kingdom of glory is so great, so vast, so magnificent that the very description of it challenges the imagination.

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations,

and languages should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:13, 14.

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." Verse 27.

All peoples, all nations, all languages, are numbered with the saints of God who take the kingdom and possess it forever and ever. At the creation of this world Adam was given "dominion" over the earth. (Genesis 1:26.) The dominion was lost because of sin. But the dominion was restored to man through the Lord Jesus Christ. How thrilling the prophetic word of Micah 4:8:

"And Thou, O Tower of the flock, the Stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto Thee shall it come, even the *first dominion*; the *kingdom* shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem."

The word of the prophet Micah centers in the coming of the Messiah. Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem of Judea, came this remarkable prophecy:

"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.

It is of interest to compare the word of Micah with the prophetic picture of Revelation 12. In the one, Jesus is described as being born to the "daughter of Zion"; in the other, as being born to the woman who symbolizes the Church.

"Be in pain, and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail. . . . Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel." Micah 4:10; 5:3.

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, . . . and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. . . . And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron." Revelation 12:1, 2, 5.

Not only does the prophecy describe the coming of the one who would rule all nations with a rod of iron, but it adds confirmatory evidence to the fact that the *return* of the *remnant* would take place after Jesus was born in Bethlehem. His work of salvation is again shown to be a very present work of divine grace.

Bible truth about the kingdom may be summarized in these words: The kingdom of grace is a present kingdom into which all people, regardless of race, find entrance at conversion and through the new
(Continued on page 32)



NEW DRUG MAY CHECK TB.—With the hope of completing the medical conquest of tuberculosis, a new drug from the soil better than streptomycin has been discovered by Dr. Selman A. Waksman, the Rutgers microbiologist who has already given the world the best treatment of the white plague.

Christened neomycin, the new antibiotic comes from the same general kind of microscopic organism that produces streptomycin.

Neomycin has the great advantage of being active against strains of human tuberculosis germs that cannot be stopped by streptomycin. Experiments outside the living body, with limited amounts of the new



ACME

These youngsters are getting a preview of new plastic toys that will be used to fill up the stockings this Christmas.

wonder drug, demonstrate this superiority and show that it lacks troublesome toxicity that has tended to limit treatment of some tuberculosis cases.—*Science News Letter*, April 2, 1949.

WEAPON AGAINST POISON IVY.—The triple-leafed vacation spoiler, poison ivy, met a new and improved opponent in 2,4,5-T (trichlorophenoxyacetic acid). Sold in ready-mixed solutions under trade names, the chemical killer has proved the best weapon so far developed in the perennial summer war against the plant.—*Quick*, July 25, 1949.

THINGS TO COME.—New Chrysler cars will have waterproofed ignitions to prevent moisture-caused stalling. . . . By using "bouncing radiation, scientists may get more light from fluorescent lamps.—*Quick*, July 25, 1949.

Prophecies of the Kingdom

(Continued from page 31)

birth. The kingdom of glory is established at the second coming of Christ, at which time all people of all nations, who have found salvation and entrance into the kingdom of grace, take the visible kingdom of glory and reign with Christ forever and ever. The redeemed of the ages regardless of race are the Israel to whom the promises are made and to whom the kingdom is given. This kingdom truth is beautiful in its simplicity and harmony. It is truth for our times.

I Believe Christ Is Truly God

(Continued from page 5)

The risen Lord appeared to His disciples. He walked with His followers on the road to Emmaus, and Paul records that He was seen by five hundred persons at one time. Truly He is our risen Saviour. But a risen Lord alone would not be sufficient! Other prophecies predicted a further work to be accomplished in the divine plan of redemption. His death was complete, His resurrection was triumphant, now He must ascend to His Father. There was still much to be done in man's behalf so that someday we might be the recipients of God's priceless gift—eternal life.

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." Hebrews 4:14.

The most detailed description of the ascension of our Lord is recorded in Acts 1:9-11. Why did He return to His heavenly home? We have already observed that Christ entered into heaven to be our High Priest. Again notice, "We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15. Because our Saviour has passed through our experiences, He is therefore fully qualified to understand completely our trials, temptations, troubles, and tribulations. He represents us with intense interest in our individual, peculiar problems. Paul wrote, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16.

How thankful we are that "we have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens." Hebrews 8:1. And what can Christ do for you? Ah, friend, "He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25.

Because Christ was divine, He could come to this earth, live, work for our needs, die in our stead, rise from the grave, assuring us that, if we love and serve Him, some day we too may have the privilege, if we fall asleep in Him before He returns, of hearing Christ call forth His sleeping saints on the resurrection morning.

Now He stands before the Father in heaven and pleads your case and mine. Have we asked His forgiveness for our sins? Have we made all things right? Is the slate clean, are the pages white and fair? Remember, no mark or stain of sin will be excused by God, defended by Christ, or be overlooked by the Holy Ghost. While heaven's door of mercy still stands ajar, will you thank your heavenly Father for the gift of His Son, also for the work which He is doing in heaven for you as your Advocate?

Let us rejoice that Jesus Christ is truly God, that He brought with Him His divinity to this world; that He stands ready to work in our behalf today because of His victory over sin, over death and the tomb. Let us rejoice that He is interceding for us if we will only come to Him. We dare not tarry; *now is the time!* Let us arise, follow, and serve Jesus Christ.

The Highway of Faith

(Continued from page 3)

where it was kept. 'Dreadfully tarnished!' she said. 'I can't keep it bright unless I use it.' That is just as true of faith as it is of silver. Tucked away in the . . . closet of the soul, and only brought out for show, it needs apology. It is bound to be tarnished. You can't keep faith bright unless you use it."—*Sunday School Times*.

Great exploits of faith are not confined alone to Bible times. They have been extant through the centuries. During the summer of 1948, W. R. Campbell and his wife, Virginia colporteurs, decided to take a real vacation by visiting Alaska, traveling by way of Canada. Crossing at Niagara Falls, they made their way westward through Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and on to Edmonton, Alberta. Turning north at Edmonton they ran into heavy rains, and upon reaching Lesser Slave Lake found it necessary to stop for several days. They parked their trailer in the proximity of a mink farm.

It did not take Mr. Campbell long to discover that the mink farmer was in a state of mental depression due to the fact that he had lost his fish nets in the heavy undercurrent of the lake and the high winds of the storm. Now he had no means of feeding his minks, five hundred of them, since his nets were lost, and he had no money with which to buy others.

Said Mr. Campbell to the mink farmer, "Do you believe in prayer?"

"Yes," responded the dejected man, "but I don't live right. God wouldn't answer my prayers. I think God will answer prayer all right, if a man lives right, but as it is, it's no use."

"Let's ask God now to help us find your nets," said the colporteur, and before the mink rancher could raise any further objections he began a simple, earnest petition to God to come to their aid and help in this emergency. God does not hear by reason of any man's much speaking, and oftentimes a few

words uttered in sincere faith are of infinitely more worth than the best formed and most eloquently expressed prayer.

When the visitor had brought the prayer to a close, he said to the farmer, "Let's take your boat and go and find your nets." The farmer consented, although it was evident from his manner and expression that the "prayer" method of finding lost articles was altogether new to him, and that in his opinion it would be wasted time and effort. Nevertheless he and a young hired man led the way to the wharf where was tied an eighteen-foot motorboat.

It being late in the afternoon, the trio headed across the lake without delay. After traveling five miles or more in complete silence (Campbell praying, and the farmer and the boy evidently thinking this a strange and useless trip), the farmer said, "This is about where I left them."

"Now let's pray again," said Campbell. So there in the open boat in the middle of Lesser Slave Lake the three bowed their heads and the man of prayer offered his petition to the throne of grace. "O God," he said, "Thou dost know where the net is—now direct us in finding it." When he had finished praying he said, "Let's circle around," for so he felt impressed to do. Around and around they went in wide circles, once, twice—then on the third swing around the young colporteur-minister saw something black about three feet under the surface of the water.

"What's that?" he cried.

"Where?" asked the mink farmer.

"Back there," said Campbell pointing to the fast receding spot.

Around they circled again; and when they approached the spot, the operator cut the motor and brought the boat alongside the black object below. Reaching down with a hook, the farmer pulled up the indistinct something which, when it was brought to the surface, proved to be a piece of board caught in the lost fish nets. When he saw his nets the farmer cried, "God hears and answers prayers, doesn't He?"

"Yes," replied the young minister. "He always has and always will."

They pulled the nets in—more than two hundred feet, filled with fish. The little boat was, like that historic one on Galilee, filled to overflowing with eight hundred pounds of mink food—enough for days to come.

"Do you believe in prayer now?" asked Campbell of the farmer late that night after the fish had been iced away.

"Yes," replied the man with tears in his eyes.

"Remember, now," said the young minister, ready to depart on the next leg of their journey to Fairbanks, Alaska, "study God's Word and obey His commandments, and He will always answer your prayers and help you along life's journey."

These days of the twentieth century are days that call for special faith. And the century, though some would question it, is not devoid of its heroes of faith. Men and women, from the darkest wilds of the most remote mission field even to the realms of the most enlightened lands, know what it is to live by faith. This way—the faith way—is, in fact, the only way to please God. "The just shall live by faith."

The Bible writer, in Hebrews 11:6, tells us of the divinely approved manner of life: "Without faith it is impossible to please Him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." We are asked here to assume two great fundamental facts. First, the fact that God is—that He exists. Second, the fact that He is available to all who diligently seek Him. The Bible never argues for the existence of God; Jesus never argued for it—He assumed it. To Him this was a self-evident fact that needed no support, likewise the fact of His availability.

These are bedrock propositions. "He that cometh to God"—that is, the person who would establish a vital, living contact with Him, who would communicate with Him in prayer, who would become His disciple—must believe that He "is." This is absolutely basic—wholly orthodox. When Miss Sullivan, the woman who taught Helen Keller, the deaf, dumb, and blind child, had brought her to the place where she thought she should receive religious instruction, the teacher cast about for some well-qualified person to instruct her pupil in the rudimentary principles of Christianity. She settled upon Bishop Phillip Brooks. The first thing the minister endeavored to do was to instruct her upon the existence of God. Suddenly the girl's face became radiant as she said, "I see what you mean, but I have known that all the time."

Belief in the existence of God is a universal conviction. Children believe in God as a natural instinct. Aboriginal people, no matter how ill-favored, have their beliefs and traditions of a Supreme Being. It would be more reasonable by far to think of a watch without a watchmaker, than to think of the universe without a Creator.

At the time of His first advent Jesus asked a burning question concerning latter-day faith. Said the Lord: "When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Yes, He will find faith. He will find those who are faithfully living in harmony with all the divine instructions. Some, not as many we are sure as the Lord would wish, will be waiting and ready for translation. The Bible speaks of the special class of the 144,000, and of the great multitude. Why not, reader of these lines, have faith in God? Why not believe unto the saving of your soul? God not only "is," but He is available to you if you will diligently seek Him.

GOD'S TWO BOOKS

By Mary Hunter Moore

Grass

GRASS is an odd subject for December reading. Yet life on the whole globe in December is dependent on grass. Grass was the first organic life God created. This food was provided before the animals and man were created.

So grass feeds the world. Wheat, corn, oats, barley, rice, and rye are grasses. Another group of grasses furnish sugar and all its by-products. Still other grasses furnish all manner of mechanical products, also medicines, oils, and clothing. Grasses are the source of

“... man's bread and meat,

Many things good, and most things sweet.”

Among all the products of grass I am thinking of bread in December. A friend has just brought me a gift loaf of her homemade bread, warm from the oven; and its fragrance fills the room. The warmth, the gladness, the joy of summer fields are in that aroma. In memory rise the beautiful hills whose ridges God watered abundantly, whose furrows He settled, whose soil was made soft by His showers, whose springing He blessed. The little hills rejoice on every side. “The valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.” Psalm 65:9-13.

This singing of the grass is no figment of the poet's fancy. The rustling of the corn is musical. It is instinct with life. Hardheaded farmers in the “corn belt” insist that on still, hot nights there is a murmur of life in their fields; one can hear the corn grow. What hymns of praise we might hear if our ears now had the range of audition of our sinless first parents!

God's love is written on every springing blade of grass. But through no grasses does He manifest His love more than through the cereal grasses—the source of bread. Man's lawlessness is fast obliterating the image of God in the human soul; modern society is swiftly becoming paganized. Men worship science; but they selfishly and ignorantly destroy the natural resources of the soil until today they are literally destroying the earth, and ultimately God must destroy them. (Revelation 11:18.) But until the day of doom arrives, God still promises grass. “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Genesis 8:22.

On every hand the omens increase that the day of

reckoning is approaching. One of them is modern commercial baking. My fragrant gift would not be so unusual if all men had lived on the land as God planned. And if those who are on the land had managed the soil as God taught ancient Israel, it would not now be so depleted of vitamins that malnutrition is prevalent in the midst of abundant eating. The course of the Israelites, described in Leviticus 26, is symbolic of the course of the world hastening to its end. Verse twenty-six suggests modern commercial baking of devitalized bread: “And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.”

Come, Lord Jesus, and bring the *new earth*.

The Glorious Rapture

(Continued from page 15)

Who is authorized to separate the gathering of the saints as a secret event from the glorious appearing of the Lord and the consequent destruction of the wicked and the resurrection of the dead? Who would rob Christ of His glory in that wonderful day when He “shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him”? Matthew 25:31.

Yes, it is true that our Lord will take away His saints to be with Him, “and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:17. Let us notice the promise made by our Saviour to the apostles on the eve of His crucifixion: “I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:3.

Revelation 20:6 says: “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: . . . they shall . . . reign *with Him* a thousand years.” Notice, “with Him”—where He is. “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.” Verse 5.

From these passages of Scripture we see that our Lord promised to come back to take His disciples to be with Him in those mansions He is preparing for them; that they will live and reign with Him a thousand years; and that the wicked do not have a part in the first resurrection at the second coming of the Lord. They wait a thousand years, at the end of which they are raised to meet their judgment in the second death. Thus we see that one thousand years intervene between the second coming of Christ and the destruction of the wicked and the beginning of the eternal reign of the saints upon this earth. For full details read Revelation 20:7-9.

The Holy Scriptures teach the literal, bodily, material, and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the day that He arose from the dead, He said to His disciples: “Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have.” Luke 24:39.

Yes, our divine Lord has arisen and ascended into heaven, bearing His divine-human form. And "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:11. His coming will be *visible*—"every eye shall see Him." Revelation 1:7. It will be *personal*—"the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven." 1 Thessalonians 4:16. It will be *redemptive*—"and it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Isaiah 25:9.

Are you looking for Him? Are you waiting for Him?

Now, troubled friend, it's only a little while! Waiting ones, it is only a little while! Solitary, lonely ones, only a little while! Happy ones, just a little while! Thoughtless ones, just a little while! "For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Hebrews 10:37.

Some Things to Forget

(Continued from page 9)

"Drop the past, as your night garment, and put on the clothing of hope."

Men and women who have accomplished anything worth while have forgotten their defeats. Edison's storage-battery invention was the result of nine thousand experiments. The baby forgets his falls, gets to his feet and tries again.

It is just as important that we forget some of our successes. "Every great achievement is but a camping ground whereat we stop for a moment to refresh ourselves for the next journey ahead." If we are satisfied with present successes, we are through growing, we are dead.

It is a good thing to forget our worries. Worry kills. Stop and think of all that has been accomplished by worry since man came into this world; add up all the blessings it has brought to mankind in six thousand years, and you will find it has contributed not one good thing to the world. The great worriers of the past six thousand years have spent days and months and years worrying, but it did not bring one single blessing to the best worrier of this long period.

Selfishness creeps into our lives and we find most of our thoughts are of our own joys and comforts. We need to forget ourselves now and then and think of others.

Our doubts should be cast aside, too. In these days of materialism, investigation, and discovery, each day brings some new theory to light. It is thought by many that it is a virtue to doubt. God is still ruling in the heavens and guiding the worlds in their courses. The Bible has withstood the test of the ages and is still changing the lives of men and women. The life of Jesus still shines forth as the brightest and best of all ages.

There are a good many things we ought to forget.

What Happens to Man When He Dies?

(Continued from page 13)

responsibility a man presumes to take when at a funeral he thinks he must decide to preach the deceased into either hell or heaven. What if, by the best judgment he has about the fruit of the life, he should make a mistake and commit him to the wrong place? He may have faith to trust that God will do right. How much better to commit one to the grave until the resurrection and the time when God will decide his reward! This is the Bible way.

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29.

Some contemplation on this matter reveals some astounding contradictions if we are to believe some part of our being passes to its reward immediately after death. If a person goes to heaven or hell immediately after death, of what use is a resurrection? There would also be no consistency in a future judgment. If the reward of the righteous had already been received in eternal bliss just after death, why bring up the matter again in a final judgment at the end of the world? If a person had been sent to hell and that assignment, at the time, was not the just thing to do, how would justice be satisfied by later taking him to heaven.

More contemplation shows further entanglement in this reasoning of hell or heaven at death. What would be the purpose of Jesus' second coming to call forth the sleeping saints if those saints were in heaven when He left to come to earth? It could not be for the purpose of bringing the souls, which supposedly are already in heaven, down to earth to unite with the body, for we understand the Scriptures to teach that the breath of life that goes back to God at death is not the soul; and that unconsciousness is the state of man in death. Moreover, how can man be immortal if God only has immortality (1 Timothy 6:16).

The resurrection, the second coming of Christ, the Bible judgment, and the mortality of man are Scripture teachings that must fit into the whole plan of redemption. The truth about where a person goes when he dies must also suit every other Bible teaching. One of the tests of truth is that it agrees with all other truth. The Bible does not deny itself. If you have texts that now come to your mind about the grave and death, or you have questions concerning it, let me suggest you address a letter to the editor of this periodical enclosing your question. Read and study prayerfully. Do not be satisfied with superficial knowledge. "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." John 7:17.



GIVERS

Giving Is Living

THERE is nothing, save the selfish heart of man, that lives unto itself. No bird that cleaves the air, no animal that moves upon the ground, but ministers to some other life. There is no leaf of the forest, or lowly blade of grass, but has its ministry. Every tree and shrub and leaf pours forth that element of life without which neither man nor animal could live; and man and animal, in turn, minister to the life of tree and shrub and leaf. The flowers breathe fragrance and unfold their beauty in blessing to the world. The sun sheds its light to gladden a thousand worlds. The ocean, itself the source of all our springs and fountains, receives the streams from every land, but takes to give. The mists ascending from its bosom fall in showers to water the earth, that it may bring forth and bud."—Mrs. E. G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 20.

The blessings of God move in cycles
And revert to the givers again,
Water drawn by the sun from the oceans
Descends in the showers of rain,
The rain swells the legions of streamlets,
Whose waters flow back to the seas,
And this constant receiving and giving
Is the life of the world, if you please!
Just suppose that the deep blue oceans
Should prohibit the sun to drink.
Would the rain fall in showers of blessing?
Would the streams reach the seas, do
you think?
Ah, the answer is obvious, brother,
Creation would wither and die—
Only the givers are livers
Is confirmed by the earth, sea, and sky!

By Weldon Taylor Hammond