

MARCH, 1951 . . . . TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

# Our TIMES

SINCE 1891

A WEEKLY PAPER OF THE NEWS





# LETTERS

## From Our Readers

Sirs:

I wish to subscribe to your magazine for one year. What are your terms? I enjoy reading *Our Times* and hope to hear from you soon, as I would like to start my subscription now.  
Norman, Okla. Mrs. F.L.

Sirs:

Please send me, without obligation on my part, literature in which you think I would be interested. I would like to enroll in the Bible correspondence course. I am in a TB sanitarium. I enjoy all religious papers. Your program is a great blessing to us here.  
Black Mountain, N. C. M.M.

Sirs:

I do not know who took it upon themselves to pay for a year's subscription to *Our Times*. At any rate, I wish you would discontinue mailing it to me and refund this particular party the unexpired portion of the subscription.

To me, religion is altogether a very sacred undertaking and should not be kicked around by some of the would-be authors who are writing articles for this magazine under the pretext of being God's messengers. Their articles smack a great deal like some of this ballyhoo stuff we hear over the radio from south of the Rio Grande.  
Albuquerque, N. Mex. A.H.N.

Sirs:

May God direct and use and abundantly bless you. We think your magazine is very fine.  
Minneapolis, Minn. B.H.P.

Sirs:

I read the magazine *Our Times* (August issue) in my friend's home. Please give me information regarding the cost, as I would like to have the magazine of the living God. God has lived in my heart since I was a little child.  
St. Albans, L. I. Mrs. D.S.

Sirs:

At the Pomona Fair we were given some copies of the magazine *Our Times*. The copies are a year or more old, but we have become very much interested in them and wish to subscribe. We are looking forward to our copies of *Our Times*.  
Santa Monica, Calif. G.M.

Sirs:

Someone has subscribed to your paper for me, I suppose. Please discontinue it, as I do not care for your kind of doctrine.  
Caldwell, Idaho Mrs. C.A.B.

Sirs:

We will be grateful if you would donate *Our Times* for our society's free reading room. A copy of your magazine was brought to us recently by a grocer, and we have discovered it to be impressive and interesting. We admire what you, as practical adherents of Jesus Christ, are doing for the welfare of humanity in all parts of the world.  
Mandalay, Burma K.H., Hon. Sec.



MARCH, 1951

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Editor - - - - - STANLEY C. HARRIS

Circulation Manager - - - IRVIN H. IHRIG

Art Director - - - - - ROBERT M. ELDRIDGE

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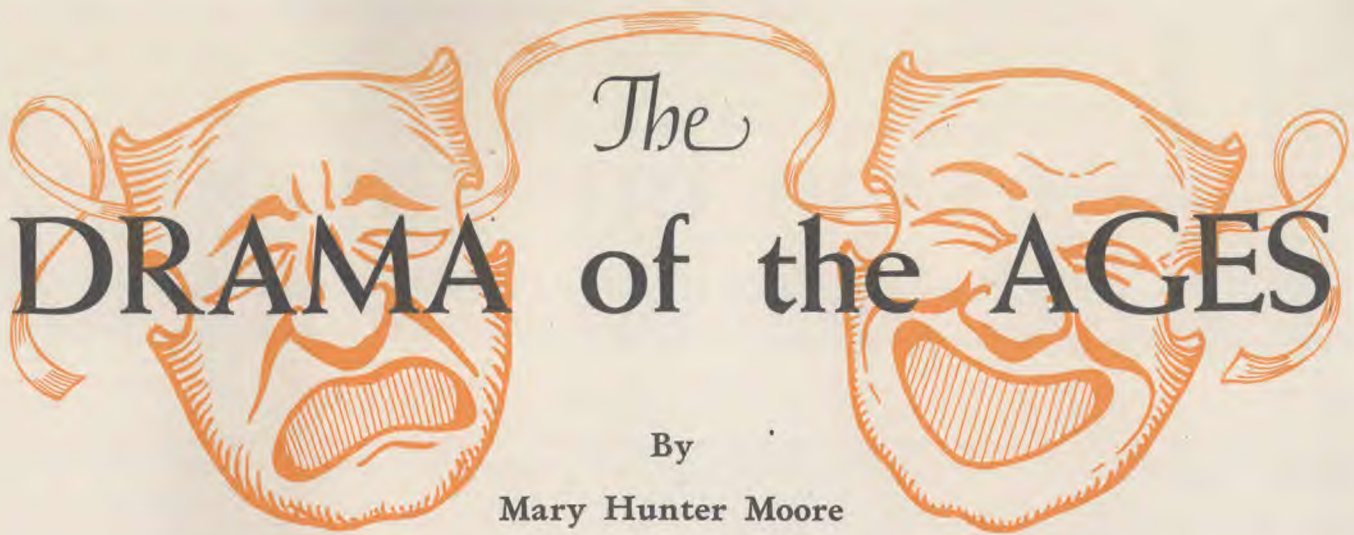
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### The Cover

The front cover is by Cy La Tour and Son; the pictures on the back cover are by H. M. Lambert (top) and H. A. Roberts (bottom).





# The DRAMA of the AGES

By  
Mary Hunter Moore

*The Most Fascinating Five-Act Drama Ever Written*

PONDERING on the title to a new religious book (*Drama of the Ages*) just put out by the publishers of OUR TIMES, I was led into meditation on the nature of a drama, and the dramatic nature of the Bible. A "drama," according to Webster, is "a composition . . . arranged for enactment and intended to portray life or character or to tell a story; . . . a series of real events invested with a dramatic unity and interest."

"Dramatic" qualities, Webster defines as follows: "That is dramatic which is appropriate to the drama, especially as suggesting vividly expressive action or gestures, unexpected conjunctions, or a striking denouement." "Conjunctions" in this last sentence mean, colloquially, "turns of events," and "denouement" means "how everything turns out." Dramas, whether fictional compositions or series of real events, are of various forms, chiefly comedies and tragedies. Of the meaning of these forms there is a very common misconception: comedy is usually supposed to mean a drama that is funny, silly, amusing, or light and ludicrous; whereas it really means a drama in which a good objective triumphs over a bad one. It has a happy ending. A tragedy, on the opposite, is a drama in which a good objective is overwhelmed by opposing evil or disaster, and fails; it has an unhappy ending. A comedy may be highly serious and exalted in character; a tragedy may be light and ludicrous, thereby defeating the good with evil.

There are certain chief characters and forces that must strive together in every drama to give it the vivid quality necessary. These characters are the hero, and the villain, and their companions. The hero strives toward a consummation to be desired, which the villain strives to thwart. The hero uses as the means to this consummation what is called the chief force. He and the minor characters also employ the minor force, which is usually some lesser form in

which the chief force is manifested. The villain opposes to the chief force what is called the chief obstacle. If the chief force overthrows the chief obstacle, the drama is a comedy; if the chief obstacle thwarts the chief force, the drama is a tragedy. The villain and the minor characters on his side also employ the minor obstacle, which are the varying forms in which the chief obstacle may be manifested. The climax is the point in the action where it turns either to comedy or to tragedy. The consummation is the final action in which the hero or the villain is eliminated, with all that pertains to either, according to whether the drama is a tragedy or a comedy.

A drama must also have a unified progression of action. This consists of either three or five chief divisions called "acts," which may be divided into a varying number of "scenes," or incidents. These parts always progress in a certain order. Thus the first act introduces the hero and the villain and the objective to be desired. The second act introduces the main force by which the hero strives toward the objective, and the chief obstacle which the villain opposes. The third act carries on the struggle, using the main force and the minor force against the main obstacle and the minor obstacle. The fourth act contains the climax, where the hero by means of his main and minor forces overcomes the chief and minor obstacles, or the villain thwarts him. The fifth act is the consummation, in which, if it be a comedy, the villain and all appertaining are eliminated. In a three-act drama the first and second acts are combined as one, the third and fourth acts become the second, and the third act is the climax and the consummation.

Based on these literary principles, the Bible is the most perfect drama there is, because it is the record of one series of real events having the only real interest possible to living beings. Rightly appreciated, this

*(Continued on page 28)*



# How Will Christ Come?

*In Person, or in Spirit; in Glory, or in Secret?*

By W. A. Townend

**M**OST CHRISTIANS believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ. But just how it will take place is often the subject of wide speculation among them.

Some say that Jesus comes the second time at the death of a believer. Others claim that it is at the time when a sinner gives his heart to God that Christ's second coming occurs, and still others seem to think that He will come secretly to a select group only. Then in contrast with the last-mentioned theory there are other Christians who claim that Christ will return openly, publicly, both to saints and sinners.

Which, if any, of these ideas is correct? What is the truth regarding this vital subject? These are the questions that are exercising the minds of many earnest Christians.

It was Samuel Chadwick, one of Methodism's foremost educators, who said, "The faith of the second coming is everywhere in the New Testament." D. L. Moody used to remind his vast audiences that in the 260 chapters of the New Testament there were 318 references to the subject. He claimed that in the Word of God there was not a Christian doctrine that received more attention than the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Since the Bible says so much about the event, it surely ought to give some details regarding just how it will happen. A careful study reveals that it does.

Jesus Himself made some very definite statements regarding His return. His remarks are recorded in the Gospels, which significantly are the most widely accessible of all portions of the Scriptures. Of course Jesus can always be safely quoted as an authority. Just what, then, did He say about this subject?

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

Note these words, "I will come again, and receive

you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Jesus teaches here that His coming will be *literal* and *personal*. But it all depends upon an "if," it seems—"If I go, . . . I will come again." Did Jesus go away? That is the next important question.

The Scriptures have the answer for us. "And it came to pass while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven." Luke 24:51. This verse climaxes a series of events.

*Christ revealed Himself to Doubting Thomas just as He will reveal Himself to the world in a visible and bodily form at His second advent.*





After Jesus arose from the tomb, He appeared unto Mary. He later appeared before a group of His disciples. Then He vanished out of sight. Later in the same day He reappeared. This reappearance terrified the disciples, but Jesus quieted them with the words, "Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 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." Verses 38, 39. And then to add to the evidence, He showed them His nail-scarred hands and feet. As further proof that He was actually there *in person*, Jesus ate some broiled fish and some honeycomb. He then had a Bible study with His disciples; later they went walking out toward the hills; and "while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven." Verse 51.

Clearly, then, it was not a "spirit" Christ, but Christ in bodily person who went away. Thus that challenging "if" of "if I go away, I will come again" was met, and that without any doubt or shadow of doubt, Christ went away. He went away in person. He went away to heaven.

It was while the disciples were gazing up into heaven as their Lord ascended that "two men stood by them in white apparel." These heavenly beings had a message for the disciples, and for us today: "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 1:10, 11. "This same Jesus"—this personal Jesus, this person Jesus—is returning the same way as He went away. The lips of heavenly beings have declared it. They do not err. They do not deceive. The truth is crystal clear—Christ's second coming will be *literal, visible, personal, corporeal*.

Our confidence in this truth is strengthened as we look further into what the Good Book reveals about this subject. For instance Jesus said that all people on the earth would see Him come again. "For as lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. . . . And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24:27, 30. John, the beloved disciple, supports his Lord's teaching about the visible second coming. "Every eye shall see," he states in Revelation 1:7. Paul spoke of the Lord Jesus' being "revealed."

The Bible's teaching simply does not leave any room for either a secret second coming or a coming visible only to a select group of people. And most certainly there is no quarter for the theory that Christ's second coming takes place at one's death. Nevertheless the manner of His coming will have a very real effect upon all the righteous dead. Note that which the Scriptures have to say about this: "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of

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## Can Anyone Doubt?

*Can anyone look at the morning sun,  
As it lightens the purple east,  
With majesty surpassing far  
Any monarch arrayed for a feast;  
Or, watching at night as it sinks to rest  
In the beautiful western sky,  
Have a doubt that God in His might  
Is reigning supremely on high?*



*Can anyone look at a lily or rose,  
Or think of a butterfly's wing,  
And think that aught but a power divine  
Could form such an exquisite thing?  
Can anyone look on this glorious world,  
Or the azure sky above,  
And doubt the Creator of heaven and earth,  
And His infinite wealth of love?*

—RALPH S. WOODWORTH.

God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

The "trump" of God will call from their graves all those who have died with their faith in the Saviour. That "trump" will be sounded by the angels who accompany Jesus as He returns from heaven. Jesus made this quite clear. Said He, "The Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him." Matthew 25:31. "He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet." Matthew 24:31. All the world will surely know that Jesus has come. Yes, even the righteous dead will be caused to know it; for, as we have observed, they will be raised.

But what of the wicked living at that time? What of those who have refused to obey the voice of God as He plead with them in love to surrender their lives

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# The Mystery of Man's Nature

By  
Robert Leo Odom

*The Soul in Our Creation and Death*



A GREAT MYSTERY that has teased the mind of man through the ages is the riddle of his own being. Wise men of every generation have thought upon the problem, and many books have been written about it. The great reason is the dreadful fact of death.

Death is a solemn reality, one that the most rabid, ranting atheist cannot deny. It respects no one. Both the proud, jewel-bedecked millionaire in his palace and the ragged, filthy tramp on the road must bow to this their common enemy. No scientist has concocted an elixir of life to make our stay here eternal; no medical man has discovered an antidote for death.

Many think that they contain within themselves an immortal being—another self—as enduring as eternity. They suppose that no matter how their journey on earth shall end—whether dragged down to the grave

by disease, or engulfed in the sea and eaten by sharks; whether consumed to ashes by a raging fire, or blown to bits by a bursting bomb—theirs is to be a ceaseless, conscious existence. Is this notion based solidly upon truth?

To know what is the state of the dead, one must understand the nature of the living. The Sacred Scriptures throw much light on this mystery. They tell us that "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. Man became a living soul by God's act of creation, by the union of "the breath of life" from God with the body of flesh made from "the dust of the ground."

Just how the Lord formed the first human body from the dust of the ground is a secret that is not revealed in the Holy Bible. Man cannot understand



science so deep as that. Yet we see, in another way, the process of creation going on before our eyes every day. When we eat the vegetables, fruits, and grains which the earth produces, the elements thus taken from the ground are changed into blood, flesh, bones, nails, hair, skin, brains, and other parts of the human body. Scientists cannot fully explain this daily conversion of the earthly elements into living human substance.

The "breath of life" is the motive power of the human body. When the first man's body was formed from the dust of the ground, it was perfect. But it had no life in it and could not move. The Creator took that lifeless form and "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Then the human body began to live—the heart beating, the blood flowing, the lungs breathing, the muscles twitching with power, the stomach and intestines working, and the brain functioning.

The "breath of life" comes from God, for with Him is "the fountain of life." (Psalm 36:9.) Man is not like a clock that is wound up once and then left to run down. Food must be eaten daily for the restoration of the tissues of the body and to refuel the physical machinery. But "man doth not live by bread only." Deuteronomy 8:3. He depends constantly on life flowing from God, "for in Him we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:28.

"Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air." Genesis 2:19. These creatures were made not only of the dust of the ground, but they also have "the breath of life"—or "the breath of the spirit of life"—in their nostrils. (Genesis 7:13-15, 21, 22, A.R.V.) Hence it is written of man and beast that "as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath. . . . All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." Ecclesiastes 3:19, 20. The Holy Scripture also speaks of living animals as souls. (Genesis 1:20, 24, margin; Revelation 16:3.)

What, then, is the soul? It is a body endowed with life by the Creator. A living human being is a soul. When Adam's body was *formed* of the dust of the ground, and the breath of life from God was breathed into it, he "became a living soul."

Where was Adam before he was created? He did not yet exist. Before his creation the dust of the ground did exist, but it was not Adam. God had life long before He made man, but it was not Adam. While the dust of the ground and breath of life were not yet combined by the process of creation, Adam did not exist. But when the two things—the elements of the earth and the life from God—were united by the Creator in the proper way, this combination resulted in the existence of a living soul. Therefore the living soul is a composite thing.

Let us illustrate this. For example, the electric current is not a light. The bulb is not a light. But when

the current is properly run into the bulb, a light appears. The burning light is the result of the proper combination of the bulb and the electric current. Or imagine that you have in one place a bag of nails and in another place a stack of boards. The sack of nails is not a house. The pile of boards is not a house. But when the nails and the boards are properly put together, a house exists. In a somewhat similar way the soul is a composite thing, its existence depending on a proper combination of the earthy body and the life from God.

What happens to the light when the bulb is broken or the current is turned off? Because the existence of the light depends on the proper combination of the electric current and the bulb, the separation of the one from the other naturally results in the extinction of the light. And what happens to the house when the nails are pulled out and put into a bag, and the boards are removed and stacked in a pile? Does the house continue to exist? No.

If the soul did not exist until after the Creator combined the breath of life from Himself with the earthy body that He formed from the dust of the ground, then what will happen to the soul when the breath of life is separated from the body?

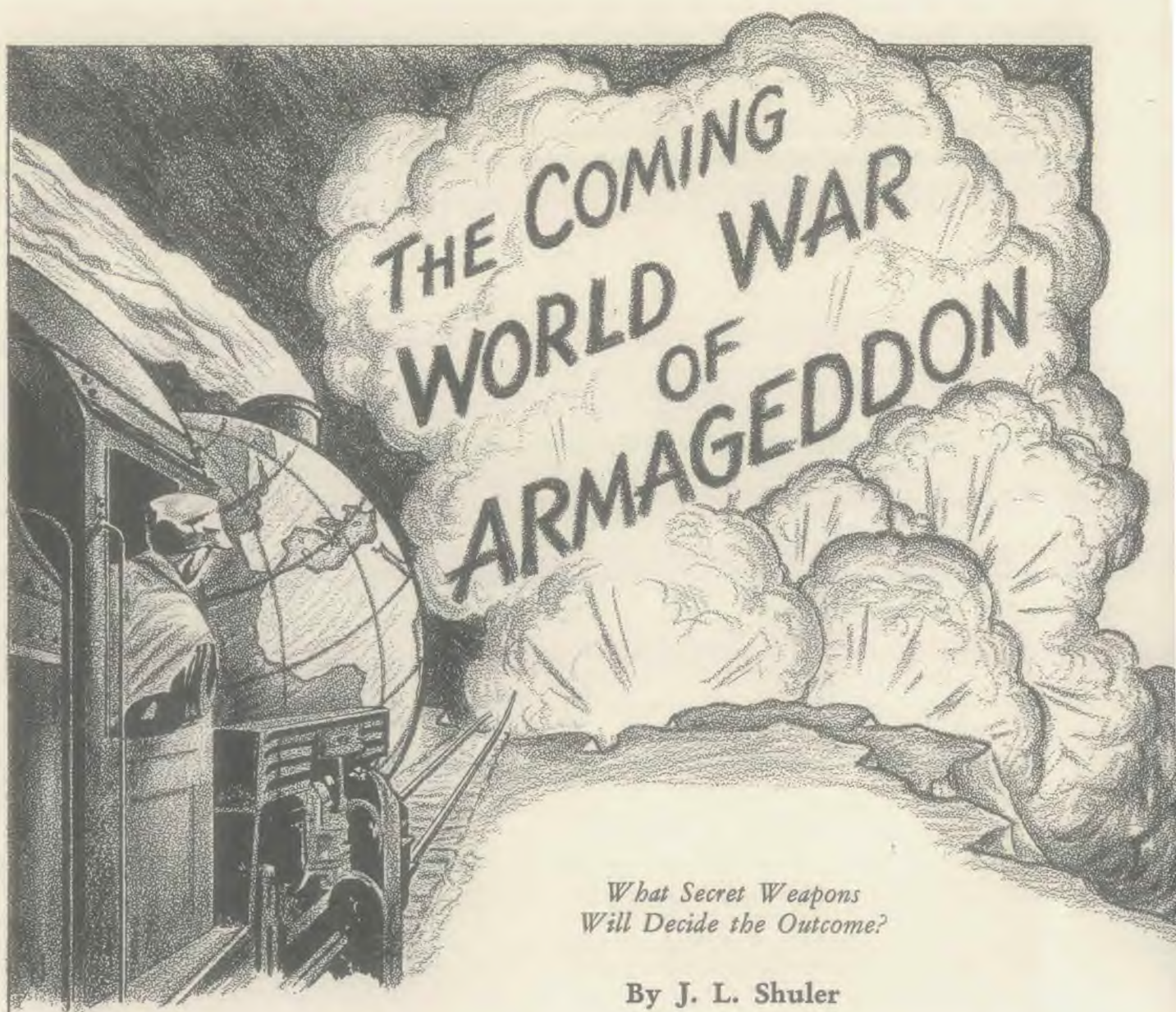
Here is God's own answer to our question: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit [breath of life] shall return unto God who gave it." Ecclesiastes 12:7. Thus *death is the creative process reversed*. In creation the human body was formed from the dust of the ground; in death it is dissolved to dust and returned to the ground. In creation the breath of life came from God; in death it returns to God. Death is, therefore, the cessation of life for man. He ceases to be a living soul when he dies.

When the Lord made man, He said to His Son: "Let us make man in our *image*, after our *likeness*." Genesis 1:26. "So God created man in His own image, in the *image* of God created He him." Verse 27. "In the day that God created man, in the *likeness* of God made He him." Genesis 5:1. Man's nature was not made essentially the same as that of the Deity. If such had been the case, man would be a god. By confusing man's nature with his likeness to his Maker *in form*, some people have thought that we have been endowed with immortality, that the soul cannot die, and that it is as eternal as God Himself. They even allege that He, using the hottest hell of fire imaginable, cannot put an end to man's existence. Hence they talk about "the immortality of the soul," an expression that is not found in the Book of God. But the Lord "is able to destroy both *soul and body* in hell." Matthew 10:28.

Only God is immortal, that is, incapable of dying. He is "the King eternal, *immortal*." (1 Timothy 1:17.) He is "the King of kings, and Lord of lords; *who only hath immortality*." (1 Timothy 6:15, 16.) God does not depend upon another being for life, as we do,

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*What Secret Weapons  
Will Decide the Outcome?*

**By J. L. Shuler**

**T**HERE IS a great battle coming soon, in which more people will be killed than in all the battles which have ever been fought in the entire history of the world. In fact there will be so many millions slaughtered in this battle of Armageddon that the blood of those killed is spoken of figuratively as forming a river two hundred miles long. (Revelation 14:19, 20.) The slain of the Lord will be strewn from one end of the earth to the other. (Jeremiah 25:33.) This final conflict will bring a gigantic world-wide slaughter.

The question naturally arises, What is this battle of Armageddon? You will find the answer to this question in Revelation 16:14, 16. These verses read as follows: "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. . . . And He

gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Please notice that the fourteenth verse declared that the kings of the entire world will be gathered to the battle of the great day of God. The sixteenth verse in speaking of this same gathering of the nations declares that they will be gathered to Armageddon. Thus when we place these two verses of Scripture together, it is as plain as can be that the battle of Armageddon is the great day of God Almighty.

The great day of God refers to that final day which will usher in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this world. This final struggle is called the battle of the great day of God Almighty, because this is the conflict in which God Himself will fight. Zechariah 14:3 states, "Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle."



# Prayer Changes Things

By Maxine Baker

It will be interesting to note some of the things God will do in connection with this final war of Armageddon. In Revelation 16:16-21 we have a record of some of the most startling events in the entire history of our world; these will take place in the final struggle. Verse sixteen declares that the nations will be gathered to a place called Armageddon. What will God do when the nations gather at Armageddon? The next verse, the seventeenth, tells: "And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done."

When the nations gather for the battle of Armageddon, the voice of Almighty God will proclaim, "It is done." This is the last. The end has come. Man's day is ended. Mark well this point. Armageddon is the world-ending battle. It will mark the end of the present order of things. It will ring down the curtain on the history of the human race. The battle of Armageddon will be the most momentous and most decisive struggle that ever has taken place or ever will take place. You and I certainly need to know what the Bible says about it.

A man in Chicago pulled out his watch before a crowd and said, "If there is a God in heaven, I give Him five minutes to strike me dead." People went into hysterics. Women fainted. When the five minutes were up, the man announced, "You can see now, there is no God." This did not prove anything except that he was a fool, because the Scriptures say: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Psalm 14:1.

Some day God is going to talk, and every human will know about it. When the nations gather for Armageddon, the voice of God will be heard from one end of the earth to the other, saying, "It is done." These three words of God, "It is done," will turn this world upside down. Verse eighteen tells about this: "And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." This will be the greatest earthquake that ever has been, or ever will be. This earthquake will cause the entire world to reel to and fro like a drunken man. (Isaiah 24:20.)

This final earthquake will reduce every city in the world to heaps of rubble, as though superatomic bombs had struck every city at the same time. Notice how the prophet describes this in the next two verses of the sixteenth chapter of Revelation: "And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found."

When this universal destruction comes, where will you go for safety? There will be only one refuge in that tremendous day, and that will be the Lord Jesus  
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JANET WAS graduated from high school in May. With a happy heart she counted the days until she would be going to college. Then one morning two weeks before the opening day of school, her father awakened her, saying, "I'm taking mother to the hospital. The doctor thinks it best for her to be there, since the pain in her chest is growing worse."

Dr. Green confirmed Janet's fears. Her mother had tuberculosis.

Slowly Janet climbed the stairs to the attic that day and replaced her suitcase on the shelf. She could not go to college this year. Early every morning until late at night Janet was busy. With three brothers and one little sister, she never could seem to have a moment between cooking meals, washing dishes, and caring for the children. Little Mary's face and hands were forever dirty, no matter how many times Janet washed them. In the evening Janet would sit in the kitchen mending her brothers' socks—and dream of college.

So life had gone for twelve months. Janet still had hopes of attending school the next year, and she prayed fervently to that end.

Glancing at the calendar one hot day of the second

summer, she sighed softly, "The first day of August."

Then she realized that in one more month college would begin. A nurse had written that her mother's condition was not improving. Next day Janet took money she had intended for college entrance fees and bought school clothes for the children. But in her heart she treasured the verse, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Janet determined to keep praying, and God rewarded her faith. Her mother came

home in the spring, well enough to care for the family. In September, after two years of hoping and praying, Janet paused in front of the girls' dormitory, a suitcase in each hand, and silently thanked God for bringing her to college at last. Today she is a senior.

Your prayers will be answered, too, if you persevere. You must keep your petitions spread before Him until the answer comes. Pray without ceasing.





# EVENTS *of Our Times*

**GAMBLING NOT SIN?**—*The Christian Century* (Nov. 22, 1950) reports that an Anglican investigating group has reached the conclusion that gambling is "not necessarily" a sin. The Anglicans stated: "In our judgment the examination to which we have submitted the arguments advanced by those who think gambling is intrinsically wrong shows that the objection cannot be sustained. The gambling contract is itself a permissible contract—that is to say, one into which a man may enter without necessarily committing sin. It by no means follows, however, that all forms of gambling are permissible, or that all gamblers gamble innocently. There are gamblers which gamblers themselves find morally offensive."

**PROTESTS LIQUOR ADVERTISING ON AIR.**—The 53rd annual convention of the New York State congress of parents and teachers, held early in November in Rochester, proposed a legislative program which would include prohibition of alcohol advertising on TV and radio, in newspapers, and on commercial vehicles.

**CARS AND WARS COMPETE.**—Harry B. Mitchell, chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Com-

mission, recently stated that the automobile has killed almost as many Americans as all the wars in which this country has been involved. He said that 968,838 people had been killed in all the nation's wars up to September 26, 1950. Available figures show there had been 910,060 automobile deaths from 1903 through 1949.

**VOCATION.**—In Memphis, a captured stickup man from Washington State Prison told police he had no intention of reforming: "I started out reading crime stories as a seven-year-old kid . . . and decided that was what I wanted to do."

**CHARACTER TOPS LOOKS.**—Good character and not good looks is considered most important by mentally healthy college students in picking a wife or a husband. This was shown by a survey of 118 well-adjusted college men and the same number of college girls asked to indicate traits most essential and those least essential in a future mate.

In fact, beauty or good looks is rated as least essential by one out of four men and by two thirds of the girls surveyed.

(Continued on page 13)



FORD NEWS BUREAU

These employees of the Ford Motor Company's engineering department in Dearborn, Michigan, meet each Thursday and take turns reading the Bible during their half-hour luncheon period.





R. M. ELDRIDGE, ARTIST

## One Thousand Years With Jesus

**T**HE STUDY of the activities of Christ and Christians, of Satan and sinners during the one-thousand-year period mentioned in Revelation 20:4 is one of the most fascinating in the entire Bible.

We read: "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." It is a blessed privilege for Christians to walk with Jesus here in the Spirit, to feel His presence, and to know that He is near; but they long to be with Him personally and to see Him face to face. Some day soon the desire of the righteous will be realized, and God's faithful people will reign with Christ for one thousand years.

The Bible says that a resurrection of the saved will mark the opening of the millennium. This is made clear in verse six: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the *first resurrection*: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." We can see from this that the millennium has not yet begun, for the first resurrection is still future.

The second coming of Christ and the first resurrection mark the beginning of this one-thousand-year reign with Christ. These two events, which are still future, will take place at the same time. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of

*What Happens to the Wicked and the Devil During the Millennial Reign of Christ With His Saints?*

By F. M. Oliver

the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thessalonians 4:16. The righteous dead hear Jesus' voice and come forth in the first resurrection. Revelation 20:5 tells us that the wicked do not come forth at this resurrection:

"But the rest of the dead [the wicked] lived not again until the thousand years were finished." It will be a blessed thing to have part in the first resurrection. All who do

will reign with Christ a thousand years.

How important to the righteous is the first resurrection? The apostle Paul speaks about it as follows: "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen. . . . And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." 1 Co-

*(Continued on page 32)*

*While the earth is in a state of chaos during the millennium, the saints will be in heaven, seated on thrones, acting in judgment upon the wicked dead, who will be punished according to their deeds at the end of the millennium.*

R. M. ELDRIDGE, ARTIST







SHARRINE HOWELL

# Life Anew!

By

Harvey C. Hansen



EVA LUOMA

## *Shedding the Wintry Life for the Sunny Summer Life*

THE WOODS stand brown and bare in tree-popping cold. The little stream is a snake of ice. The field is untended, windswept, and deeply crusted. The yard is covered with smoke-dirtied snow. The people prefer to be inside close by a stove. . . .

The little stream sings again. The smell of newly turned sod weights the air. The melodious caroling of spring birds and the lilting laughter of bike-riding and kite-flying youngsters vie for place in the ear. Nourishment surges upward to the greening grass and the budding trees. People are in field and yard. In everything and everybody is the feel to be astir.

What made the difference?

The sun had "returned." Its warmth and vitality penetrated the winter and gave—life anew!

Likewise when religion is in a wintry condition, it is swept with every wind of doctrine. It is covered deeply with sin-smudged snows of tradition. It is encrusted with the veneer of vain deceit. Its followers desire to sit by, basking in the warmth of worldly praise. It is barren with "trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit." (Jude 12.)

But when Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, is allowed to shed His vital light upon a church, upon any people, wonderful changes take place.

The cold-heartedness of the people melts away and streams of good will toward fellow men flow through their beings. The song of glad tidings is on their lips. The fallow ground is broken up, and they go forth bearing seed for sowing. And they bear much fruit. They seek their commendation from the Lord: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Matthew 25: 21. They show they have received from Him—life anew!

Individually this experience is like the case of a badly wounded soldier. Blood plasma is given. The wounds are cleansed and sown up. Flesh is grafted on where needed. Vitamin complexes and body-building foods are given abundantly. A new vocation is taught him, and he receives special guidance. Almost miraculously strength, color, new abilities, a better uplook come. More abundantly than before he has—life anew!

Many a Christian warrior fails to put on the whole armor of God, and falls, pierced through with the fiery darts of evil. But how wondrously Jesus saves!

Willingly, He who is the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother gives His own blood, His own flesh, His own life. Lovingly, He who is the Great Physician binds up the repentant one's wounds and is faithful and just to cleanse him from all unrighteous-



ness. Freely, He who is the Bread of Life and the Fountain of Living Waters gives him the Word, the meat and drink indeed. He gives new faith, new spirit, new talents, new heart—life anew!

"I am come," Jesus said with regard to His followers, "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10.

Your religious life need not be found wintery. Your fight against the tempter need not be counted a defeat. Only let the Sun of Righteousness, the Captain of Salvation, give you now—life anew!

### ***How Will Christ Come?***

*(Continued from page 5)*

to Him and then to live in harmony with His Scripture-revealed will for them? What of those people?

Says the Scriptures, "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:15-17.

But thank God that there is a way of escape. God provides the way. He longs that all will take that way. "The Lord is . . . longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9. This you can do this very minute. In the quietness of your own heart may you right now softly say to your God, "Father, I surrender my whole life to Thee. Take me just as I am; forgive my sins and provide for me the power I shall need to overcome temptation. I am trusting Thee to save me: Father, do it now."

Having thus made a surrender of your life to God, you will then begin to find that a portion of the fruit of God's love in your heart will be your longing for the literal, visible, corporeal, personal second coming of Jesus Christ. You will doubtless discover that this is indeed a "blessed hope."

### ***Events of Our Times***

*(Continued from page 10)*

Men and women are agreed in placing moral character, similarity of interests, and intelligence at the top of the list of traits essential in a potential mate.

CHURCHES TO BE FIRST-AID STATIONS, ASSEMBLY POINTS FOR CIVIL DEFENSE.—As predicted in *The Washington Religious Review*, church organizations and church structures will play an important part in the nation's effort to prepare to handle the disruption resulting from A-bomb attack, according to "The Master Plan for Civil Defense," released by the National Security Resources Board.

OUR TIMES, MARCH, 1951

## ***That Kiss of Shame***

**By Esther Brasier Zalabak**

*Oh, night that to Gethsemane,  
So strangely sad, the Saviour went,  
The world's sin-burden weighing so  
Till life itself was almost spent.  
That garden often heard His prayers,  
But no such agonizing plea  
From those dear lips was heard before,  
Alone in dark Gethsemane.*

*"If possible, let this cup pass,"  
His earnest, thrice-repeated prayer;  
And His disciples, wondering, heard,  
Yet Jesus found them sleeping there.  
He longed for sympathy in woe,  
But bore that anguish all alone  
As prostrate on the ground He prayed,  
"If not, Thy will be done."*

*In lone despair as if for stay  
He clung to the cold, damp sod;  
Alone He drained that bitter cup  
Of separation from His God.  
And in that prayer, "Thy will be done,"  
He took my sin, He bore my blame,  
Felt the betrayer's kiss that night—  
Was that kiss mine, that kiss of shame?*

*He knew my griefs, He met the mob—  
With friendship's kiss betrayed—  
Forsaken thus by God and man  
The way of life was made.  
That awful night the crown of thorns,  
And yet for this He came;  
Shall I accept in word alone,  
Repeat that kiss of shame?*







# The SERMON of the MONTH

## HOW TO LIVE WITH THE ATOM

By H. M. S. Richards

Speaker on the Voice of Prophecy program

WHETHER we like it or not, we must live with the atom. Fear of the atom is widespread in the land. For one reason or another, many leading men today have emphasized this fear. They may have felt that by describing the horrible possibilities of atomic warfare, it might be prevented.

First it was uranium, now it's hydrogen—A bombs, then H bombs. We live today in a psychological chamber of horrors. Every time the laboratory door slams, we are ready to jump. If what its high priests are telling us is true, science is becoming the bogeyman of the race. Like the messengers of Job, the best minds in the realms of science and government come running in from the electronic wilderness with one paralyzing report after another. No wonder the people are frightened. It's like grandfathers' muttering ghost stories to children in the dark, only this time the stories may be true.

We have a democracy of fear. Everybody is in it. We are told that destruction will be universal, or almost universal—that the atom will be the end of us. Some of our friends who laughed at the hell-fire of the Holy Scriptures, God's last antiseptic for a sinful race, are describing their version of the atomic hell with the eloquence of conviction. They plainly predict the atom end of everything. No wonder people are afraid.

This is a generation of atoms and fears. When you stop to think that millions today draw their spiritual information from the science comics, talk about space ships as they would about bicycles, see flying saucers in the sky and disintegrating atoms on the TV screen, is it any wonder that they eagerly read about midgets in sky disks and watch for the first headlines of an invasion from Mars?

This atom fear is all over the world. What could be a better description of it than that found in the Gospel of St. Luke? Here is a series of headlines accurately tagging our world today: "Upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and



AUTHENTICATED NEWS

for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Luke 21:25, 26.

That sounds like the age of the atom, doesn't it? "The powers of heaven shall be shaken." There is nothing unscientific about that. And what about this in 2 Peter 3:10, 12? "The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. . . . The heavens

being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat."

That was taken out of this morning's paper, wasn't it? Or did you hear it on the coast-to-coast broadcast, right from the electronic laboratory? No, those are the words of St. Peter, inspired by the Holy Ghost, giving a picture of the last day.

The sad thing about the whole affair is this: Most of the prophets of atomic doom show us no way out. They stop at the twenty-sixth verse of Luke 21 and do not go on to verses twenty-seven and twenty-eight. They prophesy the end of man, but tell us nothing about the coming of the Son of man. They tell us that our earth and everything in it will explode into gas like the fire clouds of the sun; but they tell us nothing about the new heavens and the new earth which shall never pass away.

The fear psychosis is gripping millions. Thousands go about with bowed heads and burdened hearts. The atom shadow is over their lives. But there is one thing they forget, and that is the twenty-eighth verse of the twenty-first chapter of St. Luke: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

These things that are coming upon the earth are signs of the times, signs of better times to come. In the midst of worry, wonder, and woe, there are thousands who have learned to live with the atom. They have learned to have no fear in the midst of fear. They have



learned that "we have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."—*Life Sketches*, p. 196.

God has always cared for His people in the past. Look at these men who lived with the atom, that is, in the sense of living with fear and trouble. First of all, Noah faced a world in dissolution. How did he live with that situation? He trusted God, and that's the secret of living with the atom today. We read in Hebrews 11:7 that Noah was a man of faith. He lived with universal corruption and through the Deluge that swept away a whole civilization. But he lived constantly a life of faith.

The prophet Jeremiah lived at a time when the whole national house of Israel was falling around him like a house of cards. The shadows of approaching enemy armies covered the land. Finally he was in the besieged city—not only inside the city, but at the bottom of a prison cell, sinking in the mud. How

did Jeremiah live with the atom? How did he live with trouble, worry, and fear? It was faith in God's Word that sustained Jeremiah. Listen to what he says in the midst of his trouble, surrounded by war and confusion: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Jeremiah 15:16.

That's the way to live with the atom—fill your heart with the Word of God. While things may be fearful about you, still, my friend, you can have joy and rejoicing in your heart. You can be free from fear, living every day with God and with His Word.

Next, we think of Elijah as a man who learned to live at peace in a time of war. He lived in a time of trouble; he lived with trouble. He lived when it was a life-and-death matter to serve God. In fact, things became so bad—changed from a cold war to a hot war—that Elijah lost his courage and fled for his life. For forty days he tramped into the desert. There he

*(Continued on page 17)*



## *Things I Wish I Had Known*

Now a man of mature years, wise in his experiences of life, yet in want, whose name is charitably withheld, had an abundance of time in which to meditate over his lot. His conclusions were summed up in the following regrets of "Things I wish I had known before I was twenty-one," a profitable admonition for young men:

What I was going to do for a living, and what my lifework would likely be.

That my health after thirty depended in a large degree on what I put into my stomach before I was twenty-one.

How to take care of money.

That a man's habits are mighty hard to change after twenty-one.

That a harvest depends upon seeds sown.

That the world would give me just about what I deserved.

That the sweat of my brow would earn my bread.

That a thorough education not only pays better wages than hard labor, but it brings the best of everything else.

That honesty is the only policy, not only in dealing with my neighbors, but also in dealing with myself and with God.

The value of absolute truthfulness in everything.

That everything my mother wanted me to do was right.

That "dad" wasn't an old fogey after all.

More of the helpful and inspiring parts of the Bible, especially the four books dealing with the life of Christ.

—*Sunshine Magazine*.



## *A Doctor's Story*

ONE HALF of the world is avowedly atheistic. It wages relentless war against religion and against the concept of a Creator. The other half, despite its professions, seems woefully apathetic in its attitude toward God. It sadly neglects and does little to revive the things of the spirit.

Of course God cannot be proved like a mathematical equation. "But if we consider the physical universe in its mystery and wonder, its order and intricacy, its awe-inspiring immensity, we cannot escape the certainty of a primary Creator."

Men may reject with scorn the Biblical account of God's shaping the world with His own hands in six days. They may accept the theory of evolution, with its fossils and elementary species, its doctrine of natural causes. And still they are faced with the same mystery, primary and profound: Nothing can come of nothing.

After all, the key to an understanding of the universe is God. "In the beginning God." We must begin with Him. And thank God, there are still men of ability and courage who are bravely resisting the rising tide of infidelity and are witnessing strongly for the faith that is in them.

"Some years ago in London, where I had organized a working-boys' club," writes Dr. A. J. Cronin, of literary fame, in *Woman's Home Companion*, "I invited a distinguished zoologist to deliver a lecture to our members. To my concern, my friend chose as his subject, 'The Beginning of Our World.' In a frankly atheistic approach he described how, aeons ago, the pounding prehistoric seas upon the earth's primaeval crust had generated by physico-chemical reaction a pulsating scum from which there had emerged—though he did not say how—the first primitive form of animation, the protoplasmic cell. When he concluded, there was polite applause. A youngster rose nervously to his feet.

"'Excuse me, Sir,' he spoke with a slight stammer, 'you've explained how these b-big waves beat upon the shore, b-b-but how did all the water get there in the first place?'

"There was an awkward silence. The lecturer turned red. Then, before he could answer, the whole club burst into a howl of laughter. His elaborate structure of logic had been crumpled by one word of challenge from a young boy."

"The truth is," writes Dr. Cronin, "there is no valid basis for denying the existence of God." But this is by no means all he has to say on the subject. The doctor has written a most moving story of how he was led out of skepticism into a firm faith in the overruling providence of God in human affairs. He reasons his case well, but he wisely realizes that reason alone never determines the great things of life. So he shows from his own varied experience how God may be seen at work in human lives, enriching and saving.

# *From Lofty to Humble*

EWING GALLOWAY





# Scorn Faith

As a medical student in the University of Glasgow, Dr. Cronin tells us, he was no different from the usual run. "When I thought of God," he says, "it was with a superior smile, indicative of scorn for an outworn myth."

It was in a South Wales mining community that he got his first vivid impressions of God's power working in the hearts and lives of brave men and women.

He then continues his interesting story:

"As I assisted at the miracle of birth, sat with the dying, heard the faint, inexorable beating of the dark wings of death, my outlook became less self-assured. I realized that the compass of existence held more than my textbooks had revealed. *In short, I lost my superiority; and this, though I was not then aware of it, is the first step toward finding God.*" (Italics ours.)

Then came a mine disaster, which carried him still farther along the road to faith. A heavy explosion entombed fourteen miners. "For five days the men remained buried, while the village prayed. Then, as rescuers hacked their way underground, they heard faintly, from deep in the collapsed workings, the strains of singing. It was the hymn 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past.' Thus had the entombed men chosen to keep their courage high. And when they were brought out, weak but unharmed, the great crowd gathered in the pityard took up the hymn, which,

By H. F. De'Ath

sung by a thousand voices, echoed joyfully in the narrow valley. As I came to the surface with the liberated men, this great volume of sound caught me like a tidal wave—a demonstration of human faith moving beyond words."

The doctor's story then carries us forward to his contact with one particular person, a district nurse, who assisted him in another South Wales mining community, where work was hard and facilities inadequate.

"She was a plain woman with a solid figure and a lined face. Yet there was a steady frankness in her clear grey eyes which lit up her quite ordinary features. For nearly twenty years she had nursed, singlehanded, in this district. Her work was hard—a ten-mile round, a never-ending day. She was never too busy to speak

a word of sympathy, nor too tired at night to rise for an urgent call.

"Her salary was most inadequate, and late one night after a particularly strenuous case I ventured to protest to her as we took a hot drink together.

"'Nurse,' I said, 'why don't you make them pay you more? You ought to have an extra pound a week at least. God knows you're worth it.'

"There was a pause. She smiled, but her gaze held an intensity which startled me.

"'Doctor,' she said, 'if God knows I'm worth it, that's all that matters to me.'

"I realized that her whole existence, in its service and self-sacrifice, was a perpetual testimony to her belief in God. And in a flash of understanding I sensed the rich significance of her life and the comparative emptiness of my own.

"A mine disaster, the chance remark of a simple country nurse—these brought me out of the morass of skepticism to the firm uplands of faith."

Thus it is that through the centuries a host of believing men and women have built their lives on the solid rock of faith in God. Their eyes were open to see Him at work in nature, through His providences, and, above all, in the hearts and lives of His believing children. So they committed their lives to Him, held fast to Him by faith, and triumphantly finished their course with Him as their Father, Friend, and Guide.

May those who read these lines seek grace to follow in their train.

## How to Live With the Atom

(Continued from page 15)

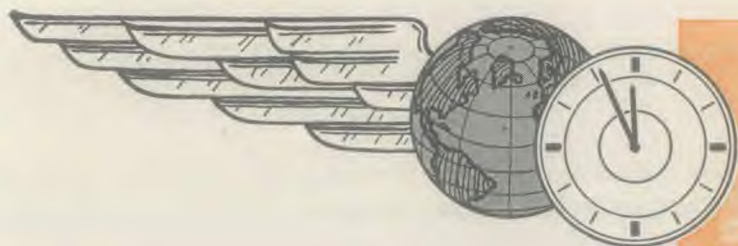
sought refuge in a cave in the Mountain of God—old, rugged Mount Sinai, it was. Even nature itself seemed to be against him. A mighty tornado rushed over the cliffs and sent the rocks booming down in terrible avalanches. An earthquake shook the mountains, and his rocky retreat groaned and trembled. Fire swept over the peaks.

But God's call to Elijah did not come in the earthquake, wind, or fire. At last he heard a still, small voice saying, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" 1 Kings 19:9. Then Elijah expressed his fear, his terrible fear, and told about the awful destruction of life he had seen. He told the sad story of apostasy in religion. He must have shuddered as he told the stark truth that even at that very time powerful forces were seeking his life to destroy it.

But in the midst of this frenzy of fear and despondency, Elijah was assured that there were seven thousand who had not bowed the knee to Baal, seven thousand who had not yielded to the reign of fear, seven thousand who were still true to God and His truth. Then he was instructed to go back.

(Continued on page 30)





# INTERPRETING

*In the Light*

By

## ★ Is America in Danger?

THE TENSE world situation has stimulated speculation in regard to the future of America. There are two extreme views that are being put forth. One is that everything is going to be just all right and this nation will not become involved in total war. The other is that we face not only total war but possible defeat. By far the majority are predicting that total war cannot be avoided.

It is feared that this spring may see the launching



One of the most popular spots for sight-seers in Rome, Italy, is the Colosseum. It is now illuminated by floodlights at night for the benefit of the viewers. Little do the tourists realize the awful persecution of the Christians that went on in this place.

of an all-out offensive by the Soviet empire. The six Red field armies that are poised on the fringe of the iron curtain are believed to be set for a smashing blitzkrieg across Europe to the Atlantic coast. It is reported that they are amassing over twenty thousand heavy tanks for this crushing assault. It is also reported that airborne Russian troops are being massed for attacks against Alaska, Japan, and possibly even the United States.

It is feared that Russia will not be satisfied to permit her huge military forces to remain inactive while the

United States builds up the military power of Europe to defeat Russia. As Joseph and Stewart Alsop state in their syndicated newspaper column: "No one can be sure that the men in the Kremlin have not concluded that now is the time to have a war, now that the United States is weak and its allies defenseless."

Walter Winchell in his syndicated column says that "it is unreasonable to suppose that they [the Russians] are going to sit there indefinitely watching Western Europe forge the weapons to defeat them. . . . The

Red army will probably blitzkrieg in overwhelming attack to the west, when it moves, so that it can capture Europe's Marshall Plan factories without destroying them and thus use them against us."

This same columnist warns that "our last chance is to rush preparation for a global war—and hope to save our country." Militarily it looks as if there is not enough time for the United States to prepare to meet this dire threat. From a strictly human viewpoint it would appear that this country is in danger of a crushing and humiliating defeat at the hand of a powerful enemy.

But from the viewpoint of Bible believers this outcome does not seem likely. America is the headquarters of the largest missionary program in all the world. It might well be said that this is the focal point from which the gospel is going to all the world. It is the purpose and the plan of God for this work to continue until the end.

During the Middle Ages, when the governments of Europe were dominated by a superchurch that persecuted the true Christians, greatly impeding the advancement of the cause of God, the Lord promised that there would be help provided for His faithful children so that they could continue the advance of the cause of God without restriction. The providential discovery and founding of America has been acknowl-

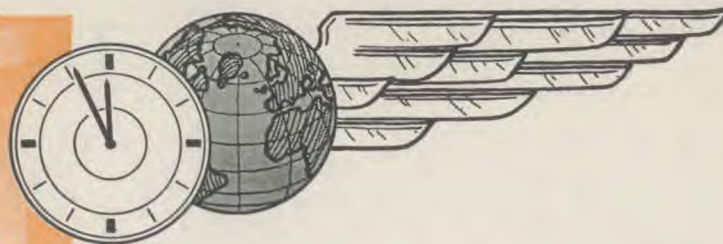
OUR TIMES, MARCH, 1951



# G OUR TIMES

## Bible Prophecy

ditor



edged by numerous historians as the work of God. Revelation 12:16 says, "And the earth helped the woman [the church], and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood [of persecution] which the dragon [the devil] cast out of his mouth."

We do not believe that God will permit the headquarters of the gospel work to be destroyed or brought under the power of the godless, regardless of how unprepared we may be militarily. True, there will be great difficulties in these last days in the furtherance of the cause of God; and because of the sins of the people, God will permit judgments to come upon them. However the U.S.A. will continue to stand until Christ comes. We do not fear so much the enemies without, powerful though they may be; we fear more the enemies within our fair land. We greatly fear that in this critical time the liberties we have sacrificed to gain will be lost.

The present state of emergency demands a virtual dictatorship that may bring about the suppression and persecution of those conscientious Christians who refuse to violate their consciences in the emergency. There is danger that the almost critical situation will cause frayed nerves and will result in intolerance and lack of understanding toward those who persist in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities to God even though the bombs are falling.

If this should occur and America should speak as a dragon, persecuting the faithful, God would have no more need of her. It would surely mean the end not only of America but of the world. For when America dies, freedom and all that has been good in government will die with her.

### ★ Doctor Shortage

AN ARTICLE appeared in a recent issue of *Collier's* magazine that said the nation faces an alarming shortage of doctors. The American Medical Association answered that "there is no real shortage of physicians in this country today."

Possibly the A.M.A. is correct in denying the *Collier's* statement. At the present time one new doctor is being graduated for every 27,000 population. This

OUR TIMES, MARCH, 1951



UNATIONS

The U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund provided the new shoes for this happy group of children in Greece. Other clothing and also food are being provided for millions of hungry, ragged children of thirteen countries.

seems to be sufficient under present conditions to take care of the needs of this country.

A matter of great importance, however, was not considered by *Collier's* or the A.M.A. In the event of an atomic war in which the large cities of the United States are blasted, there could very well be injured citizens mounting into the hundreds of thousands and possibly even into the millions.

At the present time, and even in the foreseeable future, there seems to be no way to handle such a situation. It is not for us to argue whether we have sufficient doctors at the present time or not, but perhaps it would be wisdom for us to point out that there ought to be a plan to train large numbers of people to care for the casualties of an atomic war. There may come a time when, in certain localities at least, there may not be much else of importance to do except to minister to the injured. There is something in this for Christians to think about. It would not only be wise but Christian for all who can to seek some kind of medical preparation to help out in the event of

(Continued on page 29)



# The *Persecutions of Christians*



H. SIEMIRADZKI, ARTIST

*The cruel Nero frequently watched the horrible tortures of the Christians and seemed to enjoy their sufferings. Here Nero views a Christian girl who has just died from a nightmarish ride.*

**H**ISTORIANS inform us that more than five million Christians met death as martyrs for their faith during the first four hundred years of the Christian era, under the reign of the pagan emperors of the Roman Empire. The persecutions were first instituted by the Jews against the Christians; and Emperor Nero, learning that the Christians were teaching the overthrow of all earthly empires and the setting up of Christ's kingdom in the future, determined to blot out Christianity and thus forestall the overthrow of the Roman Empire. Every one of the twelve apostles met a martyr's death except John, who escaped this doom by being banished to the Isle of Patmos.

The greatest persecutions took place during the reigns of Nero, Domitian, Marcus Antoninus, Severus, and Diocletian, who instigated a war of ten years' duration against the Christians. Diocletian not only attempted to slay all Christians in the Roman Empire, but he issued imperial orders requiring all the books and papers of Christians to be collected and burned.

The historian Mosheim informs us that "Nero was the first emperor that persecuted the Christians; and his cruelty was extreme. He accused those innocent

people of a crime which he himself had committed, namely, that of setting fire to the city of Rome. Therefore to make punishment correspond with crime, he caused many of them to illumine the streets of his capital at night by enveloping their bodies in a mass of fire."

The apostles had been teaching that God was going to destroy the nations finally and that all things would be dissolved with fire. They taught that "the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up, . . . and the elements shall melt with fervent heat," after which the kingdom of Christ was to take the place of "the kingdoms of this world."

Both Nero and Domitian had been informed by some enemy of both Jews and Christians that the Jews and the Christians were expecting a king of David's line who would reign over all the world and give new laws to the world, and that the Christians believed that Christ would reappear and set up His everlasting kingdom. This enemy informed the emperors of Rome that the Jews and Christians were planning insurrections and the overthrow of the Roman Empire. This enraged the emperors of Rome, and they decreed the doom of all Christians as well as Jews, and the slaughter began.

**By C. S. Longacre**

OUR TIMES, MARCH, 1951



Finally Domitian heard that there were Christians of the lineage of David, and kinsmen of Christ, still living in Palestine. He brought them to Rome and interrogated them closely respecting their pedigrees and the future of the kingdom of Christ. Says Mosheim: "From their answers and their whole appearance he concluded he had nothing to fear from them, and dismissed them; and thereupon, he published a decree, terminating the persecution."

The emperor put an end to the persecution of the Christians, so far as the Roman government was concerned, for a short period of time. But after the various Christian sects (of which there were hundreds by this time) combined and united their forces in what they called "the universal church" of Christians, and united this "universal church" with the state in the latter days of Emperor Constantine, then Christians began to persecute Christians for holding so-called "heretical dogmas."

The pagan emperors, who saw that the rapid growth of Christianity was going to replace and overthrow their pagan religion, decreed that all Christians should be utterly exterminated or brought back by pains and tortures to the religion of their pagan ancestors. But as soon as the emperors of Rome accepted nominally the Christian religion and made that the religion of the Roman Empire, the church made all kinds of compromises and allowed the Roman emperors to dictate both the policies and the doctrines of the church that were to be taught to the people. All kinds of pagan superstitions and dogmas were accepted by the Christian theologians; and these innovations, which were subversive of the true doctrines of primitive Christianity, produced many divergent sects among Christian believers in various countries. After the church and the state were united, pressure was brought to bear upon the various sects to conform to the doctrines taught by the state church.

When Christianity became popular and prosperous and was fortified by the laws of the state, the Christian leaders consented to have the state punish all dissenters and nonconformists, and sanctioned the extermination of heretics. The Christians in power persecuted the Christians out of power, and also the helpless minorities that refused to submit. After the downfall of the Roman Empire, which was split up into ten separate kingdoms, the bishop of Rome assumed leadership over all the bishops of what was formerly the Western Empire, and they willingly acceded to him supreme authority. The bishop of Constantinople claimed authority over all the eastern division of the Roman Empire and its bishops. A conflict was engendered between the five leading bishops, or patriarchs, of Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem as to which one was to exercise supreme authority over all the churches throughout Christendom. None of the bishops of a diocese, or church district, were called patriarchs until the Council of

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## Beneath the Surface

*The world looks at the bright façade—  
The polished outer part,  
But God looks through the gilt veneer  
And sees the tarnished heart.*

*The world is charmed by brilliant words  
And intellectual gloss;  
God reads the minds, and finds beneath  
The words much mental dross.*

*The world deceives, and is deceived,  
By pleasing surfaces;  
But God probes to the core and finds  
Discrepant purposes.*

*Beauty, wealth, and eloquence—  
These win the world's esteem.  
God judges us by what we are,  
Not by what we seem. . . .*

*To win approval of our Lord  
Should be our chief concern;  
He knows the real you and me  
That the world does not discern.*

—ANNA MODINE MORAN.

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Chalcedon in A.D. 451 officially gave them that title.

Finally the patriarch of Rome took precedence over all other patriarchs and assumed the titles of pope and most holy father. This preeminence was granted to the bishop of Rome because of "the amplitude and splendor of the church over which he presided, in the magnitude of his revenues and possessions, in the number of his ministers of various descriptions, in the weight of his influence with the people at large, and in the sumptuousness and magnificence of his style of living."—Mosheim, *Ecclesiastical History*, Vol. 1, Book II, p. 242.

The patriarch of Constantinople, which was called new Rome after the emperor of Rome moved the seat of empire to that city, also set up his claim as the chief bishop of all Christendom. The contest between the bishops of Rome and the bishops of Constantinople for the supremacy over all the churches of Christendom was protracted through several centuries, and finally produced a permanent

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# For BETTER HOMES *and* HEALTH

## SHOULD CHILDREN BE PUNISHED, OR IS PUNISHMENT OLD-FASHIONED?

**N**OT LEAST of the many causes of controversy today is the question of punishing children. Ideas on this subject are being radically changed. Victorian methods of discipline, wherein the rod played such a prominent part, are gradually being abandoned as injurious to the child's welfare.

This whole question of child discipline, with the problem of whether corporal punishment shall be administered, is one which should be of far greater interest to parents than to teachers; for the influence of parents on the molding of the child's character is, on the whole, infinitely greater than that of any school-teacher.

The question before us is vital. It is one upon which we all should have sound ideas, because today's children are tomorrow's men and women. The child of today determines the race of tomorrow. How vital then that correct methods of discipline be applied, that juvenile characters be given the proper mold! Upon parents and teachers rests the solemn responsibility to guide the rising generation and to give them the correct start in life.

The molding of character, especially in the early years, depends more on discipline than on mere instruction and exhortation. It therefore behooves every Christian parent and teacher to settle conclusively the question, To punish or not to punish? Shall the rod be administered when necessary or abandoned as a weapon that is wholly injurious?

Being a very practical book, the Bible recognizes the supreme importance of child training and has much to say about it. Its statements are forthright and clear, leaving no room for controversy. Its principles and methods when properly applied will give the children the very best chance of developing into noble, upright men and women—invaluable assets to their community and credits to Christianity.

Notice carefully the inspired words of the wise man: "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child;

but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Proverbs 22:15. In a later statement he says, "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Proverbs 29:15. What a striking rebuttal of the modern notion that children should be "given their head"; that the child's self-expression must not be curbed; that the use of the rod will inevitably result in unfortunate complexes! The Bible repudiates such "progressive" notions, declaring the result of lax discipline and the abandonment of the rod to be shameful and dishonorable.

This infallible Book uses the strongest language when it says, "Withhold not correction from a child: for if thou beatest him with a rod, he shall not die. . . . Thou shalt deliver his soul from hell." Proverbs 23:13, 14. Thus we see that not only a child's temporal destiny but also his eternal destiny is appreciably affected by the way he has been disciplined by his parents and teachers.

The use of the stick, however, must always be determined by motives of love. Some have considered its use to be incompatible with parental love. Such, however, is not the case. Indeed the Bible shows the opposite to be true—that lax discipline indicates imperfect love. Here again are the words of Holy Writ: "He that spareth his rod *hateth* his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him *betimes*." Proverbs 13:24.

The chastening must not be administered unreasonably, as was frequently the case in bygone times. It is said that Martin Luther's father was so convinced of the salutary results of whipping that he beat his children daily whether they merited it or not. Such a procedure, of course, cannot be too vehemently condemned.

It is likewise the case that when some parents do resort to the rod, they do so in a spirit of passion and anger. They censure and whip unreasonably, and the children are only hardened. When they are old enough, children should first be reasoned with, and

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By R. D. Vine





## Choice Thoughts FOR CHILDREN



By Inez Brasier

### *Tasks That Are Nearest*

Did you ever hear a missionary tell of his wonderful work in faraway lands, where he cared for the sick and told the people the story of Jesus and His love for them? And then, as you listened, didn't you long to go with the missionary so you could do wonderful things for Jesus, too?

But you just went home. And mother said, "Will you set the table for me?" And father said, "Will you bring me a drink of cold water?" And you felt—oh, dear, *how* you felt—the drudgery of doing such everyday things, such very *little* things!

There is no need for you to feel *that* way about the little things you do each day. Not really!

Paul, one of the greatest missionaries who ever lived, talked about these little things. He did not mention them by name, as washing the dishes and dusting and helping father in the garden and mowing the lawn. However, he thought of similar little things and many more everyday ones, and then he wrote, "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord." Colossians 3:23.

Doing it for the Lord! Doing it for Jesus! That makes washing the dishes and mowing the lawn quite different, doesn't it? That makes our small tasks really beautiful and fine.

Paul said more about these "whatsoevers," too. "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Verse 17. We are doing it not only *for* the Lord when we do kind things for others, especially for our fathers and mothers, we are doing it in *His* place. That is, we are doing it because Jesus is not here to do it. This makes our tasks really great ones.

Not only did Paul, the missionary, talk about doing little things; Jesus talked about them, too. He talked about doing things we are not asked to do—like sweeping the walk after we mow the lawn; like dusting the furniture after mother has done the cleaning and is tired; like—but you know the things you can do without being asked to do them.

Jesus talked about one little thing that all of us are asked to do some time or other: to give someone a drink of water. "Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water. . . ." Matthew 10:42.

If we do these everyday things as though doing them *for* Jesus, if we do them as He would do them

in our place, we shall be missionaries for Jesus just as well as Paul, just as well as the missionaries in China or in Burma or in Africa. And when Jesus comes, He will say to us as well as to them, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."



## FOR THE TEENS of Our Times



By Caris H. Lauda

### *Forget It!*

Many times a day teen-agers hear others say, "Oh, forget it!" You hear it at school; you hear it at play. But really, is it easy to forget the happenings of yesterday? Is it easy to forget the failures of last week? You'll agree with me when I say it isn't easy; it is almost impossible to forget the past.

A very interesting verse in the Bible speaks about forgetting. It is in the third chapter of Philippians, the thirteenth verse: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." These are words from Paul. Young people call Paul the he-man of the Bible. Oh, it is true they look to Jesus as the greatest character of the whole Bible, but Paul was a very forceful, dynamic, powerful man. In his speech and in his manner of living he was a soldier-type man. We don't think of him as being a quiet, smooth individual. Really, I like to read about him. He stirs me to greater living for Christ. And I like this verse. I like these words that he has given to us.

You know, too many of us think of our failures, and by so doing our today is ruined by our yesterday. For example, you failed the algebra lesson yesterday, or you received an incomplete in chemistry, and today you are worrying for fear you will fail again. This sort of thing gives us the jitters, and so we are nervous; and it is hard for us to keep our minds on the tasks of today, because we keep thinking of the failures of yesterday. Paul determined in his heart that he was going to do one thing, for he said, "This one thing I do." It takes will power to say that and will power to put it into practice. But he took hold of himself and probably said something like this: "Listen here, Paul, you are going to stop this foolishness of worrying about the past. You are going to decide to do one thing today, and you are going to do it." I like that determination, don't you?

Try it in your school life today. Forget the things behind, and today reach forth unto those things which are before. Be of service to someone today. Make life better for someone by the way you live. Make the best

*(Continued on page 33)*



ALL POSTWAR plans will utterly fail so far as permanent peace is concerned unless nations and people give up selfishness, which continually engenders strife and war. No amount of human legislation can possibly bring in conditions of real peace so long as selfishness reigns in the hearts of the people and their rulers. Churches may unite, and national leaders may co-operate; but all will be in vain while this plague spot remains.

Some, realizing the utter hopelessness of peace in this world, are being led to hope for an age to come in which the nations will learn righteousness. They say that in this life many, in past ages as well as at present, have had no chance to know God and the ways of righteousness, and that justice demands that these be given a fair chance in what they call a millennial reign. But nothing could be farther removed from Scriptural truth than such a theory. To say that people have no opportunity to know God contradicts plain and positive statements of Scripture. The Bible says that even "the heavens declare the glory of God" and that there is no "speech nor language, where their voice is not heard." (Psalm 19:1, 3.) In Romans 1:20 we are told that even "the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." It is evident, therefore, that ever since the creation of the world people have had a chance to know God if they so desired.

Not only have the heavens been proclaiming the existence of the true God and Creator to the people of every language in the world since creation, but He has often manifested Himself to the people and nations of the whole world. For 120 years before the Flood Noah, by direct message from God, gave the warning and entreated the people to repent and be saved; but they refused. *They had a chance to know.* The mighty empire of Egypt had a chance to know God through the dream given to the king of the seven years of plenty and the seven years of famine. All the other nations that were compelled to come to Egypt for food had a chance to know of the true God. Later Egypt and the other nations had a chance to know God when He humbled Egypt and delivered Israel. The people of Canaan feared and trembled as they saw Israel delivered and being led toward Canaan in fulfillment of God's promise to give them their land. Some of them, including Rahab and her family, accepted the Lord and were saved by their faith in Him. (Hebrews 11:31.) Then there was Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, and Cyrus, successive rulers of world empires, who not only learned of the true God but accepted Him and published their faith in Him in all their dominions. Who can say that people in the days of these kings had no chance?

To say, therefore, that there was a soul anywhere who wanted to know the right way and had no chance

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## IS IT SAFE TO WAIT?

*Is There a Future Probation  
for the Unsaved to Be Saved?*

By I. A. Crane

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is to deny the many wonderful ways in which God revealed Himself to the people and nations. Moreover such a theory denies God's own positive statement concerning Himself, which says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him." 2 Chronicles 16:9. God is no "respector of persons: but in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him." Acts 10:34, 35. God "loved the world," not just Jews or professed Christians. Jesus "tasted death for every man." Hebrews 2:9. He spent two whole days teaching the people of Samaria (whom the Jews called dogs), and many accepted Him as the Messiah. (John 4.) The wise men from the east knew of Him and were led by the star and by dreams until they found and worshiped the babe Jesus at Bethlehem. (Matthew 2.) God has declared that He wants "all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4. And is it any wonder after having paid so great price for man's salvation that His eyes do "run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong" for their salvation? But He has made no provision for those who during this life are refusing the offer of salvation, which He has provided at such infinite sacrifice.

When He comes again in all His glory, He will bring His reward with Him "to give every man according as his work shall be." (Revelation 22:12.) The doctrine of a future probation is a fatal delusion and a reproach to the name of Him who seeks our salvation.

In this day, when Bibles are so easily obtained, we have unlimited opportunities to know the ways of righteousness. Let us study God's Word and know His truth.



## ***The Coming World War of Armageddon***

*(Continued from page 9)*

Christ. "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee."

When will the battle of Armageddon come? Revelation 16:12-20 shows that the kings of the earth will be gathered for this final battle under the sixth plague, shortly before the appearing of the Lord from heaven at His second advent. Armageddon takes place in connection with the return of Christ to this earth. During the battle of Armageddon there will come the greatest aerial bombardment that has ever been known. God will hurl down ice bombs from heaven weighing over fifty pounds each. Some will say, "Is this really in the Bible?" It certainly is. You will find it in Revelation 16:21. This verse says: "And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."

A talent is an ancient Hebrew standard of weight that equals fifty-seven pounds. When it says that every stone was about the weight of a talent, that means there will be a barrage of fifty-pound ice bombs from heaven. Some will say, "I don't believe anything like this could ever happen." It is just as easy for God to rain hailstones weighing fifty pounds each as it is for Him to rain little drops of water from heaven. The casting of these great hailstones from heaven is a part of God's plan. He talked to Job about this. God asked Job, "Hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?" Job 38:22, 23.

What can man do against this bombardment of ice bombs from heaven? Fighter planes will be helpless. Antiaircraft guns will be useless. But God has promised that everyone who obeys His Word will be protected from these great hailstones. In Isaiah 32:18, 19 we find that when these great hailstones fall, and every city is laid low, God's people will dwell in a peaceful habitation and in quiet resting places.

The question comes, Who will win in the battle of Armageddon? The East? The West? Russia? England? United States? The battle of Armageddon will not bring triumph to any nation or worldly power. Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, will be the victor on the field of Armageddon. I refer you to Psalm 2:2-9.

The second verse tells how the kings of the earth will set themselves against the Lord. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed." Then in the sixth and seventh verses the Lord God tells how He will crown His Son, Christ, King of the world. "Yet have I set My King upon My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto

Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee."

Then in verses eight and nine the prophecy tells what will happen when Jesus Christ appears in connection with the battle of Armageddon. "Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

The battle of Armageddon brings the last act in that prophetic dream recorded in the second chapter of Daniel. God showed Nebuchadnezzar the figure of a man, whose head was composed of fine gold; his breast and his arms of silver, his sides of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. In the last act of the dream a stone smote the man on his feet and dashed him to pieces. Then the stone became a great mountain and filled the entire world. This stone, which smote the man to pieces, represents what Jesus Christ will do to the nations in the battle of Armageddon. The prophecy of this second Psalm declares that He will break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Every battle that has ever been fought has been a matter of *men* arrayed on two opposing sides. But the battle of Armageddon will be different from every other battle. There will be human armies, but there also will be greater powers arranged on two opposing sides. It will also be a contest between the Lord's angels and Satan's angels, between the Lord Jesus Christ and the devil.

The devil himself will lead the charge on the field of Armageddon. You will find this set forth in Revelation 16:14. There we are told that the spirits of devils go forth to gather the kings of the entire world to the battle of the great day of God Almighty. Armageddon is the last battle in the age-long struggle between Jesus Christ and Satan, between the Son of God and Lucifer. Armageddon is Satan's last effort to install himself as the sole ruler of mankind.

The battle of Armageddon will be a fateful day for every person on this earth. You and I, and every other living soul at that day, will either be slain in this final conflict and be lost forever, or we will be delivered by the Lord to live forever in His kingdom. The most vital question is, Will you be among those who will be spared in this final conflict and live forever with Jesus in His kingdom? You can be, and you will be, if you obey His commandments and make the preparation that He asks *you* to make.

Jesus Christ declares that as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in this final day. The Deluge swept all the people in the world to destruction except this man of God and his family. Noah was delivered from universal destruction, because he made the preparation that God asked him to make. Every soul who makes the preparation that God has specified in His Holy Word will be delivered. All who fail to make this preparation will be slain in this final struggle.





# 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 been told that oleomargarine causes blindness. Is this true?—E.S.*

There is no justification for this belief. Oleomargarine when made from vegetable oils is a wholesome substitute for butter and may have a distinct advantage over dairy butter inasmuch as it is made from vegetable fats, which are free from cholesterol. Cholesterol appears to be concerned in the hardening of arteries, as well as in the formation of gallstones. In this age of hurry and hustle, when the human circulatory apparatus seems hardly able to bear the strain of modern life and bad hygienic habits, it might seem wise to do everything possible to relieve the burden thrown on the arteries.

*Recently a doctor diagnosed my case as nervous exhaustion. I do not seem to be gaining very fast. I sleep well but cannot work much. About all the advice I received was not to work too hard.—G.F.*

Nervous exhaustion is a rather common condition. One of the leading internists at the famed Mayo Clinic told me that most of the several hundred patients registering there daily complained of one common symptom: They were "all tired out." It seems that the tempo of modern living has run ahead of our physical and nervous strength and is using up our reserve energy. We are cashing too many checks and not making enough deposits.

Any sleep less than eight hours is exhausting you, and if you need building up, you had better make it nine or more. Every slice of white bread or most other breads bought in the store or bakery has all the germ, with its precious vitamin E and other vitamins and chemicals, removed. This is contributing to your downfall. Eat nothing but 100 per cent wheat bread, which has all the grain still in the flour. Potatoes that are peeled thickly cannot help build your body or nervous reserve. Overcooked vegetables, much sweets made from sugar, and other refined foods tend to hasten the decline of energy. Avoid worry, breathe deeply, get out in the air and sunshine, and exercise daily. For a cereal get some middlings and add some wheat germ and some 100 per cent corn meal. Use

whole-wheat bread, unpolished rice, and plenty of fresh raw fruits and vegetables, as well as cooked ones barely done. Eat these regularly, chewing them thoroughly. Take a tablespoonful of brewers' yeast three times a day before meals. Take one mixed vitamin pill three times a day, and see if in a little while you do not begin to feel that it is a real pleasure to be alive once more. Be a little patient, because you must remember that since it often takes many years of wrong living to break down the life forces, it might take a little while to build up once more.

*I was recently told that doctors have now decided that cigarettes do not stunt the growth of children. Is this true?—O.H.*

I do not believe that doctors have done very much real research work on cigarettes, so this statement cannot be proved. The late Professor Raymond Pearl of Johns Hopkins University found that between the ages of thirty and sixty, tobacco users died twice as fast as nonusers. He also found that up to age sixty, smokers died more rapidly than drinkers in the same class. Only one insurance company, the New England Mutual, has kept a record on tobacco users; and its records show that both tobacco and liquor shorten the span of life greatly, each playing about an equal role. If you neither drink nor smoke and are carrying life insurance, you are paying too much for your policy, as you are a preferred risk but are being penalized to pay for the deaths of those who smoke and drink.

*Can anything be done to shorten the course of whooping cough in a young baby?—L.B.*

Both human and rabbit serum have been tried for the purpose of shortening the course and diminishing the severity of this sometimes serious disease. Rabbit serum is available and is usually recommended to be given as early in the disease as possible. If given early, one dose may be most helpful; but if given later, it may require two or three injections to produce noticeable results. Reactions to the serum are not frequent, and the cost depends, of course, on the number of shots required.





# What Says the BIBLE?

## Vanity

The word "vanity" in modern usage is a weaker word than "proud." We class it with "conceit," as meaning petty self-love or self-admiration. But that is not the Bible usage of "vanity" and "vain." The many Hebrew and Greek words translated "vanity" and "vain" in the Bible have tremendous meanings, warning of dangers to salvation. Here are examples.

*One word means "emptiness, unsatisfactoriness"—a picture of the worthlessness of the modern philosophy that humanity is sufficient in itself.*

"Verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity." Psalm 39:5. "Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity." Psalm 62:9. "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy." Jonah 2:8.

*Another word means "devoid of reason." Those who think it matters little how they live, it will all come out right in the end, should beware.*

"They shall know that I am the Lord, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them." Ezekiel 6:10.

*Another word means "a worthless thing, confusion"—a fit figure for the floods of foolishness that pour from printing press, radio, television, and stage.*

"None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity." Isaiah 59:4.

*Still another word means "to pour out worthlessness, to produce emptiness"—God's estimation of human ambition.*

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? . . . He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." Psalm 2:1, 4.

*Another word translated "vanity" means "to exert oneself uselessly"—the result that follows wicked methods of business.*

"He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity." Proverbs 22:8.

*Another word means "what leads astray," which well describes modern philosophy, modernism, and all isms that offer salvation outside of Christ.*

"Thus saith the Lord, What iniquity have your fathers found in Me, that they are gone far from Me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?" Jeremiah 2:5.

*Another means "something transitory and unsatisfactory," a description of everything physical or sensual in which we seek happiness instead of finding it in Christ.*

"Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30.

*Another word means "uselessness," from a word meaning "to rush over and devastate," a fit description of the torrents of words that pour forth from most mouths.*

"If he come to see me, he speaketh vanity: his heart gathereth iniquity to itself; when he goeth abroad, he telleth it." Psalm 41:6.

*This same word was used by God to describe the words of all false religious teachers.*

"They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The Lord saith: and the Lord hath not sent them. . . . Thus saith the Lord God, Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord God." Ezekiel 13:6, 8.

*This word meaning "uselessness" is the Bible word for self-confidence.*

"Vain is the help of man." Psalm 60:11. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Psalm 127:1.

*The present age trusts in its mind, its intellect, its wisdom; but God describes the human mind by a word meaning "inutility, transientness, depravity."*

"Walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind." Ephesians 4:17. "They speak great swelling words of vanity." 2 Peter 2:18.

*The religion which substitutes human ideas for obedience to God's law He describes by a word meaning "folly," or "an unsuccessful search."*

"In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:9.

*The modern denial of God's revealed truths He calls by a word meaning "empty."*

"If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." 1 Corinthians 15:14. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men." Colossians 2:8. "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." Ephesians 5:6.



## *The Drama of the Ages*

(Continued from page 3)

interest is so absorbing that all interest in fictional dramas ceases to exist, and the forces involved in the drama of the plan of salvation completely captivate the being.

The Hero of this drama is Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. The villain, known by various names, is best described as The Adversary, Satan. The objective desired by the Hero is the rescue of the human race and creation from sin. The main force by which He seeks His objective is love; the minor force by which He and the lesser actors on His side work is the various forms of love in human character: loyalty, devotion, faith, courage, self-sacrifice, etc. The Adversary seeks to thwart the chief objective and to bring about the complete destruction of the human race and creation. The main obstacle he opposes to the main force is selfishness; the minor force is the sum of all manifestations of selfishness in human beings: pride, hate, revenge, covetousness, lust, etc. The climax is the Cross of Calvary, where love overcame selfishness, and the course of the drama turned toward the triumph of the Hero and His objective. The Bible is, therefore, a comedy; it has a happy ending. The consummation is the second advent of Christ at which the villain and all that pertain to him are eliminated, and the Hero and all that pertain to Him are established in eternal joy.

The Bible is a full five-act drama. Act one consists of the introduction of the Hero and the villain and the objective of each. This is done in the first three chapters of Genesis. Here the Hero is the all-wise and all-loving Creator establishing the happy, sinless progenitors of the human race in a perfect home with the objective of filling the whole earth with similar homes. But The Adversary enters and begins a course of action calculated to thwart this objective completely. In Genesis 3, the last scene of Act One, the Hero and The Adversary face each other, the objective is clearly stated, and the issues are drawn between them.

Act Two begins with Genesis 4 and consists of the history of the human race to and including the Deluge. The main force, love, is introduced in its crowning expression in human life—parenthood—and the chief obstacle is introduced as the force of hate which The Adversary had succeeded in implanting in the human heart. In the various scenes of this condensed act the struggle of the main obstacle against the main force is briefly summarized in vignettes of terrific horror: First is the maternal joy of Eve over the hope that the climax and consummation of the drama were reached right then—"I have gotten a man of the Lord." Then follows the manifestation of the chief obstacle in the murder and damnation of the third and fourth human beings. In following scenes the balance between the main force and the main obstacle sways to one side

or the other as men begin to call themselves by the name of God and Enoch walks with God, or the Cainites begin the manufacture of weapons and lust and debauchery dissipate the higher qualities of the Sethites, until the main obstacle seems to thwart the main objective and bring about the complete degradation and subsequent destruction of the entire human race.

Yet not all! The Hero found Him one man who won grace in His eyes, who was a just man and perfect in his generations. Act Three opens with the re-establishment of the human race at Ararat, when God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. It closes with the end of the Old Testament. Back and forth across the earthly stage swayed the forces of love and selfishness, now one triumphing and then the other. Through these millenniums it often looked as though The Adversary with the main obstacle of his own selfishness and pride would completely obstruct the Hero and His various manifestations of love (many of them the wrath of Divine Love against evil). The scenes of this act mostly employ the minor force (love seen in human lives, as in Joseph, Moses, Ruth, Jonathan, David, and many others) against the minor obstacle: evil manifested in human lives, as in Esau, Amalek, King Saul, Absalom, Haman, and many others. The two main actors, the Hero and The Adversary, appear but seldom in their own persons. Among such appearances of the Hero are Jacob's dream at Bethel, Moses' mountaintop experiences, Joshua's interview with the Captain of the Lord's host, and the visions of the various prophets. The Adversary appears in such scenes as in Job 1 and 2. Every part of the Bible is vital and indispensable to the progression of the drama. Many scenes are themselves miniature dramas, complete in structure, as the stories of Joseph and his brethren, Ruth and Boaz, Esther and Haman. The act closes with the drama still undecided, except by prophetic anticipation.

Act Four begins at Bethlehem. The Hero appears in person in the greatest manifestation of the main force, love. The Adversary appears in person in the temptation in the wilderness, and subsequently through those under his control. The climax is reached at the cross and its attendant events, where the greatest embodiment of the major force, divine love, and the major and minor obstacles, selfishness in The Adversary and demon-controlled humanity, are posed against each other. The Adversary appears to triumph at the crucifixion, but his greatest moment is his lowest. The climax is completed in the triumph of the Hero at the resurrection and the assurance of the accomplishment of the objective when He ascended to prepare a place for His people and to return. The Adversary is left a beaten and enraged foe, to demonstrate by his subsequent failures against the followers of the Lamb that his obstacles cannot overcome even



the minor force: the manifestation of divine principles in weak human beings.

This demonstration constitutes the Fifth Act, which began at Pentecost and is consummated in the second advent and the last three chapters of the Bible. The second advent and its attendant events, preceding and subsequent, constitute the complete triumph of the Hero and all who side with Him. His objective is completely reached in the "new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness." His force, love, becomes absolutely and eternally the principle of the universe, both in its major demonstration in Himself and its minor manifestation in redeemed human beings. The Adversary and all who took his side in the drama "shall be as though they had not been," and "affliction shall not rise up the second time." The drama has a happy ending, for "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

It remains only for each one of us to choose his part. We have no choice over being actors in this drama. We are already on the stage. We may, however, choose to follow the Lamb or join The Adversary headed for eternal death. "Choose you this day whom ye will serve."

### ***The Mystery of Man's Nature***

*(Continued from page 7)*

because He is self-existing. "As the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself." John 5:26. Therefore both the Father and the Son can create living creatures, and they can restore to life those who have died.

Although the Creator did not endow man with an immortal nature, He did purpose that Adam should live eternally, but only on condition of obedience to the divine law. Within Adam's reach was placed the tree of life, and as long as he was obedient, he could partake freely of its fruit and live.

The Lord tested man that he might show whether he would obey and be worthy of life. To Adam He said: "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. Thus Adam was a mortal being, one capable of dying. The only way whereby he might have avoided death and lived eternally was by obeying his Maker. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4, 20.

"The serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." Genesis 3:4. That "liar" (John 8:44) who contradicted the word of God was "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." Revelation 12:9.

Our first parents believed that lie told by Satan, and they sinned. Then God said: "And now, lest he [man]

put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden. . . . So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." Genesis 3:22-24.

Hence "by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12. Our first parents could not pass immortality on to us, because they themselves never had possessed it.

But we are not left to perish. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:22. One of Adam's descendants—the Seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15)—would accomplish man's redemption. That promised Seed was Christ. (Galatians 3:16.) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. Therefore immortality is not something that we already possess. It is God's gift to us through His Son, Jesus Christ, "who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Timothy 1:10. By faith in Christ we can conquer death!

When shall we obtain this promised immortality? In the resurrection day. Jesus says of the man who believes on Him: "I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:40. "We shall not all sleep [die], 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. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:51-55.

### ***Doctor Shortage***

*(Continued from page 19)*

a crisis. For if such a crisis comes, every available individual that can be of service, medically speaking, will very likely be pressed into action.

The industry in which we work could be blown to bits and our jobs disintegrate with it. In such an hour, if we are able-bodied and have sufficient training to carry out at least simple medical ministrations under the direction of doctors and nurses, we will have something worth while to do; and it will give us an opportunity to emulate the example of Christ in helping those who are in dire need.



## *How to Live With the Atom*

*(Continued from page 17)*

And so today, if we would live with the atom, we must be like Elijah. We must hear the still, small voice in the place of prayer, and we must go forth to do the work of God. We must know that the hearts of men are worth more than the works of men, and that God today has His seven thousand, His firmament of faithful ones who, in the darkest hour, will shine forth like the hosts of heaven at midnight.

In 1 Kings 18 we read that when apostate King Ahab accused Elijah of being the cause of all the nation's troubles, Elijah replied that he was not that cause. He said that the real cause was the apostasy of the king, his court, and the people. They had all forsaken the commandments of God.

So today, to live with the atom, there must be a revival of the commandments of God in the hearts of men. And according to divine prophecy, God will have a people in the world carrying that very message of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (Revelation 14:12.)

The prophet Daniel is another man who knew how to live with fear and trouble. His great secret was prayer. Even in the lions' den he prayed. A friend of mine has just returned from a trip to Babylon. There he saw the excavated ruins of the lions' den. But it looked a lot different to Daniel when it was filled with ravenous beasts. Facing danger, he opened his windows toward Jerusalem and prayed. Daniel was a man whose financial accounts were so accurate and so honest that his worst enemies could find no fault with them. His whole administration of the government office was so high-minded and faithful that his political opponents could not ferret out one object of criticism. "Nothing," they said, "can we find against him except it be in regard to the law of his God." Daniel 6:4, 5. What a tribute! They knew he would be faithful. Prayer was the secret of his noble life. Again and again he prayed, and God answered. Friends, if we want to live with the atom, we shall have to learn to pray.

The apostle Peter lived with fear. He was often in prison for his faith. He knew that eventually he would be crucified as a martyr. How could he sit in prison with his feet in stocks and sing? How could he? How did he live with fear? Prayer was his secret. We read in 1 Peter 4:19, 16: "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. . . . If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed."

Peter committed the keeping of his soul to God. And when we do that, we can live with the atom—or with anything else.

Last of all, and best of all, we see Jesus. He lived in the face of constant trouble. Over Him, from the

cradle to Joseph's new tomb, was the shadow of the cross. What was the secret of His life? Here is the testimony of His enemies as He hung upon the cross: "He trusted in God." Matthew 27:43. And then from His own lips we hear those supreme words of faith: "Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit." Luke 23:46.

The secret of living with the atom is not fear, but faith. God's promises still shine on above the fears of men. To live with the atom, we must live with God.

## *The Persecutions of Christians*

*(Continued from page 21)*

separation between the Latin and the Greek churches. Disputes and quarrels arose, all kinds of doctrines were taught, pious frauds were invented, and pseudo epistles were written claiming apostolic authorship, until the Latin bishops finally agreed in Church council to empower the chief bishop of Rome to settle all doctrinal disputes by ex-cathedra utterances in matters of faith and dogma. They agreed that the bishops and all church members would abide by his decisions. By this method the Latin hierarchy hoped to put an end to all disputes and bring about a universal and permanent reign of peace upon the earth.

The teachings of the Latin hierarchy were enforced by the civil magistrates, and those who rejected the authority of the state relative to the enforcement of religious obligations decreed by the church dignitaries were punished as traitors to the government and heretics of the established religion. During the long reign of the Church's supremacy in spiritual and temporal affairs, she unsheathed the sword of vengeance and stained it, as John the Revelator said, "with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." (Revelation 17:6.)

Although the pagan emperors of the Roman Empire slew some five million Christians during the first four centuries of the Christian era, the political Church of Christianity, which ruled the remnant kingdoms of the Roman Empire, slew more than one hundred million Christians. These sealed their testimony in defense of the truth of God's Word with martyrs' blood. The Church clothed with political power was more cruel and oppressive toward dissenters than were the pagan rulers. Any church which assumes the prerogatives of infallibility and of being the only repository of true religion, exercising totalitarian powers in spiritual and political concerns, is destined to become a persecutor of all divergent opinions and sects, as past history has demonstrated. The only safeguard and protection the individual has in the free and unmolested exercise of his conscience in religious matters is in a complete and total separation of church and state. The exercise of power on the part of the state should be confined to civil matters only, and the church should restrict itself to the propagation of the knowledge of God and religion.





## SCIENCE Insights



**BALLOON DETECTS CANCER.**—A four-inch-long balloon with tiny silk brushes on the outside may help in better detection of stomach cancer. This is one of the most difficult of all cancers to diagnose in time to save the patient.

The silk brush balloon was designed by Drs. Frederick G. Panico, George N. Papanicolaou, and William A. Cooper of Cornell University Medical College and Bellevue Hospital, New York. They announced it in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (Aug. 12) in Chicago.

**FURNACE BURNS POWDERED COAL.**—This winter Blokogas Systems, Inc., a newly formed Detroit firm, will install the first of its new-type powdered-coal burners. Stephen L. Fitzpatrick, president, said the first furnace units to be installed will be for commercial use; installations in home-size furnaces will be made later.

The Blokogas unit feeds powdered coal through a "carburetor," which mixes it with air and allows it to be burned while floating in suspension in the furnace, like a gas. Mr. Fitzpatrick claimed this produces a greater combustion efficiency than any other heating method for medium-size and small furnaces. The device is designed to eliminate smoke, clinkers, soot, and ashes, while also cutting fuel requirements.

**PATIENT HIS OWN ANESTHETIST.**—A new and revolutionary electronic machine, which makes it possible for a patient to administer his own anesthesia automatically during an operation, has been developed by the Mayo Clinic. The machine is called a Servo-Anesthetizer.



ACME

These "frogmen" are highly trained swimmers, members of an undersea demolition team that represent the first line of attack in any large-scale amphibious operation.



ACME

New, transparent "try-on" shoes now enable you to see how shoes fit while you are walking in them. This is especially valuable for children. A red danger line indicates the point beyond which toes must not extend for correct "grow room."

It is the "brain-child" of Dr. Reginald G. Bickford, director of the electro-encephalography laboratory of the Mayo Foundation.

The device, which already has been used successfully on more than fifty surgical patients, harnesses a person's brain waves to pump a fixed amount of anesthetic agent into a vein or an ether vaporizer.

**RICH LODGE OF RARE METAL FOUND IN CAPITAL.**—The richest deposit of the vital war material, germanium, yet found in the United States has been discovered in the earth of parks, playgrounds, and other locations in Washington, D.C. This vein of treasure runs from Baltimore to Richmond, U.S. Geological Survey scientists find.

**SAFE RAT KILLER.**—A new rat and mouse killer—hailed as one of the safest from the human standpoint and one which holds promise of wiping out rodent colonies completely and permanently—is now available to the general public, it has been announced by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation.

Warfarin, the new death-dealing substance, developed at the University of Wisconsin in the laboratories of Prof. Karl Paul Link, is now available to rodenticide manufacturers.



## One Thousand Years With Jesus

(Continued from page 11)

inthians 15:13, 17, 18. All the faithful down through the ages are without hope of eternal life if there is no resurrection. But thanks be to God, we have a living Saviour. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits: afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." Verses 20-23. "At His coming." Yes, this has been the blessed hope of the righteous in every age. "At His coming" Christians will see Him and be with Him where He is.

When Jesus left this world, He went back to the Father. "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as we are." John 17:11. "And now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves." Verse 13. Christ's greatest joy would be for His followers to be with Him. "Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world." Verse 24. This prayer was for all who would believe on Christ's name. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word." Verse 20.

This desire of Christ for His people to be with Him in the Father's glorious kingdom will be fulfilled when Jesus comes the second time. He left a promise before He went back to the Father: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3. There is no doubt about it. Men can put their trust in the words of the Saviour. He will return. He has made the promise, and when He does return, "the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. All the righteous of Adam's race will be caught up from the earth at Christ's second coming to meet the Lord in the air. This is the beginning of their journey from earth to heaven, where they will reign with Christ a thousand years.

What takes place in heaven during this time? In Revelation 4:1, 2 John says: "After all this I looked and saw a door in heaven standing open, and the

voice that I had previously heard, which resembled the blast of a trumpet, again spoke to me and said, 'Come up here, and I will show you things which are to happen in the future.' Immediately I found myself in the Spirit, and saw a throne in heaven, and some One sitting on the throne. . . . Surrounding the throne there were also twenty-four other thrones, on which sat twenty-four elders clothed in white robes, with victors' wreaths of gold upon their heads." Weymouth. These twenty-four elders seated upon the twenty-four thrones are among those who have been victorious over sin. Now they are in heaven seated upon thrones of judgment, where they reign with Christ a thousand years.

In front of God's throne John saw a sea of glass, and on this sea of glass the saints of God will worship and sing songs of praise before the thrones. Revelation 15:2, 3 states: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints." Yes, Christ will be there, the Father will be there, and the saints of the Lord will be there. Revelation 20:4 states, "And I saw thrones." Where are they? In heaven.

The saints will have a work to accomplish in heaven during the one thousand years. "And judgment was given unto them." They will not sit in judgment upon themselves, the righteous, of course, for they have already entered upon their reward. Christ brings their reward with Him at His return. Revelation 22:12 says, "And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." The only ones to be judged during the millennium will be the wicked, and the Bible states that the saints will take part in this work, for it says, "And judgment was given unto them." Here are texts on this point: "Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouths, and a two-edged sword in their hand; to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishment upon the people; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgment written: this honor have all His saints." Psalm 149:5-9. This should be plain enough. The record of all sins committed is written down and will be carefully examined by the saints during the one thousand years. The sinner may cover them up here in this world, but some day the book of record will be opened, and those sins so long covered up will come to light. The sins of only the righteous are covered by the blood of Jesus and blotted out, but the sins of the unrighteous will condemn them in the time of judgment, and those



sins will appear to their shame before the righteous.

It is not a pleasant picture to look at, but today there is still hope. Men can confess their sins now and send them on beforehand to judgment, and have them blotted out by the blood of Christ. Yes, the saints shall judge the world and know just why the sinner failed of eternal life. "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that ye shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?" 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3. Both the wicked angels and the sinners of this world, therefore, will have judgment passed upon them during the one thousand years.

At the close of this period Christ will return to this earth to execute the written judgment. "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of their ungodly deeds which . . . sinners have spoken against Him." Jude 14, 15. God will at last have a clean universe. The wicked come forth at the end of the millennium; judgment is pronounced upon them; and they are then cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death. Out of this fire, which destroys the wicked and burns up all dross and sin, there will come forth a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness:

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:1-5.

Glorious will be that day when sin and death shall end. "The inhabitant [of heaven] shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." Isaiah 33:24.

God's Word says, by way of review, that the one thousand years begin at the second coming of Christ. The righteous dead come forth in the first resurrection and, with the living saints, are caught up to meet the Lord in the air. These are taken to heavenly mansions and are next seen upon the sea of glass, which is located before the thrones of judgment. There are twenty-four of them besides the Father's throne. It is here that the saints of God carry on their work of

judgment; here they reign with Christ a thousand years. The wicked dead live not again until the thousand years are finished. At the end of this one-thousand-year judgment period, Christ and all the saints return to this earth to execute the written judgment upon the wicked, who have come forth in the second resurrection. They are on this earth, and here is where they will receive their punishment in the lake of fire, which is the second death. Out of that fire will come forth a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Most glorious will be the rest for the people of God. There in a land where sin and death shall be no more; where "the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isaiah 35:10.

The call of the gospel is: "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17. May each of us have made the necessary preparation in the great day when the Lord makes up His jewels.

### **Forget It!**

*(Continued from page 23)*

of every opportunity that comes your way today. Oh, you may have troubles and obstacles in your way, but don't let them bother you. Press forward.

I like the next verse that Paul brings to us in this chapter: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Quite a mark to achieve! It can't be done by weak, wishy-washy living; it takes determination, strong will power, and character that is worth while. Today I, for one, intend to press toward the mark. I know of no greater calling in all the world than to be called of God, and He says to us all today, "Come unto Me." He says, "I have chosen you." So, fellow youth, let's make this month of March a victory month. Let's make it a month of Christian service.

You say it is going to be hard to make this decision? Yes, it may be, but it is worth while. Start the prayer life. That will help. Paul tells us in the fourth chapter of Philippians, the thirteenth verse: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Talk to God in prayer about your lessons, your associates, your future plans. Remember today to forget those things which are behind, and resolve today to do this one thing: press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

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Liberty has never come from Government. Liberty has always come from the subject of it. The history of liberty is a history of persistence. The history of liberty is a history of limitations of government power, not the increase of it.—Woodrow Wilson.



# GOD'S TWO BOOKS

By Mary Hunter Moore

## *Rebirth*

A friend wrote me in a Tennessee March: "I'm not sure that I really believe in a life after death."

I replied: "One might be tempted to doubt a future life in fall or winter, but not in this season, when the miracle of resurrection is taking place all around us."

But even last fall was a hopeful season, not a despair. Last fall all nature was preparing, not for death, but for rebirth. The sky was filled with feathered migrants winging south before encroaching frost. But why? The better to be prepared to return north this spring, well fed, well dressed, vital in instinct and life force, for the miracle of parenthood. Even the frail butterflies were moved by the instinct of survival, and some of us witnessed that marvel, the migration of the monarchs. Countless other insects sought shelters in the ground or under multiplied means of covering—in or on or under every crevice, twig, or scrap of loose bark of a tree; in corners of human habitations; in houses they constructed themselves of paper or mud. The larger forms of life entered the mysterious, dim world of hibernation, more similar to death than ordinary sleep, from which every mother creature will emerge this spring accompanied by her little ones—the multiplication of life as well as its survival.

Time nor space suffice to list the hopeful habitations, from the mud beneath the frozen pond to the caves within the treeless, wind-swept peaks, where life sleeps in full assurance of the resurrection.

In the plant world, no annual withered away before it had laden the wind, the fur of moving creatures, or the ground about its base with new plants carefully packaged for transportation and storage until the season of new birth. The perennials also sent forth their seeds and then withdrew their life forces into the roots to rest: a savings account of nature on demand of spring. The trees, the masterpieces of plant life, rested, disrobed and unprotected against winter's most killing attacks. Disrobed? The leaves were gone, but only to carry on elsewhere their life-supplying functions. They clothed the ground, protecting plant roots, sheltering insects and small animals. But the trees bore next summer's foliage and fruitage in waterproof, frostproof containers, some fur-lined, some varnished, some hidden under the bark—all in anticipation of a future life. And the great river of the sap had withdrawn to its mysterious subterranean springs to await the call of the Lifegiver this spring.

Nature knew it, though foolish man may have doubted it, that it was the word of One who does not lie that says: "Seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter . . . shall not cease."

Doubt a resurrection, a future life? If you did last fall, it was blind misinterpretation of nature's hopefulness. If you do so this spring, it will be in the face of world-wide visible evidence. The spirit of life pervades the globe itself and all its animate and vegetative products. Will your soul persist in choosing death, when you might come to Him and have life?

## *Should Children Be Punished?*

*(Continued from page 22)*

punishment should then be given as dispassionately as possible. They will then see that they are not being chastened because their parents are inconvenienced or upset, or that the parent may vent his displeasure. They will see rather that the painful operation is for their good, that they may not grow up with passions that are unrestrained.

Parents are often lax with their children because they think that thus they will secure their children's love. They are afraid to punish lest this filial love should thereby become diminished. Peculiarly enough, however, their laxness is one of the surest means of defeating their dearest purpose. Children grow up to despise their indulgent parents, regarding them as soft nonentities. Parents who follow the Bible principles wisely, correcting and disciplining their offspring, have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Children whose wills are crossed will not in consequence hate their parents, but will grow up to love, honor, and respect them. This is almost invariably the case.

Describing conditions in the last days of this earth's history, Paul says that children will be "disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection." (2 Timothy 3:2, 3.) How striking a fulfillment of this we see today! This condition is due, however, more to parental delinquency than to inherent juvenile badness. In Christian homes, where love prevails and wholesome standards of conduct are rigorously upheld, it will always be found that the children are obedient, loving, and respectful. These are rare traits today.

To punish or not to punish? To chasten or not to chasten? The answer to these questions in the light of the Bible is undebatable. God, our heavenly Father, teaches us by His own example: "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not?" Hebrews 12:6, 7.

Chastening, wisely administered, is an expression of love. It is a necessary factor in the proper training of children. Its results are wholesome, producing lives of restrained passions that are respectful, honorable, obedient, and God fearing.



# ? PLEASE EXPLAIN ?

Address your questions to Editor, OUR TIMES, Box 59, Nashville 2, Tennessee.

*Does the Bible not say that the wicked will be tormented eternally in a lake of fire? And who will burn the wicked if the devil himself doesn't do the job?—J.E.*

"The wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4, 20. Hence, we are told: "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him [God] which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28. "The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8. "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." Revelation 2:11.

"Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. . . . And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 4:1, 3. "For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." Psalm 37:10. "But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away." Verse 20. (See also Isaiah 1:28-31; 47:14; 2 Peter 2:6.) John saw in vision the punishment of the wicked, and says that "fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." Revelation 20:9. (See 2 Peter 3:7, 10.)

God has said of Lucifer: "Therefore will I bring

forth a fire from the midst of thee, and it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee." Ezekiel 28:18. (See also verses 14, 15.)

The angels of the Lord, at His direction, will cast the wicked into the fires that shall destroy them. (Matthew 13:40-42, 49, 50.) Satan and his angels have never been appointed to burn the wicked. This is God's work.

*Please explain Hebrews 5:4.—J.S.G.*

In the book of Hebrews the apostle discusses two different priesthoods: (1) that of Aaron and his sons, who were appointed to the ministry of the earthly tabernacle set up in the wilderness at the time of the Exodus and continued thereafter throughout the history of Israel as a nation, and (2) that of Christ, whom God appointed to be "a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec" (Hebrews 5:6; Psalm 110:4), "a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Hebrews 8:2). "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Hebrews 9:24.

In both priesthoods the honor of ministry was conferred by God upon the persons called to it. The priesthood given to Aaron and his male descendants was an honor bestowed upon them by God. They were not self-appointed. (Exodus 28; Numbers 16-18.) "And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not Himself to be made an high priest; but He that said unto Him, Thou art My Son, today have I begotten Thee. As He saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec." Hebrews 5:4-6. Therefore, Christ is "called of God an high priest." Verse 10.

Two things, well considered, would prevent many quarrels; first, to have it well ascertained whether we are not disputing about terms rather than things, and second, to examine whether that on which we differ is worth contending about.—*Caleb C. Colton.*

Laziness grows on people; it begins in cobwebs and ends in iron chains. The more one has to do the more he is able to accomplish.—*Buxton.*







gerous than the surgeon's knife. During the hour required to perform the delicate operation, I must administer poisonous ether drop by drop on the mask covering the infant's face. This would be my first experience with a baby less than six months old.

While the surgeon sought divine guidance, I prayed silently for wisdom and strength. Nervous tension gave way to calmness, and fear to faith in Jesus' promise, "Lo, I am with you alway."

In perfect harmony medical skill and divine aid prevailed. As I placed the babe in a hospital crib, I thanked God for answered prayer. The operation had been a success.

Do you face a seemingly impossible situation? Man's extremity is God's opportunity. Remember, God does answer prayer.

# Man's Extremity

By  
John R. Caslow

**A** TWO-WEEKS-OLD baby lay on the operating table. I, the anesthetist, studied the emaciated body, white face, and sunken cheeks. Unable to retain its feedings, the patient had been slowly starving to death. Only surgery could relieve the abnormal condition.

Two nurses in surgical gowns, having set up sterile supply tables, stood ready. "Scrubbed up," masked, and gowned, the surgeon and his assistant entered.

While checking my equipment, I had wished someone else were giving this anesthetic. Because of the infant's narrow "margin of safety," the anesthetic might be more dan-

