

APRIL, 1951 . . . TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Our **TIMES**

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS



LETTERS

From Our Readers

Sirs:

I have read a copy of your September edition of OUR TIMES. It seems to be a very helpful magazine. I notice that it has points and facts based on the Bible. So I am enclosing an order for a subscription for one year.
Mocksville, N. C.

I.W.I.

Sirs:

I wish to renew my subscription to OUR TIMES. I really have enjoyed reading it. I think it is one of the most outstanding magazines.
Monrovia, Calif.

Mrs. M.B.

Sirs:

I am renewing my subscription to OUR TIMES. I enjoy it so much. I would like to know a place (a prison, perhaps) to mail OUR TIMES and other magazines.
La Verne, Calif.

Mrs. J.P.W.

Sirs:

I think OUR TIMES is a grand little magazine. I wouldn't want to be without it. It explains Bible prophecy so well that anyone can understand it. I wish everyone could read it.
Sequin, Wash.

Mrs. W.

Sirs:

I noticed a copy of OUR TIMES in a dentist's office in Denver, and I liked it very much. I am enclosing one dollar, for which please send me one copy of the November issue, two of the December, and one January.
Wheatridge, Colo.

J.H.S.

Sirs:

Please find enclosed a money order for a year's subscription to your magazine, OUR TIMES.

I happened to pick up a copy of the magazine in a beauty shop the other day, and found many very interesting articles in it. I believe it would be well worth having in my home.
Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs. H.J.R.

Sirs:

After reading for the first time one of your magazines, OUR TIMES, I can assure you that it is the ideal book for our times. We are now living in the days of crisis. I notice that prophecy is fulfilling and the time of our Lord is very near. I am a prisoner, but I am claiming Him as my Saviour, Redeemer, and Friend. I want to enroll in the free Bible correspondence course. Please try to send me some reading matter.

Prison.

E.W.F.

Editor's Note: This letter is from a foreign country. We have supplied this prisoner with a two years' subscription to OUR TIMES, and are making arrangements for other literature to be sent to him, as well as the Bible correspondence course. There must be thousands of prison inmates who are hungry for God's Word and the hope of life eternal through Christ.

Sirs:

Please send the Bible correspondence course for seniors. We do enjoy your magazine [OUR TIMES] and get a blessing from many of the articles and the poems.
Boise, Idaho

Mrs. L.D.P.

Our TIMES

SINCE 1891, A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEW

APRIL, 1951

VOL. 60

No. 4

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The Cover

The picture on our cover this month is the artistry of Eva Luoma.

IT SHOULD ever be kept in mind that the early disciples of Jesus saw in Him, *before His death and resurrection*, the very incarnation of God. So far they had only His teaching, His wonderful works, and His incomparable example to guide them to this conclusion. That they were able to discover in their beloved leader and friend the Christ of God says much for the divine humanity of Jesus. The late Bishop Knox, that great evangelical champion of the Anglican Church, has well said: "It would seem that Bible study is robbed of more than its joy if the Child Jesus, the Boy Jesus, the Man Jesus, is no longer a fellow-learner with ourselves. It is true we cannot too

jealously guard the divinity of Jesus, nor can we too jealously guard His true humanity."

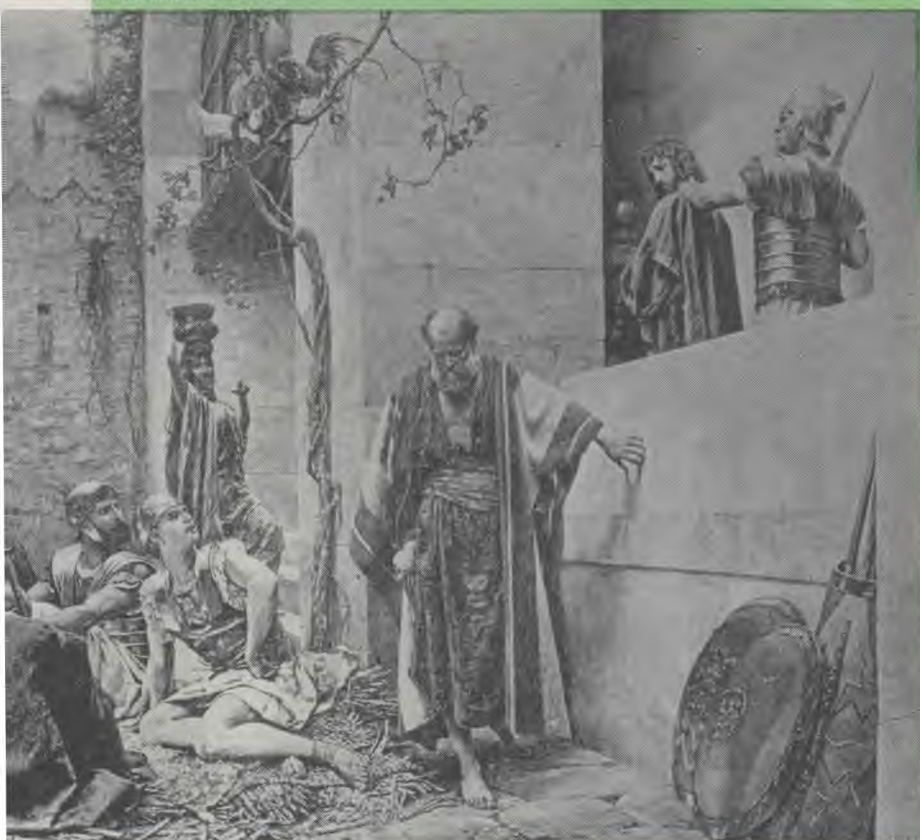
That perfect blending of the divine and human in Jesus is perhaps best illustrated by His act of washing His disciples' feet. Their conceptions of His kingdom were as yet grossly material. Notwithstanding His repeated declarations to the contrary, they still clung to the idea of a kingdom set up by force, freeing their own nation from the Roman yoke and placing themselves in positions of power. Heated by the contention as to which of them should be greatest, they reached the upper room for the final supper with Jesus in no mood to wash one another's feet, which was the usual custom of the guests when no servant was free to do it for them. What they were unwilling to do for one

The Spirit of Incarnate Love

A Majestic and Divine Compassionate Love Unequalled in the Annals of History

GRAF HARRACK, ARTIST

By
Herman F. De'Ath



another, Jesus did for each of them. What a telling object lesson of the true nature of His kingdom! Yea, what a revelation of His character!

The disciples were prepared to elbow one another out of the way in order to be at the top. That is the ruthless, unbrotherly spirit of this crazy, competitive world. The spirit of Christ's kingdom is the spirit of incarnate love, the spirit that delights to serve, that seeks nothing for itself, but sacrifices self completely to the
(Continued on page 28)

The Saviour's compassionate look, filled with incarnate love, caused Peter to weep bitter tears after his denial of Christ.

How Did Creation Originate?

*The Mightiest Power
in the Universe*

By W. S. Ritchie

IT IS EVIDENT that everything about us showing system or planning must have had some intelligent power behind it. Likewise all the universe shows that it was originated by something having intelligence and power. It could not just happen that the ear of man was made so that it might hear, or that man was given the power of speech so that he could communicate with his fellows, or that man has a way of telling the form and color of objects around him.

When we think of the multiplicity of the evidence of design in creation, which the little mind of man has been discovering for six thousand years, we are overwhelmed by the greatness of the power that designed and brought these entities and conditions in which they operate into existence.

Even the erratic mind of fallen mankind cannot entertain the concept that these things created themselves. Such an origin is evidently impossible. All nature manifests irrefutable evidence that some very able, intelligent power was at work. And it is evident that the power that planned and created what we see in nature must have always been. Otherwise there could be no beginning of things, as it is evidently impossible for anything to originate itself. That power without a beginning, we believe, is God. The Bible speaks of Him thus: "From everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God." Psalm 90:2. Hebrews 7:2 speaks of Him as being without "beginning of days."

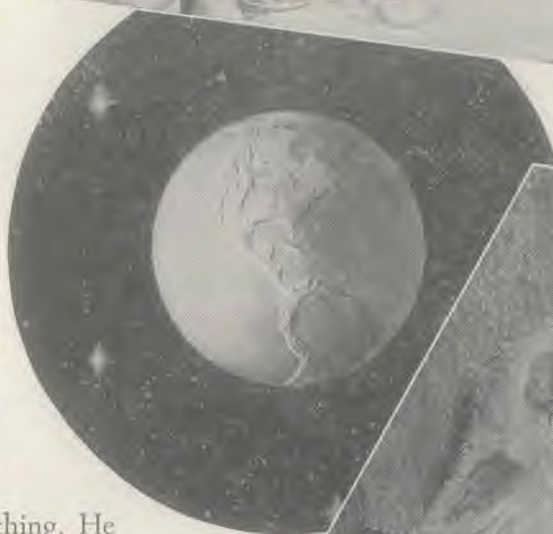
Some believe that all creation started very small and, by taking much time to do so, finally evolved into its present state of multiplicity and greatness. But commencing with a very small beginning makes no difference in the problem. There is no consistency in bringing creation down within the scope of man's comprehension. He himself is a created thing. He can create nothing. He can only use the material already made and manipulate it according to laws and principles that he did not devise.

Man knows nothing of how creation was accomplished other than what God has told him. Man has often had the feeling of creating something when he

had discovered some new law of nature. But these laws were first made by the great Creator. Genesis 3:5, 6 tells how man came to have this feeling that he could create something. Satan told him that if he would eat of a certain forbidden tree, he would be "as gods," that is, have power to create. But Satan could



EWING GALLOWAY



HAROLD M. LAMBERT



Despite the complex nature of the boundless universe, God takes intimate interest in His created beings. It is this loving care that differentiates Him from the "engineering intelligence" idea propounded by skeptics.

give man only the *feeling* of being able to create. He could not give him real power to do so. We see much of this kind of feeling today. More than anything else, it is this false sense of having power in themselves that keeps people from asking God for the help He is willing to give.

Man is fooled when he thinks there is no great personal Creator. The Bible puts it thus: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Psalm 14:1.

Some people are willing to admit that, of necessity, there must be a power that brought things into existence; but that power, they think, must have had material on hand from which to make the earth, etc. God does not, they say, have power really to create things from nothing.

The very ground on which we stand shows planning in the way it is adapted to various needs, thus showing that it is a designed, created thing. How does it come that out of the same ground man can gather such diverse things as oil, minerals, carbohydrates, proteins, poisons, milk, and sugar? Could such ground just happen to have these perquisites, or is it indicated that some higher power designed and created it thus? And if the earth were made of material already on hand, who made that material, or did it make itself?

Here are some problems that still await solution in the minds of many amazed and bewildered people of our day. Why not take the Bible as it reads when it states that God is able to speak things into being that did not before exist?

The Bible says that God "spake, and it was done: He commanded, and it stood fast." Psalm 33:9. These Scriptural expressions referring to the voice of the Lord are human figures of speech used in an attempt to portray the power or energy that flows out from the Creator to the universe. But not only does the Bible tell of the creation of matter by the voice, or word, of God (Psalm 33:6; Hebrews 11:3), it also tells us that "by Him all things consist," or hold together (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3). It is this same creative power of God continuously exerted that maintains the very existence of matter.

Furthermore it is possible for God to destroy material substance if He so choose. We are told that when the Lord shall judge the world, the earthly "elements shall melt with fervent heat," and "all these things shall be dissolved." 2 Peter 3:10, 11.

The Christian has no reason for letting his "reasonable" faith in God and in His Word waver before the speculations of theorists.

April

By
Lalia Mitchell Thornton



I should like to loaf and linger
Where the maples point a finger
At the golden sun above them on a dreamy April day.
I should like to dance a measure
Where the river trills its pleasure
And the rushes laugh and chuckle, bending o'er a clovered way.
Where the breezes croon and whistle,
Nature writes a gay epistle
Of the God of all creation, who endowed the world with spring.
Who is there would think of duty,
Wrapped about by April's beauty,
Who is there would not pay tribute to the Maker and the King?

THERE is a Book in the world which contains the supreme treasure of all the centuries. In it is displayed an energy which has moved the world during a longer period of time than all other sources of power combined.

The Book is so widely distributed as to make it commonplace. But it packs more spiritual and intellectual dynamite than all the churches and all the universities on earth.

To the whole world this Book has been what no other books have ever been, what all other books can never be.

On the principles it sets forth, states have been founded. By compacts based on its teachings, kings have ruled.

When men prepare to give solemn evidence affecting life, death, liberty, and property, they hold this Book in their hands.

Smokies, or of Yosemite, Yellowstone, or Lake Tahoe, are at home on Moriah, on Olivet, on Lebanon, on Galilee, and among the rills of Carmel.

People who know little of Washington, London, or Paris, know by heart the market places and the streets pressed by those blessed feet which were nailed to the cross.

Men who know nothing of the architecture of great cathedrals can nevertheless tell you all about the pattern of the wilderness tabernacle and God's temple at Jerusalem.

An orator holds a thousand men breathless for half an hour—a thousand men as one, listening to his single word. This Word of God has held a thousand nations spellbound for thrice a thousand years, held them by an abiding power—even the universality of its eternal truth.

(Continued on page 28)

A Book's Secret

Why the Best Seller of the Centuries Maintains Its Appeal to Men

By Carlyle B. Haynes

HAROLD M. LAMBERT

Battleships go into action with men on board whose office is to expound it.

The language men use when they speak to God is found in its prayers and its psalms. And twenty centuries have disclosed no holier, no more divine language.

There is no new religious idea that has sprung up in the world which has moved men nearer God that is not merely the development of something contained in this Book.

The very translation of the Book has fixed language and established the idioms of speech. The English-speaking world speaks as it speaks today because the Book was translated.

This Book has made the most illiterate backwoodsman more familiar with the history, customs, and geography of the ancient world than with the localities of his own country.

Men who know nothing of the Adirondacks, the Sierras, the Great



We Live a Life of Purpose

By Edgar F. Beehler



PAA PHOTO

A SMALL piece of mechanism called a rudder, located in the stern of a ship, keeps a mighty ocean liner on its course as it makes its way through the vast sea. Likewise the rudder, located in the tail of an airliner, enables a pilot to keep his plane on its course. How indispensable is this small device! Small things are of great importance in the affairs of mankind.

Purpose in the life of an individual is just as essential to control one's course as is the rudder of a ship or an airplane necessary to guide them. Multitudes have no real purpose in life and sooner or later find themselves drifting, disheartened, discouraged, dismayed, and often despondent. If you have had such an experience as this, there is still a chance to lay hold on life.

To obtain a real purpose in life, you must forget the past and resolve to start from scratch with a new hope for the future, coupled with a dogged determination to accomplish a certain thing in life that is closest to your heart and mind. Many purpose in their hearts to be of greater service to their Lord and their fellow men. But whatever your purpose in life may be, it should be of the highest quality.

Often loved ones and friends will discourage you, but by persistent effort and application in pursuing your real objective in life, you will be able to overcome such obstacles. Remember that each one of us is captain of his own soul's salvation; no one can live the life of someone else; each one of us must travel his own way of life as he chooses. Once you know what your real purpose in life is, nothing in this world can stop you from attaining your objective.

There could be no greater purpose than to live a Christlike life here on earth and be ready to enter the pearly gates of heaven when life is over. In Daniel 1:8 we read: "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." I like to think of Daniel, because he had a purpose in life that no man could disturb or disrupt, and because he remained true to the purpose he had determined to follow. Many men and women, both young and old, have been enticed and influenced by bad companions; and before they realized it, the ungodly ways of life made an inroad into their souls. They became the victims of their own circumstances, helpless, full of fear, dread, and suspicion. They suffered agony of mind, soul, body, and spirit. Fortunately even in a state of mind and physical condition like this, there is still hope for anyone who purposes in his heart to turn from sin.

We read in Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." God has a purpose for His children.

What greater purpose in life could you desire than to accept Christ and to serve Him? You will thus assure yourself of a heavenly home, which will be far greater and better than anything this world can give. If you have never had a real purpose in your life, acquire one right now, and be like Daniel and many others who resolved never to be influenced or swayed from their purpose in life by anyone or anything.



EVA LUOMA

no one ever knows all that there is to be learned about it. No matter how much one has studied what the Bible and other books teach about it, how much he has prayed, or how much he has pondered the subject, there is always more to be known of the tremendous possibilities of the power of "effectual fervent prayer." Dr. Alexis Carrel, in viewing the unlimited potentialities of an active prayer life, stated, "When we pray,

It's Time to Pray

*Man's Great Need Today
Is to Get Alone With God*

By Arlyn D. Stewart

THE MAN in the telephone booth could hardly understand his friend with whom he had been connected. Finally he heard his friend say, "If you'll shut the door, you'll be able to hear me speak." Through the telephone the friend could hear the din of noise from the outside world, and he knew that the closed door would cause them to be really alone with each other. One of the greatest needs of the Christian today is to get alone with God, actually to claim the promise, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

There are two things about prayer that are outstandingly impressive. One is that it is so simple that any child can pray. A small boy knelt at his mother's knee and offered his evening prayer. When he had finished, he continued to speak softly while on his knees. "What did you ask for, dear?" mother questioned. "It isn't nice to ask for things," answered the little fellow. "I just told God that I love Him." There is a wonderful element of praise and worship in this little lad's prayer. The heart of God must be warmed not only when we come to Him with our joys or sorrows, but when we simply tell Him how much we love Him. The fact remains that anyone that wills to do so can call upon God and talk with Him.

The other outstanding thing about prayer is that although it is so simple that any child can speak to God, it is at the same time such a profound thing that

we link ourselves with the inexhaustible motive power that spins the universe. We ask that a part of this power be apportioned to our needs. Even in asking, our human deficiencies are filled, and we arise strengthened and repaired."

The Scriptures clearly indicate that God is not some mighty, impersonal force or essence devoid of personal interest in our daily lives, but that He is a personal being and loving Father with whom men can have the closest possible fellowship. In view of this a godly writer has penned, "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend." It is not difficult for us to pour out our heart's contents to our closest companions. There is no hesitation in conveying to them a knowledge of our joys, our love, our hopes, our grief, our perplexities, our faith. Indeed it is comforting to confide in a true friend. Yet there are times when even the most loving friend cannot seem to grasp our problems or to speak the needed word. But God has urged us to bring our trials to Him, saying, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24.

In spite of this open promise, it is a common weakness to doubt the effectiveness of prayer. In our limited

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faith we find it difficult to accept as possible anything that is not within our own personal experience. Perhaps this is the reason the Scriptures record so many examples of answered prayer—in order to strengthen our faith. The account of the Apostle Peter's escape from prison is a vivid example. He was awaiting execution; the church had neither the human power nor the influence to save him. There was no earthly help, but Heaven provided a way of escape. Church members gave themselves to earnest prayer. God sent His angel, who aroused Peter from sleep and led him out through the three heavily guarded gates of the prison. Peter was free! God had again fulfilled His promise, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Luke 11:9.

In the twentieth century we find that many successful men and women are praying individuals. It was while Admiral Richard E. Byrd was alone in an Antarctic hut, which sheltered him from a temperature registering eighty-two degrees below zero, that he found God. Once during his five months in the Antarctic he suddenly realized that his stove was emitting carbon monoxide, which meant certain death. He turned the case over to God and lived. Dale Carnegie states that "a richer, fuller life will be yours when you learn to draw upon the healing power of prayer." Eddie Rickenbacker prayed every day, and he declared that through prayer his life was saved more than once. Gen. Mark W. Clark, during World War II, did not let a day go by without prayer and Bible study.

When thou wakest in the morning,
Ere thou tread the untried way
Of the lot that lies before thee
Through the coming busy day;
Whether sunbeams promise brightness,
Whether dim forebodings fall,
Be thy dawning glad or gloomy,
Go to Jesus, tell Him all.

In the calm of sweet communion,
Let thy daily work be done;
In the peace of soul outpouring,
Cares be banished, patience won;
And if earth, with its enchantments,
Seeks thy spirit to enthrall,
Ere thou listen, ere thou answer,
Turn to Jesus, tell Him all.

Prayer was real to Jesus, our supreme Example. He never argued that men should pray, but took it for granted that they would. He did not say, "If ye pray," but, "When ye pray." He prayed at His baptism, and "the heaven was opened." He prayed on another occasion, and "the fashion of His countenance was altered." (Luke 3:21; 9:29.) He knew how to "shut the door" to the din of the world, and step into the

presence of His Father and talk with Him. His disciples recognized His ability to do this, and asked, "Lord, teach us to pray." Luke 11:1.

We read: "Never a prayer is offered, however faltering, never a tear is shed, however secret, never a sincere desire after God is cherished, however feeble,

(Continued on page 34)



Blessed Is He Who Sees Beauty in Commonplace Things

HOW much of God-given joy
most of us miss in our hurried
and harried living!

Too busy to ponder the message of
the rose.

Too rushed to hear the symphony of a
sunset.

Too self-occupied to catch the incom-
parable glow of a friend's understanding
smile.

God's best gifts lie all around us, even
at our feet as they hasten—somewhere,
anywhere—after false beauty and shal-
low peace; even within the grasp of
fingers too tightly closed over the fool's
gold of selfish security; even before the
eyes which are blinded by the glare of
cheap and brazen counterfeits for happi-
ness.

Blessed is he whose feet move slowly,
whose grasping fingers stretch open,
whose eyes see clearly, for he may then
appreciate the beauty which God has
given to *commonplace things*!

—Dr. WILLIAM S. STODDARD, in
Sunshine Magazine.



EVENTS *of Our Times*



WHEN IT COMES.—New York City is girding itself for the worst. The next time an emergency vehicle in that city uses its siren, the sound will mean that an atomic bomb has been dropped. Until then all fire trucks, ambulances, and police cars will not use their sirens, according to current reports. Under the bomb no one will be safe. "Defense," according to the experts, is a misnomer, for there is no adequate defense. If a bomb were dropped half a mile above Union Square in New York City, an estimated 75,000 would die immediately, another 75,000 would be dying. The central part of the city would be the earth's biggest pile of rubble.

To prepare for the worst, Governor Dewey picked Lucius Clay, onetime World War II general, now retired, as chairman of the state's Civilian Defense Commission. Lawrence Wilkinson, who served in the Ordnance Department during the war, is the defense director.

MOST PRECIOUS PRODUCT.—Unquestionably the world's most costly tangible substance is produced by the United States' giant \$500,000,000 Oak Ridge radio-isotope plant. In 1949 the entire output of the plant weighed less than one ten-thousandth of an ounce, and the average shipment of isotopes weighed less than the graphite in a man's pencilled signature. Much of the material produced in this plant is extremely dangerous to handle. Materials are stored in lead-sheathed tunnels. Workmen handle some with long poles, looking at their work in mirrors, since a direct gaze, even through plastic or glass, is too dangerous.

U.S. MAGAZINES BANNED.—Ireland's Censorship of Publications Board recently put a ban of six months on fourteen U.S. magazines. Some of the titles are these: *Esquire*, *Special Detective*, *Nifty*, *All True Fact Crime Cases*.

ROAD TO HAPPINESS.—Manual workers are more useful, less worried, and better paid while young, a father wrote, in a recent issue of *Better Homes and Gardens*, while setting forth his reasons why he wants his son to be a craftsman rather than a college graduate.

POLIO IN 1950.—The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis reports that as of December 2 the number of cases—31,939—established the year as the second worst in the history of the disease. The worst year was 1949, with 42,173 cases.

BIG CHURCH GAINS IN HALF CENTURY.—According to Martha Hall of the *Washington Post*, the population of the United States in 1900 was nearly 76,000,000, with about 27 per cent affiliated with some church. Today, with a population double that of 1900, United States church membership stands at more than 79,000,000. More than 53 per cent of the population, an all-time high, is today affiliated with a church.

Church attendance is another matter. Studies have shown that, on an average Sunday, about a third of the persons on church rolls may be found in the churches.

LATEST CRIME STATISTICS.—The Uniform Crime Reports issued semiannually by the Federal Bureau of Investigation reveal that for the first half of 1950, 31.9 per cent of all persons arrested were less than 25 years of age. However those within this age group numbered 55.4 per cent of those charged with robbery, 63 per cent of those charged with burglary, 46.7 per cent of persons charged with larceny, and 68.7 per cent of those charged with auto theft. Approximately one half of all crimes against property were committed by persons under 25 years of age.

This same document indicates that of those persons under 25 years of age who were arrested, 24.06 per cent involved liquor laws, 17.3 per cent for driving while intoxicated, 32.3 per cent for disorderly conduct, and 13.4 per cent for drunkenness.

AMERICANS WELL READ?—Recently a survey showed that more than seven million adults in America never heard of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; 16 per cent do not know the speaker; and 54 per cent cannot name the occasion.

GENERAL MacARTHUR SAYS: Formosa is a vital link in the island chain of defenses. "If we hold this line we may have peace—lose it and war is inevitable."

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AT THE TIME it happened, I wondered what I said that sent my friend into peals of laughter; however, the remark she made after her mirth had subsided was very enlightening, and brought to mind a saying of Carlyle's, "How much lies in laughter: the cypher-key, where-

is averted by only a matter of inches. I don't think I would have the courage to drive if it were not for the fact that always before I take the car out of the garage, I ask the Lord to go with me and to bring me home safely."

It was this remark that was the cause of my friend's

"The Cipher-Key"

Deciphering a Man by His Laughter

with we decipher the whole man."

If mother were alive today, she would say, "My child, if you would go back to the beginning, perhaps I could understand what you are trying to tell me." So back to the beginning I will go.

I live in a little white house on the top of a hill, a nice, quiet hill, where the view is wonderful and the sunsets indescribable. People in passing often stop their cars and gaze upon this picture; and as I watch, I have wondered whether the beauty of the day being tucked into bed behind Mount Carmel and the Sleeping Giant has touched their hearts and made them realize that they were beholding the work of God, the Creator of heaven and earth. These people do not tarry long, for off they go with a roar, hurrying to get somewhere in time to go somewhere else.

But to go back to my friend, who drove up the hill, parked her car, and then came to the door, calling out as she saw me, "So you are at home today, are you?"

"Very much so," I answered as I unhooked the door and invited her in.

As it had been some time since we had visited together, the first part of her call was spent in talking about our families, our mutual friends, Mary Jane's new baby, etc.; then the conversation turned to the increase of reckless drivers.

My friend said, "There is no pleasure in driving a car these days; there are so many drunken drivers on the road. Just last night I was run into, and it was only by *luck* that I escaped with nothing more serious than bent fenders and upset nerves."

"I know something of how you feel," I rejoined; "it seems as if every time I take the car out, an accident



KEYSTONE

By Martha E. Warner

laughter—laughter that swayed her body, filled her eyes with tears, and made her exclaim, "Oh, oh, oh," while I gazed at her in amazement.

Wiping her eyes, she said with a chuckle, "Just think, *just think*, what a busy God the Lord would be if everyone did that."

To which I replied, "God may indeed be a busy God, but I am very sure He is *never too busy* to hear the cry of His children when they call upon Him for help."

For a minute my friend looked at me in silence, then after making some casual remark, she abruptly terminated her call, leaving me thinking about the key wherewith we decipher the whole man.

In the case of my friend it told me much; it told me that she and the Lord were not on very intimate terms, yet I knew that her name had been recorded in the church books for many years, also that every Sunday, barring illness, found her seated in her pew. And at the appointed time in the service she was singing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"; then bowing her head in prayer, and afterward listening as her pastor delivered his carefully prepared sermon about—what could it have been about? Certainly little that made her feel a longing in her heart to acquaint herself with God as a personal friend.

The cypher-key also told me that my friend was not familiar, or at least not *overly familiar*, with the many promises found in the Bible, which were written for our help and comfort. Had she been, she would have found no occasion for laughter at the thought of calling upon God for help and protection in these days of hazardous automobile driving, for she would have remembered the words of Psalm 121:7, 8: "The

(Continued on page 30)

ONE THOUSAND YEARS of PEACE

A Continuation of the Subject of the Millennium

By F. M. Oliver

LAST month's article pointed out the fact that the saved will be in heaven during the millennium. There the saints will carry on their work of judgment upon the wicked. It will also be a time for a glorious getting acquainted with heavenly beings, in a land where the ransomed of the Lord will "obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:10.) Let us now consider the condition of the earth and the fate of the wicked during the millennium.

The Bible plainly tells us. At the beginning of the one thousand years, which begin at Christ's coming, the wicked are destroyed. The Bible states that these

meet their death by the brightness of His coming. Earth's cities are broken down. The fruitful places become desolate, and the earth becomes empty and forsaken. Jeremiah gives us a graphic picture of the condition of the earth during the millennium:

"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by His fierce anger. For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end." Jeremiah 4:23-27.

During this one-thousand-year period the earth is empty, darkness prevails, the mountains tremble, and the hills move lightly. There is no man, the birds are dead, the fruitful place is a wilderness, all the cities are broken down, and the whole land is desolate.

This is not all that the prophet Jeremiah has to say on this question. He states: "The slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented; neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." Jeremiah 25:33. The beginning of the millennium will be a time of destruction for the wicked. No one will be left to lament; no one will be left to bury the dead; they will be scattered from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth, and become waste upon the ground.

Isaiah says, "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof." Isaiah 24:1. "The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled; for the Lord hath spoken this word." Verse 3.

Should we not listen to the voice of the Lord? There are many voices today telling us that the millennium is a time when men will have another chance to accept Christ.

The redeemed will spend the millennium in the heavenly mansions enjoying the good things that God has prepared for them.

ROBERT T. AYRES, ARTIST



But let us be willing to listen to God. He tells us the "land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled." Let us accept this as the truth. It is the truth and in harmony with all the Bible; and man will, therefore, not have a second chance.

Today we are living at a time when sin prevails. Verse four declares, "The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish." Wickedness is on the increase. Disregard for law and order is rampant. Soon, no doubt, we shall reach the time referred to in verses five and six, which say: "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned and few men left."

Sin is the transgression of the law, and we are living in a time when transgression is filling the land with crime and shame. Men have changed God's
(Continued on page 32)

Bibles for Japan

President Truman Supports Bible Distribution in Japan

PRESIDENT TRUMAN recently affixed the last of 33,466 signatures to a huge two-volume "Good Will Book" which the American Bible Society is sending to the archives of the Japan Bible Society as a symbol of friendship between the peoples of the two nations.

The signatures, which come from more than 14,000 cities, towns, and villages in every state, as well as the District of Columbia, Hawaii, and Alaska, and fifteen foreign countries, are of persons who have contributed to a fund which will enable the Japan Bible Society to print and distribute Scriptures in the Japanese language.

Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur, at the inception of the drive, set a goal of 10,000,000 Scriptures to be printed and distributed in Japanese by the end of 1951. However it now appears likely that this goal will be exceeded by approximately 2,000,000, to bring the total to 12,000,000.

Gifts represented by the signatures ranged in amount from one to a thousand dollars and totaled more than a quarter of a million dollars. This amount will enable the Japanese society to print and distribute 4,700,000 Scriptures and bring the total since V-J Day

OUR TIMES, APRIL, 1951



BANNER & GREIF

President Truman adds his name to the Good Will Book, which contains the signatures of those who have contributed to a fund enabling the Japan Bible Society to print the Scriptures in Japanese.

to 7,500,000. If gifts continue, the distribution of the 12,000,000 Scriptures will be achieved by the end of this year.

At General MacArthur's suggestion, Col. Ivan A. Bennett, chief of chaplains for General MacArthur, will present the book to the Japan Bible Society.

In addition to the individual signatures, the Good Will Book contains the signatures of the governors of 41 states and official representatives of 31 leading denominations, as well as many individual churches.

The two volumes weigh 176 pounds and contain 533 pages, each 20 by 26 inches. They are bound in blue morocco and engraved in gold.

The funds raised are being used by the American Bible Society to send paper, printing, and binding materials to Japan; and the Scriptures are being printed there. The Japanese society now employs 110 full-time workers to distribute the Scriptures. Fifty-two of these are now able to transport themselves by bicycles, a gift from the children in Sunday schools in the United States, and 49 additional bicycles soon will be furnished.

Dr. Robert T. Taylor, American Bible Society general secretary, brought the volumes to President Truman for his signature. Signatures still are arriving at the rate of more than one thousand weekly, and it has been decided to add a third volume, which will be sent to Japan this year.



The SERMON of the MONTH

"LIFE BEYOND DEATH"

By J. L. Dittberner

IF A MAN DIE, shall he live again?" This is the question asked by Job, the patriarch of old, when he was passing through many trials. When he was brought to the very door of death, he pondered in his mind the thought of the future and asked this question. Since the time of Job this same question has been asked time and again by people as they have stood by the open grave of a loved one.

Once the eyes are closed in the sleep of death, is there anything beyond? Does the grave end all, or is there a better life to look forward to? If people do live again, where will it be? What form will they assume?

There are some who say that this life is all they expect to have and that their only heaven is what they know in this life. But that is like building castles in the sand, where the first wave carries them away. A man may build for himself a heaven upon earth. He may have all the bounties of nature. He may have a lovely family, a beautiful home, and all the luxuries money can buy. But life at its best is short. All too soon the gray hair appears, and the hand begins to shake, the step is uncertain, and then the heartbeat stops. Then what has happened to the heaven upon earth? It is gone.

It was the Apostle Paul who said, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." 1 Corinthians 15:19. Over and over again the Bible tells us that the rewards received in this life are as nothing compared with eternity. If there is no future to look forward to, life is dark and the future is dark.

But thank God there is more to look forward to than just the vanishing rewards of this life. We have the blessed promise in the Bible that if a man die, he *shall live again*. Listen to Job as he answers his own question, "All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer Thee; Thou wilt have a desire to the work of Thine hands." Job 14:14, 15.

Again he said, "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Job 19:25, 26. We may pass through the grave, but the future life is held out as the ultimate objective.

Abraham of old considered himself a pilgrim in this world. He traveled about from place to place, living in tents. But he looked to the eternal future for his permanent dwelling place. He "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:10.

The great theme of the Bible is this: Even though man must die, yet he shall live again. Jesus came to this earth and gave His life, that we might have future life through Him. It was Jesus who said, "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 14:2, 3.

That promise is meant for us the same as it was for the disciples. Our Saviour is preparing a beautiful place in which we may spend eternity. We can look forward to it, and we can know that at the end of the road there awaits the reward of the righteous. We ought to talk about it more. If we would think about the future life and the better land that awaits us, it would give us courage as we press along the way.

One day my little boy was bothered with a bad cold in his head. It seemed he was continually blowing his nose until it became sore. Then he looked up at me and, with a mixed tone of hope and disgust in his voice, said, "Daddy, will we have noses in heaven?" No doubt there are many grown folk who would like the answer to the same question. What will we be like in the next life? Will we have real bodies that can touch and taste, smell and hear? Or will we be without body or form?

The Bible gives a clear description of what we will be like in the next life: "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself." Philippians 3:20, 21. Yes, when we get to heaven, we will be like Jesus, both in character and in physical appearance. Isaiah says, "We shall sing for joy of heart."

It is a comforting thought to know that Jesus, after His resurrection, was possessed of a real body with flesh and bones. Luke relates an incident which hap-

pened after Jesus was resurrected, showing to us that after Christ passed through the grave, He still retained a real body: "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. And when He had thus spoken, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, He said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And He took it, and did eat before them." Luke 24:39-43.

With this same real body, that had flesh and bones and that could eat food, Jesus ascended to heaven. "And He led them out as far as to Bethany, and He lifted up His hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven." Verses 50, 51.

Yes, Jesus went to heaven with a real body of flesh and bones. We are told in the Bible that when "He shall appear, we shall be like Him." 1 John 3:2. The future life that we look forward to will be a real life. We will be real people in that better world, with real bodies. We will have the natural senses and be capable of enjoying that life to the fullest. Yes, we will have noses. We will have feet with which to run, eyes to behold the glories of the universe, ears to hear heavenly music, and tongues to talk of the love of God.

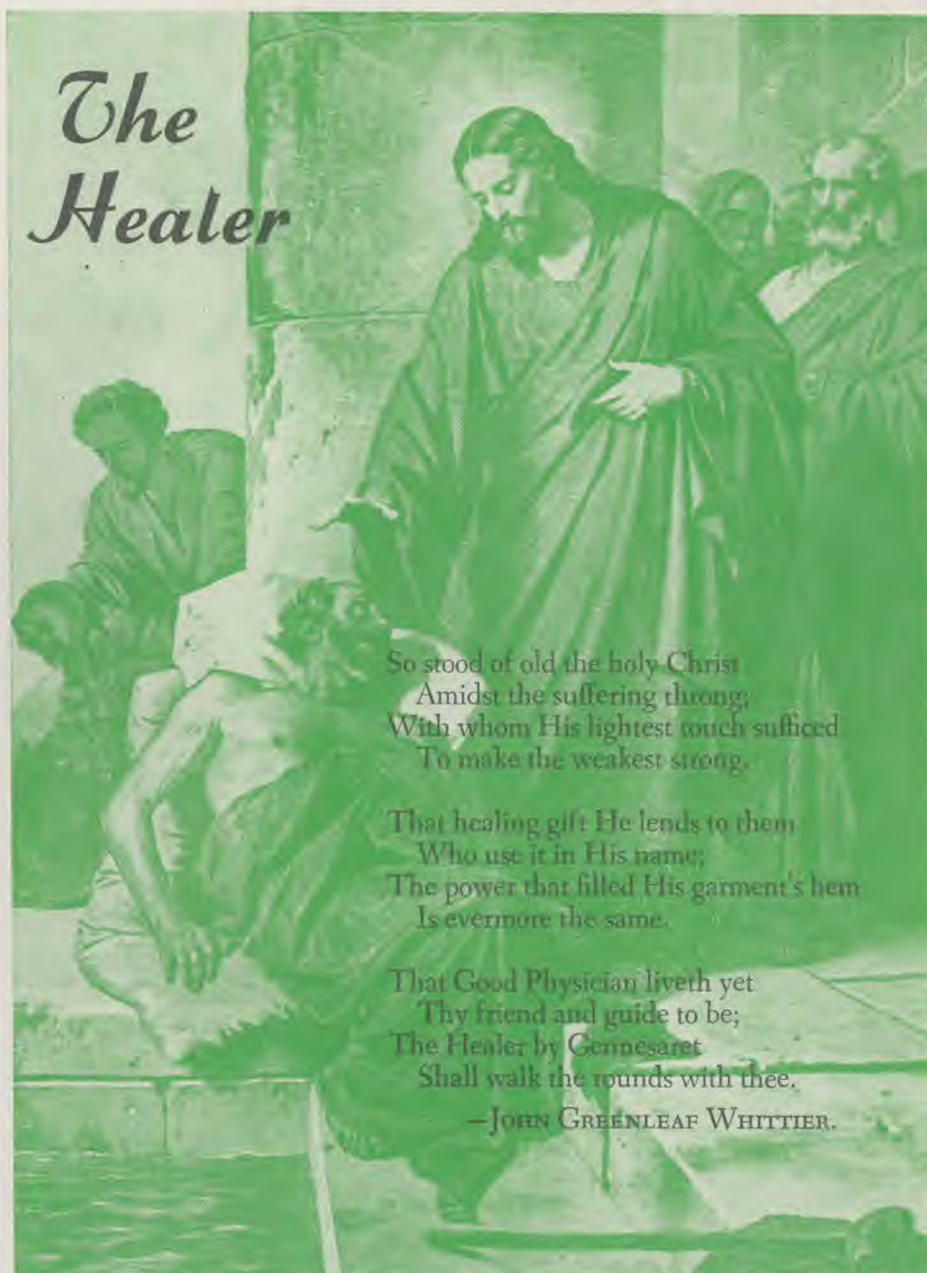
"Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped." Isaiah 35:6, 5. A blind lady was reading these words in Braille. When she came to the promise that the "eyes of the blind shall be opened," tears rolled down her cheeks; and she said, "Oh, I must be there."

Yes, I must be there, and you must be there. The best part of it all is that we *can* be there. We can live again if we have Jesus in our hearts and lives. He said, "I am the

resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25. Put your hope and trust in Him for the cleansing of sin out of your life, and you *will* be there.

There truly is a life beyond death. God says, "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." Isaiah 65:17.

If you are faithful to the end, you can say with the Apostle Paul: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7, 8. Jesus Himself said: "Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me." Revelation 22:12.



THE grandest fact of all the *past* is that Jesus Christ came to this world over 1,900 years ago, lived here among men and in human flesh, died our sacrifice, was raised again from the dead, and ascended to glory. The most important fact of the *present* is that He is now in heaven making intercession for us. And the greatest event of the *future* is that He is coming again.

In the Book of Revelation the Lord Jesus Christ announces Himself as the One who was, who is, and who is to come. (Compare Revelation 1:8 with Revelation 22:12, 13.) He is the Christ of the past, the Christ of the present, and the Christ of the future. He was, He is, and He is to come. This is one of the most precious truths ever known by men. A proper understanding of Jesus Christ—the one grand personage of all the ages—must include these three views.

Nineteen centuries ago, in an obscure town in Palestine, a certain babe was born in the stable of an inn. This event has had more influence on the annals of man than has any other happening since time began.

The life of that babe has stamped a new impress upon the history of the world. We date our letters and publications not as *Anno Mundi* (in the year of the world) but as *Anno Domini* (in the year of our Lord). Even the infidels and the skeptics, who attack Jesus of Nazareth, still date their productions *Anno Domini*—unwillingly bowing to Christ's lordship, even of the world's calendar!

His name is indelibly carved into this world. The one gigantic fact of history is Jesus Christ. Renan was right when he remarked, "His life has been made the cornerstone in the building of the race."

"Christ Jesus came into the world." 1 Timothy 1:15. "When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son." Galatians 4:4. His coming into the world was a definite event. "Jesus was born." Matthew 2:1. He came into the world as we all come into it—by the gate of birth.

When He came into the world, the herald angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14), as the news was echoed over hill and dale: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Verse 11. Never were words more fraught with such eternal consequences! Never was a message sent which was so to mold future history!

The Triangle of Redemption

The Three Immortal Truths of the Gospel

By J. L. Shuler

Where is Jesus Christ now? He is at the right hand of God in the sanctuary of heaven, making intercession for you and for me. "Consider the . . . High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus, . . . who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." Hebrews 3:1; 8:1, 2. "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1. He is a priest on the Father's throne, in literal fulfillment of the ancient prophecy of Zechariah 6:13.

We hear much in modern Christendom about the Christ that was. Many speak of His ministry on earth centuries ago. But there is something still more important to consider; it is the fact that Christ now lives and ministers in our behalf, that He is now at the right hand of the throne of the Sovereign of the universe pleading for us. This is the blessed assurance that "He is able . . . to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25.

The same infallible Word of God tells us what Christ is going to do—that He is coming again. Note how emphatically and unequivocally the prophets testify that Jesus is coming again in power and great glory!

Enoch: "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints." Jude 14.

David: "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him. . . . He shall . . . gather My saints together unto Me." Psalm 50:3-5. "He cometh to judge the earth." Psalm 96:13; 98:9.

Isaiah: "Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand." Isaiah 40:10. "Behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with His chariots like a whirl-



CARL BLOCH

Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ of the past, the Christ of the present, and the Christ of the future. He was, He is, and He is to come.

wind. . . . And the slain of the Lord shall be many." Isaiah 66:15, 16.

Micah: "Behold, the Lord cometh forth out of His place. . . . And the mountains shall be molten under Him, and the valleys shall be cleft as wax before the fire." Micah 1:3, 4.

Haggai: "I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; . . . and the desire of all nations shall come." Haggai 2:6, 7.

Jesus: "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:64. "The Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels." Matthew 16:27.

Paul: "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven." 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

John: "Behold, He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him." Revelation 1:7.

The Holy Scriptures reveal that just as the sure word of prophecy set forth beforehand all the essential details concerning Christ's first coming, so also it delineates the necessary information about His second advent. In the entire list of prophetic utterances about His first advent, none failed of exact fulfillment. Just so surely will every divine prediction concerning the

second advent of our Lord and Saviour come true.

The return of the Lord Jesus to this earth will now be presented under a series of two beautiful Scripture-triplets, which run exactly parallel to one another, each triplet necessitating the second coming of our Saviour for its terminal member.

We have a group of three related appearings of Christ presented in three different verses in the closing part of the ninth chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews:

"For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world; but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." Hebrews 9:26. "For Christ is entered into . . . heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Verse 24. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Verse 28.

In the most forcible, and yet the tersest possible language, the Spirit of God here has condensed this triple revelation of Christ, in which we behold the Lord Jesus since He became the Son of man. In these verses we have Jesus appearing among men, dying on the cross their sacrifice, ascending up to heaven, pleading for us at God's right hand, and finally coming again to receive His people unto Himself. We have here, in its common relation to time, the whole truth of Christ as known in the past, as seen in the present, and as to be seen in the future. We

have here three appearings.

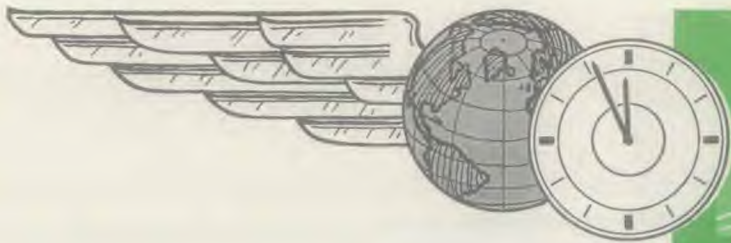
At the time of His birth He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. At the time of His ascension He went to heaven to appear in the presence of God for us. At the close of the gospel age He shall appear "the second time" without sin unto salvation.

These three appearings form the gospel triangle of redemption—Christ's atonement for us, His priesthood advocacy, and His second advent. These three great truths are as essential to God's plan of redemption as are the three sides to a triangle.

These facts concerning the past, the present, and the future of the Son of God are to blend into a harmonious whole in our belief. A complete experience must embrace this threefold view of Him as our Sacrifice, our Advocate, and our King. This triple truth forms the sacred triangle enclosure of salvation and encloses the soul who looks unto Him.

Looking back to the Lamb of God on the cross, one finds forgiveness for all his past sins. Looking up to our Intercessor in the heavenly sanctuary, one finds day by day present deliverance from the power of sin. Looking forward to His second coming in glory, one finds hope of future total deliverance from sin.

(Continued on page 30)



INTERPRETING

In the Light
By

★ National Council of Churches

TWENTY-NINE Protestant denominations, representing thirty-one million Protestants, were united into the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. at a meeting in the Cleveland Auditorium, November 27 to December 2. The delegates to this convention had as their goal the words that hung before them in the auditorium: "This nation under God."

Numerous speeches were made by the leaders of the federation movement; and such words as "the church must learn to fight again" (W. A. Visser 't Hooft) and "a strong local church, completely sovereign" (Edwin T. Dahlberg) were a part of the fighting speeches, which gives the appearance of a militant church organization.

We do not believe that the world can be saved by a unified superchurch. If the various churches do not have divine power to win the world, they will not gain this power by uniting. The only kind of power that would be gained would be of a secular nature.

We believe, as George Tyrrell has stated, that "the tendency toward reunion among the Christian sects of today is the result of weariness and decay; of scepticism as to the values of their several systems. . . . Union is restored by going backward to an original state of indetermination."

It is not sound logic to support a church union simply because a divided church is giving an "uncertain sound" in the presence of sinister forces. Uniting of divergent groups would not bring about the giving of the gospel with a more "certain sound," but would only result in more confusion.

A powerful superchurch comprised of various denominations with various creeds would be confusion. More important than the need of federation is the need for a return to primitive godliness if the world is to be won to Christ. In spite of all that is said to the contrary, powerful superchurches have always become persecuting forces against minority groups. History proves that whenever churches gain great power and prosperity in a state, they lose their spirituality and exercise the secular power gained to

strengthen themselves, while at the same time oppressing any who are in disagreement.

It is impossible to unite the Protestant denominations without endangering some of the small sects that hold theological beliefs that are diametrically opposed to the larger denominations. How could the churches be united when some observe Saturday for the Sabbath while others observe Sunday? Some hold to baptism by immersion, while others hold to sprinkling. Some believe in the immortality of the soul, while others do not. Some believe in the imminence of the second coming of Christ, while others do not. Some believe in open communion, while others believe in close communion, etc.

We must recognize that there are distinct differences

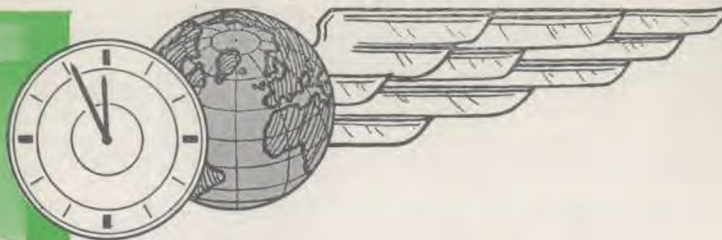


Technical engineers have designed this undersea tank for amphibious landings. Still in the blueprint stage, the tank offers a solution to the many problems in spearhead landing operations. It gives added protection against menacing underwater obstacles.

OUR TIMES

Bible Prophecy

Editor



in beliefs and types of persons, and that to truly unite them all into one is an impossibility. The Episcopal service and the Quaker meeting are distinct, and are attended by types of persons that are different.

It is not possible to unite the churches on an equitable basis. Church union is not necessary for the salvation of the world. The world can be won only by the power of God, and not by secular power or strength of numbers.

Five people who are right with God can accomplish more for Him than a thousand who are not. When the churches experience a true revival and a sincere return to God's standards, it will not be necessary for them to unite in order to save themselves. They will not only be saved under such circumstances, but they will have the power to save the world for Christ.

★ The Explosive Middle East

AS THE USSR bides its time before again probing Western weaknesses, the importance of the Middle East in the ideological conflict looms enormous. The importance of this area is not debatable. The size and desirability of the region's oil resources—one half of the known oil stock in the world lies buried beneath Middle Eastern sands—preclude any possibility that it could remain neutral in the event of World War III.

Not only is its value high from the standpoint of oil, but as a place to meet the threat of Russian imperialism it is deemed indispensable. Kenneth de Courcy, editor of the London publication *Intelligence Digest*, stated in Washington recently that the Middle East is "the most strategic area in the world." His prediction that the next Soviet move would be a swift attack in the Middle East combined with a simultaneous Chinese Communist thrust into Southeast Asia should not be taken lightly.

The Kremlin considers the
OUR TIMES, APRIL, 1951

Middle East to be of the greatest importance to their program of world conquest. The only buffer of defense of the West against the threat of Soviet expansion is the important link of Iran, Greece, and Turkey. These countries are aligned with the Atlantic Pact nations, but they are not strong.

★ New Editor for *Our Times*

R. E. FINNEY, JR., has been appointed to succeed Stanley C. Harris as the editor of *OUR TIMES*. Mr. Harris has been appointed an associate secretary of the International Religious Liberty Department, with headquarters at Washington, D. C.

Mr. Finney comes to us from Vancouver, British Columbia, where he has been carrying the responsibility of president of the British Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He has been a pastor and an evangelist, and has written two books and numerous magazine articles. He is noted not only for his ability as a writer but as a speaker. It is expected that Mr. Finney will make an outstanding editor for *OUR TIMES*. We feel very fortunate in obtaining a man of his ability.



ACME

These bewildered children don't know it yet, but they are being taken in this truck to the newly established United Nations orphanage, where they will be given a home. Scores of youngsters were rounded up from the streets of Seoul to be given help.

The CHRISTIAN SABBATH from Eden to Eden

*Tracing the True Sabbath
from Creation to Heaven*

By DeWitt S. Osgood

SIX TEDIOUS, weary and dreary millenniums have passed since that fateful day of expulsion from the Edenic Paradise. Our first parents, stricken with sorrow, regret, and remorse, had been evicted from their garden home. They had lost not only their home but their covering of radiant light. Worst of all, they had lost their innocence. Sinners they were, and the death sentence hung over them—the death sentence that would hang over their every son and daughter to the end of time.

The encompassing mists of gloom and foreboding did not wholly enshroud them. The gospel promise was theirs. Christ, the seed of the woman, would some day bruise the serpent's head. True, the tree of life was guarded; nevertheless two of Eden's blessings would be theirs during all the days of their pilgrimage. The marriage institution, the sweetest of all earthly relationships, which would provide mutual sympathy, pleasant association, and common interests, was to be theirs. The sacredness and the holiness of the marriage vows were ever to be held inviolate.

The other blessing to enrich and encourage mankind was the Sabbath. The Bible says: "And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. . . . And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made." Genesis 1:31; 2:2, 3. The seventh day was God's rest day—it was



CARL SCHONHERR, ARTIST

God's blest day—it was God's hallowed, or sanctified, day. Only God could make the Sabbath, for only He could create a world in six days. Only He can bless time. No one but God could sanctify, which means to set apart for holy purposes.

Man left the cherubim-guarded portals of Eden having three blessings: the promise of a Redeemer, a beautiful earthly relationship, and the weekly cycle, with its six days of labor "in the sweat of thy face"

In Eden God gave man three choice and enduring gifts: the promise of a Saviour, the marriage institution, and the Sabbath.

PHILIP GENDREAU, N.Y.



and its seventh day of rest and communion with God. Against these three blessings Satan has waged relentless warfare.

It was Jesus whose creative work had formed the earth. God the Father wrought through His Son in the making of our world. Ephesians 3:9 reads, "God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." Colossians 1:16 says, "By Him were all things created." Hebrews 1:1-3 states that God has spoken unto us by His Son, by whom also He made the worlds. Since Jesus was the active agent in creation, it was He who rested on



HAROLD M. LAMBERT

that first seventh day of time. Christ it was who blessed the day. It was our Maker and Redeemer Himself who sanctified the seventh day, to commemorate and memorialize the majestic acts of creation. God's presence hallowed the ground about the burning bush. His presence sanctified Mount Sinai. His presence made holy the holy place and the holy of holies of the sanctuary, and so it is that the presence of God in the Sabbath sanctifies the seventh day.

Who is the Lord of the seventh-day Sabbath? Jesus claims lordship, and lordship entails ownership. "And He said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: therefore the Son of

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“This Do in Remembrance of Me”

I wait within Thy presence, Lord;
My heart is wholly Thine;
Thy ways are not my ways, I know;
Thy thoughts are not like mine.

But as I take this drop of wine,
This piece of broken bread,
A benediction, please, I pray;
Thy hand upon my head.

Renew within my carnal breast
Humility and trust;
Cleanse Thou my heart from secret sins;
Lift me above the dust

And point the way that I should go
To know Thy peace, and then
Give me the strength to follow through
From day to day. Amen.

—HELEN J. LAWRENCE

man is Lord also of the Sabbath.” Mark 2:27, 28. Jesus not only made the Sabbath, but He made it for man in the generic sense, that is, for mankind, young and old, for men and women, regardless of race or nationality, time or circumstance. The Sabbath is the Lord's day, for it is Christ's day. He says, “The Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.” That settles it—every true Christian takes His word as final.

Let us note the three Edenic blessings during the earthly life of the Redeemer. Christ sacrificed His life on Golgotha's height to crush the serpent's head and fulfill the promise. He clearly taught the sanctity of the home. By precept and example our Lord taught just what constituted Sabbath observance. Summing up His instruction, we quote Matthew 12:12: “Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath days.” It was Christ's life practice to observe the Sabbath. “And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.” Luke 4:16.

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For BETTER HOMES and HEALTH

DANGER IN THE COMMON FLY

By D. H. Kress, M.D.

DURING the Civil War four men died of germ diseases to every one killed by bullets. During the first five months of the Spanish-American War there were 158,000 admissions to the hospitals, and thirteen men died of disease to one man killed by the enemy.

A half century ago conditions were such at Panama that when a man from the north went there to work friends and relatives bade him an affectionate farewell. They did not expect his return. Death was almost a certainty.

Throughout the Middle Ages whole nations were stricken with epidemics of disease, and half the population was frequently laid low. Cholera, yellow fever, bubonic plague, smallpox, and other messengers of death waged a relentless warfare upon the race.

Today these things are possible only where ignorance and superstition reign. Unable at that time to discover the causes of these epidemics, the people resorted to fasting and prayer. Their prayers have been heard, and these epidemics have been stayed—not miraculously, but through an increase of knowledge. The people had been "destroyed for lack of knowledge."

The bubonic plague, it was discovered, was due to a germ that is spread through the medium of the flea, often using the rat as a vehicle. The relentless warfare against the rat aided in suppressing this epidemic.

Yellow fever, it was found, was communicated by means of the mosquito. By exterminating the mosquito, men practically wiped out yellow fever.

The mosquito and the flea were not our most deadly enemies. It is probable that the ordinary house fly was responsible for a greater number of deaths than the mosquito. The deaths during the Civil and the Spanish-American wars were probably chiefly due to the fly. The fly indirectly caused most of the deaths in infancy and many of those in adult life. During the summer months especially thousands of little innocents fell victims to diseases spread by the fly.

The fly is bred in filth, it lives in filth, and it feeds on filth. Where filth is, the fly is. Where filth is not, the fly is seldom found.

The fly comes from the barnyard, from the cesspool.

Unceremoniously it enters our homes, without even wiping its feet. Others of our visitors prefer the sitting room or the parlor. The fly prefers to remain in the kitchen, the pantry, or the dining room. There it may plunge into the dish of milk or alight on the butter or other foods.

It may carry anywhere from fifty thousand to fifty million bacteria on its legs and back. Germs of disease are in this way planted in these foods, and under favorable conditions they multiply with almost unbelievable rapidity. In some homes milk containing millions instead of a few bacteria is fed to innocent children. And then we marvel that typhoid and other terrible diseases so mysteriously enter our homes.

To keep the fly out of the house it is necessary merely to screen the windows and the doors. But it is possible for a fly to carry infectious diseases from one person to another on the outside. Epidemics of sore eyes are frequently spread this way. The fly seems to have a special preference for this delicate member, and may carry infection from one child to others. Even syphilis, that dreadful malady, may be conveyed from man to man in this way. The aim should not be merely to shut flies out of our homes, but to get rid of them. This cannot be accomplished by the ordinary means.

In Panama people could not dispose of the mosquito by the ordinary means they had employed. While they were killing a dozen mosquitoes, they were at the same time cultivating in breeding beds a million to take their places. There is truth in the saying, "Kill one mosquito, and a dozen will come to the funeral." Panama and Cuba did away with mosquitoes *by doing away with their breeding places*. The mosquito needs warm, stagnant water, in which there is dead organic matter, for the purpose of propagation.

Flies may be avoided in the same manner. In fact it is not so difficult a problem to get rid of them as it is to get rid of mosquitoes. Flies are cultivated chiefly in manure heaps, around stables, in garbage tins, and in outhouses. A proper disposal of manure and garbage will go far toward disposing of the fly. Clean premises and proper sanitary conditions will eliminate it. Garbage cans should be kept covered or screened to prevent breeding.



By Inez Brasier

How Grandma Was a Missionary

In a far, faraway land lived an old, old grandma. Now many old, old grandmas lived in this far, faraway land. But not many of them loved Jesus as this old, old grandma did.

She loved to go to Sabbath school. She dearly loved to hear the preacher talk about Jesus. And she dearly loved to hear the missionaries tell how the native people listened to the stories of Jesus and then tried to be like Him.

One day as this old, old grandma listened, she said to herself, "I am so old I cannot go to tell those poor sick people about Jesus. I cannot go to help them get well."

She listened to the missionary some more. She said to herself, "I am so old I cannot earn money to send missionaries to tell these poor sick people about Jesus. I cannot earn money to send nurses to help them get well."

She listened some more to the missionary. She thought and she thought. Then this old, old grandma smiled a big smile. She said to herself, "I am so old I cannot go to be a missionary. I am so old I cannot earn money to send a missionary. But I can *help* send a missionary."

She smiled a bigger smile. She said to herself, "I can give my hundred pieces of money that I have saved for thirty years. They will help send a missionary. Why, they will be my missionary!"

And this old, old grandma in a far, faraway country did just that. And she was so happy that she had one hundred pieces of money to be her missionary that she smiled the biggest smile of all.



By Caris H. Lauda

A Great Finish

Victory! Victory! That is a great word, isn't it? And we certainly like to meet folk who have been victorious in athletic and literary contests. None of us like a quitter, and all of us hate a failure.

You will remember that last month we talked about

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forgetting the past and saying as did Paul, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Today let's think of Paul again. Paul didn't have an easy life at all. Folks made fun of him because he tried to be a Christian. He was persecuted, too, for Christ's sake. Notice the eleventh chapter of 2 Corinthians, the twenty-fourth verse and onward. Five times he was beaten, with thirty-nine stripes each time; three times he was beaten with rods. He was stoned; three times he suffered shipwreck. He went through all kinds of perils of water, of robbers, of his own countrymen, of heathen, perils in the wilderness, in the sea, and among his own friends that double-crossed him. Yet these things did not bother him. He pressed forward. Certainly he was a real he-man of the Bible! He was one of the greatest Christian giants we will ever read about. He didn't care what hardships came his way; he was happy to suffer for Christ, and one can almost hear him speak in loud and forceful tones as he says, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

Listen to these great words of Paul, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." And yet he hasn't said enough. He goes on, in the eighth chapter of Romans, and says, "I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Fellow youth, I am proud of this great man of the Bible, and one of my greatest desires is to be like him, standing for right, upholding Jesus Christ, having a will power that is worth while and a determination that cannot be shaken by some association or circumstance.

How do you think Paul closed his life? Do you think he considered himself a failure? Do you think he was sorry to die? Do you think he complained about all his hardships? Indeed not! Listen to his words as he closes his life history: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:6, 7. And best of all, he hasn't finished speaking yet, for he brings you and me into the picture. Listen to the eighth verse: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

Teen-agers, you and I have been visiting for quite some time now in this teen-ager column. Today we have come to a time when we must decide for Christ.

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Letter Writing in the First Century

*Some of the Best-Loved and Most Widely
Read Letters That Have Ever Been Written*

By Mary Miles

A CAREFUL study of the Book of Acts and of the Pauline Epistles reveals the fact that letter writing was a very common means of communication during the first century. Roads spread throughout the Roman Empire. Caravans of donkeys and camel trains took the wealth of the East to the West. Legates and senators, procurators and legionaries traveled these highways on business of the empire. Ships of every country, loaded with wheat and corn and exotics, sailed the seas, bound for the docks of Ostia, city port of Rome.

True there were still pirates on the seas and brigands in the mountains and cutthroats in the inns, but these had been so ruthlessly hunted out that during the first century travel was constant and business, which had been almost negligible, flourished.

The big businesses of Rome formed financial associations known as *publicani*. They had slave messengers, *tabillarii*, whose only work was carrying letters and instructions to their agents in the provinces, some of which were half a world away. The business of the empire demanded a great deal of safe and speedy communication on matters pertaining to the provinces. People of wealth had their own *tabillarii*.

The best roads and the best stopping places were marked for the *tabillarii*, for they were trusted slaves and often well educated. Imagination likes to follow them as they traversed the roads to Londinium, to Spain, to Ephesus, to Antioch, to Persia and Arabia.

It was only natural that the Apostle Paul should adapt the postal system of the Roman Empire to the needs of the young church. His first missionary tour was not long, nor did he go to many places. His second and third tours, however, covered a number of years and took him through Galatia, Phrygia, and provincial Asia, on west to Macedonia.

Many of those who accepted his gospel of Christ had grown up in the worship of Greek or pagan gods or, as was more likely, in the combined worship of all these gods. In all the churches questions of how to live the Christ life, of conduct before all, of relation to those in authority, and of relation to one another

in the church came up. The churches badly needed Paul's counsel, but his visits to them were far apart. Messengers came to him from them and returned with messages from him.

But this was not enough. Gradually leaders developed in the churches. They were carefully chosen and trained to carry on the work of the local churches. Many of these had the oversight not only of the mother church in a region, but also of the smaller churches in surrounding towns. A large part of their work was entertaining strangers, for as the gospel spread rapidly, the need of communication between Paul and the church leaders was more and more imperative.

There grew up a system of communication between the leaders, or bishops, of the churches and the apostles. It was scarcely possible they would employ pagan or Greek slave carriers, unless these slaves had become Christians. It is certain that many of those working with Paul, the deacons and the deaconesses, as well as Paul himself, carried written messages as they went from place to place. We know that Paul carried the first letter of which we have knowledge. This was a rescript, an order from the elders of the mother church in Jerusalem concerning matters that troubled the believers just turning from paganism to Christ. "And they wrote letters by them [Paul and Barnabas]. . . . So . . . they came to Antioch, and . . . they delivered the epistle." (Acts 15:22, 23, 30.)

Several of Paul's letters have come down to us. We know them as the Pauline Epistles. Some were written to particular churches to meet certain pressing needs. One, at least, was personal, although he includes the church meeting in Philemon's home in part of it. Some were a combination of instructions and warnings, which had the warm friendliness of Paul glowing through their pages. In the letter to the church at Colosse we learn of a letter Paul had written to the church in Laodicea. "When this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea." Colossians 4:16. This is conclusive evi-





THREE LIONS REMBRANDT VAN RYN, ARTIST

Paul's letters to the scattered churches during the first century were powerful unifying instruments. His messages of counsel on living the Christian life were read with fervent zeal and passed on from church to church.

dence that there existed a very close connection between churches only a few miles apart. But that was true of all the Christian churches in the Roman Empire. It came to be one of the greatest forces in welding Christianity into a vital, growing whole.

Such a system of communication demanded dependable carriers aside from the carrying done by Paul and his associates. We know the names of a number of these: Lucas and Titus, who later was ordained bishop of Crete and cared for the *tabillarii* as they stopped in the island, and who sped them on their way to distant churches, Tychicus and Onesimus, Zenos and Apollos, Epaphroditus and Stephanus, Fortunatus and Achaicus. Then there was Phebe, servant of the church at Cenchrea, near Corinth, who carried Paul's great letter to the church in Rome. Did she go by boat from Cenchrea's fine harbor, perhaps

with a group of Christian merchants and traders to Ostia, port of Rome? Did she walk the Appian Way to Rome? Or did she go by way of Dalmatia, circling the Adriatic and so down to the Imperial City?

How one's mind thrills to think of the ways those first century letter carriers traveled in their very important though seemingly humble work of welding the churches into a whole that disturbed emperors! Follow them along the Appian Way out of Rome to the boats at Ostia and across the seas to Crete, to Ephesus, to Londinium. Follow them to Tarsus, to the Antiochs, and along the Horse Road from Ephesus east, east to its joining the eastern trade route, and then east to the Euphrates and the church in Babylon.

Peter, thinking of the churches he had known in provincial Asia, in Galatia, in Cappadocia, and even far north in the Province of Bithynia, sat down one day to write them a letter. This he sent by Silvanus. Was he the Silvanus we know as Silas, the companion and fellow-apostle with Paul? We do not know, but we do know that he safely delivered Peter's letter. We know, too, that Peter wrote a second letter which reached these same churches. Did he write this one from Babylon or, much later, from Rome and just before his martyrdom?

Five other letters have come down to us from the first century. One was written by James, elder of the mother church, just before he was martyred. One was written by Jude. These are letters of exhortation and warnings, written to be sent from church to church.

The other three were written by John the beloved, bishop of Ephesus, near the close of his life. We have no record of who carried them or where. No doubt the first one was read in the neighboring churches around Ephesus, the hearts of men thrilling to its message just as they have through the more than eighteen centuries since John laid down his pen, sealed the parchment, and handed it to trusted *tabillarii*.

What of the *tabillarii* themselves? Did their hearts rejoice as they sped along the Roman roads or paced the decks of ships, eager to be on to the churches? Did they shrink when they heard tales of caravans being robbed on mountain roads or of merchants slain in roadside inns? Did they fear the brigands when climbing the mountain defiles and passes—the Cilician gates of the Taurus, the iron gates of the Sultan Dag, or the Syrian gates of the Amanus Mountains, north of Antioch in Syria? Did they falter when their road lay across steaming, pestilential plains?

The answer is always No! "They loved not their lives unto the death." The same faith and courage stirred them as stirred the hearts of the apostles. They were intrepid followers of intrepid leaders. The letters they carried were, in the final analysis, messages from their Emperor, the Prince Emmanuel.

We Christians today salute these dependable letter carriers of the first century.



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.

What is the best way for a sedentary worker to reduce his waistline?—H.P.

Fat tends to develop abnormally over muscles that are not used vigorously or regularly. If one takes starches and sugars in large amounts, using refined or concentrated foods from which the vitamin B complex has been removed, such as white bread, refined corn meal, polished rice, and refined sugar, the body fails to properly utilize these food substances and they tend to pile up as fat. The way out, then, is to use only the whole-grain cereals or, better still, to use the outside layers and less of the middle starchy layer. Make fruits and vegetable salads a large part of your diet, and take systematic leg-raising, bending, and twisting exercises several minutes daily, either before retiring or on first rising in the morning. Walking with the chest lifted and the abdomen drawn in while you practice rhythmic deep breathing is helpful. If the general weight is too high, go on a banana and skimmed milk diet for four days, then off two days, with a diet of salads and a little bran-containing cereal or rye krisp; repeat this schedule several times until the weight is about normal. Never take reducing medicine unless it be a little thyroid or gland medicine, and then only under the observation of a physician. While reducing, you may use some tomato or grapefruit juice. You might walk to and from your work daily.

What is the best way to reduce excessively large skin pores?—N.C.

Presumably you refer especially to the face. You might use contrast applications of very hot and very cold alternately and massage the skin thoroughly at the finish. Sun bathing to a point of securing a good healthy tan tends to make the skin soft and velvety. Sun lamps may be used if necessary. Be careful not to use much sugar and fats, especially animal fats and oils, or candy. On the other hand, use much raw foods, both fruits and vegetables, and secure free bowel action by natural means. Lotions must be used cautiously as they are often a disappointment and may make the condition worse if used too freely.

Is it quite common for human beings to have worms? How are they discovered and how eliminated?—B.D.

Unless you see the worm or discover the eggs by microscopical examination of the stool, you cannot know if worms are present. Tapeworms, round worms, and pin worms are the three possibilities. Tapeworms are seen as broken off segments passed with the stool; round worms may crawl up into the throat or pass through the bowel; and pin worms may cause itching at the rectum, or they may be observed. Some preparation of male fern is often used for tapeworms, santonin for round worms, and gentian violet for pin worms. It would be best, perhaps, to have a physician prescribe the doses of all these medicines as they are fairly potent. An infusion of Quassia chips may help to clear up the pin worms. Use about four ounces of the chips, and pour a quart or more of boiling water over them, letting it infuse until lukewarm. Use this as an enema, and it had better be repeated two or three times at intervals of two or three days to get all the worms. The entire colon should be filled each time.

I am unable to drink milk, as it constipates me, or to eat ice cream, which acts as a laxative. So I am wondering how I can get my full amount of proteins by leaving milk and meat out of my diet?—P.M.H.

The standard amount of protein required is estimated to be somewhat less than thought to be essential some years ago, but it is necessary to secure adequate amounts of complete proteins. This can be done by using soy beans or soy milk, some of which has been flavored with malt to make it palatable; cottage cheese; wheat germ and a variety of whole cereals including all the grain of each; some nuts; and both green and dried beans and lentils. Eggs may also be used if they are from fowls that are well cared for and fed properly. Such a diet, which should also include fresh fruits and vegetables, is entirely adequate. Some foods do not contain all the amino acids, but if the foods are not processed and the germ of the cereals is eaten, they will supplement one another.



What Says the BIBLE?

The Bible Does Not Say That

—three wise men came to worship Jesus in Bethlehem.

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" Matthew 2:1, 2.

The Bible gives no hint as to how many there were. The whole mass of ideas that is associated with *three* Magi is foundationless.

—it rained forty days and forty nights at the time of the Flood.

It says it rained forty days to cause a flood sufficient to float the ark. Read Genesis 7:17, 18 *carefully*, then go to Genesis 8:1-3: "And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged; the fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained; and the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated." It was at the end of 150 days that water ceased to issue from the earth and the sky. By this long period of flooding the highest mountains were covered. Noah and his company were in the ark one year and seventeen days. Compare Genesis 7:10, 11 with 8:14.

—it took Noah 120 years to build the ark.

Read Genesis 6:3: "And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years." God said man's days—his probation—should be 120 years, not that the ark would take that long to build. There is no information given as to how long it took to build the ark. The emphasis in Genesis and 1 Peter 3:18-20 is on the opportunity for salvation offered through Noah's preaching. So in these last hours of probation before Jesus comes, the accent is on present opportunity that we dare not neglect.

—men should forsake not going to church on "the first day of the week."

The famous verse so often quoted with those words inserted simply says: "Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25.

—Christ is "the second Adam."

The Bible says that Christ is "the last Adam," but "the second man." "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. . . . The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven." 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47. Adam, the first man, was the first ruler of this earth. (Genesis 1:26, 28.) He sold out to Satan, who became "the prince of this world." (John 12:31.) Satan, therefore, became the *second Adam*. Christ is the *last Adam*, because the time is soon coming when Satan will be deposed and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of God and His Christ, and forever He will be King of kings. But Satan, the cruel ruler of this present world—"he who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger" (Isaiah 14:6)—never became a man. *He* never unselfishly took upon himself our infirmities and shared our flesh as our loving Lord Jesus did. Jesus, therefore, is "the second man," but "the last Adam."

—Bible teachers should explain the Scriptures so clearly that he who runs may read.

Sorry, but those words are not in the Bible. They are in the works of the poet Cowper. The Bible said just the opposite: Make the message so plain that he who reads may run. The words are in Habakkuk 2:2: "And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." In these solemn days we are charged by God to proclaim a warning so powerful that he who reads it will immediately run to tell others.

"How readest thou" the Scriptures? Read with careful attention (1 Timothy 4:13), noting the sense (Nehemiah 8:8), letting the Bible interpret itself (1 Corinthians 2:13), under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13).

The Spirit of Incarnate Love

(Continued from page 3)

glory of God and His heavenly kingdom of love.

Even the fickleness and frailty of His closest disciples did not disturb that majestic serenity of the Master: it only increased His compassionate love for His erring followers. The man who was always foremost in his declaration of loyalty to Jesus, in the end denied Him stoutly. In the judgment hall, when a maid pointed to Peter as an associate of the accused man, that self-confident, self-assertive individual lost his courage and perjured his soul. "Then he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man." Matthew 26:74. After the third and most vehement denial, Peter—always sound at heart, but full of human frailty—"went out, and wept bitterly."

But what prompted those tears of bitter, heartfelt repentance? "And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter." Luke 22:61. That look was the look of incarnate love, full of mingled sorrow, reproach, and pity. How effectively it did its appointed work upon that humiliated, honest-hearted, lovable soul! It brought the prodigal to his senses, drew him back into the Father's abode of love, and brought home to him the infinitely loving compassion of the Father's heart. That look of Christ's reflected fully the attitude of God toward the sincerely repentant sinner.

As Jesus faced His prejudiced and angry foes, who were to encompass His death, His disciples beheld with wonder and awe fresh revelations of divine love shining forth from their acknowledged Lord. To His three chosen disciples, the inner circle of the twelve, He said, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with Me." Matthew 26:38. Returning later, He found them asleep, and "saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:40, 41.

What infinite tenderness and compassion for human frailty! What divine forbearance toward others in the midst of His own incomparable human anguish, three times expressed in the agonized appeal to God, "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt." Matthew 26:36-45.

His majestic, Godlike silence, when Pilate, the Roman governor, reminded Him of the many things falsely alleged against Him by His accusers, made that vacillating, time-serving man marvel. With his own lips he pronounced Jesus a "just man." Pilate, the worldly-minded governor, saw in the very countenance and carriage of his prisoner a serenity, a simplicity, a heavenly halo, which to his experienced judicial eye testified unmistakably to the perfection of the character of the man before him. And to the last, Jesus maintained this majestic attitude of divinely

compassionate love, which found its crowning expression in His final prayer for His persecutors: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

A Book's Secret

(Continued from page 6)

It is not a mere collection of books—it is THE BOOK. That is why we call it THE BIBLE.

Compare it with the sacred books of all other religions. There is none like it. No comparison is found possible—only contrast. Look at the Hindu Vedas, the Parsee Zend-Avesta, the Buddhistic Tripitaka, the Mohammedan Koran. Considered as literature, as history, as philosophy, or in the message they contain, the unique superiority of the Bible stands out unchallengeable.

Look at it as history. It is an indisputable fact that nothing that can properly be called history is found in these other sacred books. As every scholar knows, they are a hodgepodge of heterogeneous material, loosely jumbled together, having neither order, continuity, or unity. There is no order, no progress, no real connection of parts.

But the Bible is history with beginning, development, and end—a history of revelation, of the ever-moving purpose of God, reaching its climax in the manifestation of God's own Son for man's salvation. Nothing like this, nothing even remotely approaching this, can be found in any other collection of sacred books in the world.

Look at the message of the Bible. It is more than a book of secular wisdom, more than merely a collection of lofty thoughts about religion, more than a set of theories and speculations about divine things. It is not a book simply of elevated ethical teaching, of noble biography, of lofty maxims, of soul-stirring narrative, of moving poetry.

Pre-eminently it is a book of revelation—of God's historic revelations through the ages to the coming of His Son and the advent of His Spirit.

These revelations constitute a series. Each adds something to those preceding. Each moves the course of revelation onward. Each foreshadows a still fuller unfolding to come. And when the whole is before us, there is disclosed to our thrilled souls the glorious unfolding of a heavenly purpose having its stupendous consummation in the Divine Redeemer and His redemption—a purpose which is in its very nature the satisfying guarantee to us that it is the purpose of God, not the conception of man.

Considered merely as a book, the Bible has a place in history quite without parallel.

Those who penned its words were not learned men, not as the world counts learning. Nevertheless what they wrote has become the supreme treasure of the

centuries. Their words have been preserved, read, copied, translated, and spread abroad to world's end, as no words of philosophers, sages, poets, orators, historians, or moralists have ever been.

Many a book has been translated into numerous languages, the most popular into as many as fifty, a very few into as many as eighty. The Bible has entered into more than a thousand languages, and it adds more as the months go by. Today there is no language in the civilized world, scarcely a language among uncivilized tribes, into which this amazing Book has not been rendered.

For more than a hundred years no year has passed that has not witnessed its circulation by tens of millions. It has been the best seller of all the centuries.

No book has ever been so minutely studied, had so many books written about, for, against, or on it, given birth to so many commentaries and expositions, evoked so much keen discussion, founded so vast a literature of hymns, liturgies, volumes of devotion, been so determinedly assailed, rallied such splendid defenses, as the Bible.

The singularity of this Book is its unconquerable vitality and the universal appeal it makes to human hearts.

How can you explain such a Book?—by the genius of its writers? But its writers were not men of genius. They were common, ordinary men—shepherds, exiled priests, herdsmen, plowmen, lawyers, physicians, fishermen, tax gatherers. What they had was not genius; it was inspiration.

Men of genius and scholarship have usually ranged themselves against the Bible. But the products of their genius and scholarship have not checked the Bible's career of conquest. Their attacks lie on dusty shelves, largely unread. They contain no message for the world. The Bible does.

The Bible is a book for all nationalities. It appeals to the universal heart of the race. It does so because it goes down beneath all differences of rank, of age, of sex, of culture, of race, of language, to that which is deepest, most universal in man. It bears translation into all languages because the language of the most profound things of the soul is, all the world over, one.

I cannot tell you here what the Bible has been to and done for the world. That would involve the re-writing of the history of civilization, retelling the story of Christian missions, extracting the finest qualities of the best in the world's literature, laying bare the inner springs of the lives of those who have labored best and done most for the moral and mental and spiritual well-being of mankind.

Let any man trace back to their springs the uplifting movements of history, the determining struggles for civil and religious liberty, the progressive social, humanitarian, and religious movements of the centuries, and he is bound to rise higher and higher until he finds the source of them all in the high mountain

ranges of the Bible's teaching. The source of men's highest social, national, and spiritual yearnings and aspirations is the Bible.

Vastly different from all other literature is the literature of heaven, comprising these sixty-six books. Its words are living words. Ancient as are its letters, there is about them a vital, pulsating breath, a glowing, celestial brightness. Compared with them, all other literature is dead. This alone is alive.

These ancient manuscripts have proved imperishable. Recorded by men, they are, notwithstanding, the Word of the living God. It was said of them when uttered that they would "not pass away." They have not passed away.

The kingdoms then known have perished, and many another since has dropped out of history. But firmer than the everlasting hills, these words of the eternal God live. There is in them the imperishable spirit of God Himself.

The words of this Book are not only living, but life giving. That is altogether unaccountable, but it is true. Though the tongues of the men who first spoke these words have been silent for millenniums, yet there is in their messages now as then the power of God unto salvation.

He who reads these words today finds in them life. They are not dead words. The very thrill of the life of God is in them. And they have power to impart life to their readers.

Many foes of the Bible—powerful, determined, persistent—have endeavored to destroy it out of the world. They are dead. It lives.

The words of this divine Book have so wrapped themselves about the thoughts and hearts of men that human literature itself, and human knowledge, must be destroyed before this Book can perish. Human society must fall to ruins, human history must be blotted out, before this Book can drop out of the world.

What is the explanation of such a phenomenon? Here is a Book which has proved itself practically omniscient, disclosing even the thoughts and intents of the heart; practically omnipotent, building civilizations, swaying human society, turning the very world upside down; practically omnipresent, manifesting its presence in all races, through all languages, to all peoples.

What will explain it? For every effect there is a cause. Both philosophy and science unite in teaching this.

Here is an effect—the unvarying effect of the Bible throughout the world.

And there is but one adequate, sufficient cause that explains it.

A divine force must be hidden in this Book. A divine energy must there be at work.

God is in it.

Nothing less than this, nothing other than this, is an adequate explanation.

The Triangle of Redemption

(Continued from page 17)

Humanity has many needs today. But the supreme need of every soul in the world is to look unto Jesus. "Looking unto Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2) is the way of salvation. "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." Isaiah 45:22.

Looking unto Jesus means not only looking back to His death on the cross, and upward to Him as our Mediator, but also forward to His return in clouds of glory to consummate the great plan of our redemption. The Christian's look has a threefold aspect—a backward look to the dying One, an upward look to the pleading One, and a forward look to the coming One. This look centers on three definite objects—the cross, the heavenly sanctuary, and the cloud of glory.

It has been divinely ordained that our Lord should fill three great offices—that of prophet, that of priest, and that of king.

The office of prophet is a public one. Hence Christ came from God to dwell among men to act as God's Spokesman, to reveal to us God's mind, to unveil to us God's heart, to communicate to us God's will, that we might know God better. His past appearing—His incarnation—on the earth marked His entrance as a man into the office of prophet. Hence He is spoken of as a prophet (Luke 24:19; Acts 3:22), or as "the Prophet" (John 7:40; Matthew 21:11), the One with whom no other seer is comparable.

The priestly office, on the other hand, is predominantly a secret office, conducted before the hidden presence of God and out of human sight. Hence Jesus must needs withdraw from earthly sight and appear before God in heaven in behalf of His people. Accordingly the scriptures which speak of Him as being in heaven represent Him as appearing there as our High Priest. (Hebrews 4:14; 7:26-28; 9:11, 12.)

His present appearing in heaven marked His entrance into His office of High Priest, or Mediator, between God and man. As our Advocate, or Intercessor, He reconciles men to God by means of the merits of His atoning blood. He represents His people's interests before God; He intercedes for them and pleads their cause. Let us note right here that He is represented as being seated on high in a waiting attitude, expecting a further development in His career. (Hebrews 10:12, 13, 37.)

The office of king is a public office. It is necessary for Jesus to appear again personally and visibly before men to fulfill His office as King. Jesus Christ is represented as the King of kings in His second coming. (Revelation 19:11, 12, 16.) His future appearing in the earth, or what is commonly called the second advent of Christ, will mark His induction into His kingly office. Accordingly, the Holy Scriptures speak of the second coming of Christ as the time when Jesus will sit upon the throne of His glory (Matthew 25:

31), wearing a golden crown (Revelation 14:14), ruling over the nations (Revelation 19:11-15). Thus this third office of Christ requires that He come again for its accomplishment.

It has been well said that the New Testament is concerned mainly with the presentation of three great subjects: (1) that the Son of God came to earth, died upon the cross as man's Substitute, and went away; (2) that the Holy Spirit has come down to this earth and is still here, while Jesus is pleading for sinners at the Father's right hand; and (3) that the Son of God is coming back again to this earth.

This threefold revelation of Jesus Christ must be accepted in its entirety by every soul who believes on Him. It is only as we now maintain the right attitude toward His past appearing on earth, and His present priestly mediation in heaven, that we can be ready for His second coming to earth, and then be crowned by Him with immortality. On the other hand, we shall see that His atonement and His priesthood by themselves, without His second advent, would not put us into the kingdom of glory.

His future appearing is as certain and essential and practical as His first appearing and His present priestly work. Every Christian should be interested enough to learn all he can concerning this great fact of truth. The second coming of Christ ought to be given its proper place in Christian faith today.

Although it is a good thing to accept His vicarious death, blessed are they who, believing in His life, death, and resurrection, can joyfully add this confession also, from a faith that enters within the veil: "We have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens." Hebrews 4:14. But more blessed are they who can join to this assurance still another: "From whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:20, 21.

When this entire trio of truths is given its proper place in our faith, we shall grow up in love as we contemplate His first appearing; we shall be rooted in faith as we appropriate the benefits of His present position as our Advocate; and we shall be inspired with hope as we look forward to His future appearing. These will constitute for us the three immortal truths of the gospel, and will give us joy and peace.

"The Cipher-Key"

(Continued from page 11)

Lord shall preserve thee from all evil. . . . The Lord shall preserve *thy going out and thy coming in.*"

To me this promise means much; and because I have, over and over again, proved the truth of those words, I shall continue to ask Him to go with me whenever I leave this little house; and when I safely return, I shall lift up my eyes to my beloved hills and reverently whisper, "Thank you, Lord." But I shall feel sorry for those who laugh.



SCIENCE Insights



ACME

Frankfurt dentist Dr. Wilhelm Thoene applies twenty drops of his new W. T. Polymorpha drug on a patient. Thoene claims that the drug makes the patient drowsy and a bit tipsy, eliminating pain through any operation that might be necessary. He adds that there are none of the usual aftereffects found with other narcosis drugs.

CONCENTRATED MILK.—This new product is being packaged in fiber containers only one third the size of the regular quart containers. By adding two parts cold water, the housewife can get a full quart of milk. The concentrated milk will save refrigerator room, make shopping easier, and lower the cost of distribution.

DAMPENING BAG.—This new device for the laundry will keep clothes sprinkled for ironing in moistened condition for days, or until the housewife is ready to iron them. It is made of vinyl film, a plastic that can be welded to make a waterproof bag, and has a draw-string enclosure for easy hanging.

ELECTRON MICROSCOPE.—A small-size, low-cost electron microscope, which will sell at a price low enough to permit its use by many institutions, has been developed by Radio Corporation of America. This inven-

tion magnifies 5,000 times, but magnifications up to 50,000 diameters can be obtained by photographic enlargement. The instrument is more than twenty times as powerful as the best optical microscope, and has a depth of focus 150 times as great.

Although not so powerful as the full-size electron microscope, it will cost only about one third as much. Another advantage of the new instrument is the fact that the lower end of the magnification range overlaps that of the conventional light or optical microscope, permitting the student to progress by stages from the known to the unknown.

NEW WEAPON.—The latest war weapon is a new "nerve gas" which destroys the "will to resist" and enables a conquering army to take over with a minimum of effort. Lest, however, this gives the impression that war is likely to become more humane, it is mentioned that unless treatment is administered within three minutes the gas destroys not only the will to resist but the victim also.

SAFETY COUNCIL AWARD.—The American Overseas Airlines has been awarded the National Safety Council's award. This company flew over four thousand million passenger miles without fatality between the end of 1946 and the end of 1949.

NUMBER OF STARS ESTIMATED.—The American Astronomical Society, which recently met at Haverford College, heard a breathtaking new estimate of the number of stars in the universe. Dr. Harlow Shapley of Harvard University guessed that there are 200,000,000,000 galaxies. Only 2,000,000,000 are within range of the 200-inch Palomar telescope.



ACME

This self-developing photographic dosimeter is the simple, inexpensive device to measure a person's exposure to atomic radiation. Suitable for mass production, the device is small and light and can be hung from the neck.

One Thousand Years of Peace

(Continued from page 13)

ordinances and trampled upon His everlasting covenant. We are fast hastening on to the time when the curse shall devour the earth, and the wicked inhabitants shall be burned. "Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. . . . The windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." Isaiah 24:17-20.

This present world is on its way down; and when Jesus comes, it will become a waste, desolate, and empty wilderness. God's judgments will be meted out to the transgressors in that day. Isaiah 24:21 reads, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth." This punishment of the high ones and the kings of the earth takes place at Christ's second coming, as stated in Revelation 6:14-17:

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great 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?"

We cannot picture the awfulness of that day when the righteous are caught away from this earth to meet the Lord in the air, and the wicked are left to their destruction. The annihilation will be full and complete, for no man will be left upon the earth. "The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll; the earth trembles before Him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place."—*Great Controversy*, p. 641.

"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people." Psalm 50:3, 4. All who have transgressed God's holy law will be without a shelter in that day, and it will be too late to find forgiveness. "The Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain." Isaiah 26:21. Yes, when Jesus comes the

second time, the wicked are blotted from the face of the earth by the brightness of His coming.

The righteous are taken to heaven where they reign with Christ for a thousand years. This earth without inhabitants appears as a desolate wilderness. It returns to the condition it was in before God's Spirit moved upon the face of the waters. Jeremiah 4:2, 3 says, "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light." When will this take place? We are told in verse twenty-six that it will be at "the presence of the Lord, and by His fierce anger."

This earth becomes a bottomless pit and a place of darkness when Christ comes, and it is here that Satan is bound alone for one thousand years. The wicked dead are spoken of as being confined in this pit as prisoners, to remain scattered upon the face of the earth until the end of the millennium. "And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited." Isaiah 24:22. In Revelation 20:5 we are told just how long this period will be: "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished."

The righteous sit in judgment upon the wicked during the millennium and then return with Jesus and the New Jerusalem to this earth. The wicked come forth in the second resurrection, the written judgment is executed upon them, and they with Satan and the wicked angels are cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death. At last God will have a clean universe. Affliction shall not arise the second time. "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." 1 Corinthians 15:26. Out of the fire that destroys the wicked there will come forth "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Peter 3:12, 13.)

Christians today look for a better country. This earth in its present condition is only a stopping place for them. With longing desire they wait for the time when "they shall see the King in His beauty; and behold the land that is very far off." Only the righteous will enter there. There will be no sin in the city of God. Only those who are victorious over sin will be there. The prophet John tells us:

"These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Revelation 7:14-17.

To that blessed home the God of heaven invites

each one of us. To miss heaven is to miss everything worth while. Let us accept the Lord just now and be prepared to meet the Saviour when He comes for His own.

The Christian Sabbath From Eden to Eden

(Continued from page 21)

Ere He was led to Pilate's judgment hall, Christ foretold the Jerusalem disaster, to come forty years later. He admonished His disciples to pray lest in those troublous times the Sabbath be desecrated. Matthew 24:20 reads: "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day." Should not every Christian pray in these days that God will help him observe the Sabbath?

The Sabbath, according to the commandment, was diligently kept the very day after the crucifixion: "And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on. And the women . . . returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment. Now upon the first day of the week, . . . they came. . . . And they found the stone rolled away." Luke 23:54-24:2.

Three separate and distinct days are here mentioned: the preparation day, the Sabbath according to the commandment, and the first day of the week. There need be no confusion where such clarity exists. The preparation day was followed by the Sabbath, and the Sabbath day was followed by the first day of another week. Christ's death occurred on the day we call Friday. He was quickly placed that late afternoon in Joseph's new tomb. The next day, the Sabbath (we would say Saturday), was carefully kept "according to the commandment." Then on the first day of the week, that is, Sunday, the devoted women hurried to the sepulcher.

Though Christ had risen from the grave, His love and regard for us did not change. His attitude and relation to us is the same. Hebrews 13:8 says: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." His Sabbath is the same. Christ is still the Lord of the original seventh-day Sabbath. The New Testament speaks of no other Sabbath, but many references show that the true Sabbath was continually observed. The original seventh-day Bible Sabbath remains. Hebrews 4:9 says: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." The marginal reading states that there remains a "keeping of a Sabbath" to the people of God.

In earth's last hour a great reformatory movement emphasizing Sabbath observance is predicted. Isaiah 56:1, 2 declares: "Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, . . . for My salvation is near to come. . . . Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it: that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it." Again we read in Isaiah 58:

12-14: "Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations. . . . If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord."

Jesus is coming soon. His salvation is near to come. Let us seek the blessing that comes from laying hold on the Sabbath and keeping it in the spirit "according to the commandment." You and I should "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8-11.) We should now observe the definite seventh day. The momentous hour of Christ's return hastens. Eden will soon be restored. Then the tree of life, yielding the twelve manner of fruits, one each month, will be given back to the ransomed throng. Holiness then will be ours, for we will be clothed in the robe of Christ's righteousness. Home once again in Paradise, we will enjoy Sabbath observance throughout all the cycles of eternity. "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord." Isaiah 66:22, 23.

Don't you want to be among that group of worshipers who will gather from Sabbath to Sabbath around the glory-encircled throne? Let us pray and prepare in a very definite way to be there.

A Great Finish

(Continued from page 23)

Not to decide for Christ is to make the greatest mistake in life. I, for one, say, From now on I'm going to live the life that Paul lived. I am going to make Christ my best friend. I am going to read concerning the life of Christ and the life of Paul, so that I may know how I should live from day to day, that I, too, may be happy when my life history is written. Come and say with me today, "I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold; I'd rather be His than have wealth untold."

Do make this decision today. Just where you are now, kneel there and tell Jesus you love Him with all your heart, and you are going to be true to Him from now on. I am proud of you for making this decision. May the Lord bless you and keep you; may He make His face to shine upon you and give you abundant success in Christian living.

Climbing the ladder to success would be a whole lot easier if folks just above you wasn't always kicking you in the face.—OLIN MILLER. (Hi Nabor)

GOD'S TWO BOOKS

By Mary Hunter Moore

Obedience

In the Cumberland Mountains, near Gruetli, Tennessee, two friends and I once saw an instance of supreme obedience. A native of the woods directed us by means of blazed trees to a certain spot where we were to look ahead of us on the ground intently. At the first sign of motion we were to concentrate our gaze on the spot where the motion began. Without this prewarning we might not have seen the sudden swift shadow that flitted off a rod under the bushes before it became vocal and visible.

A big bird—brown, gray, and white speckled like dead leaves—fell down upon the ground with broken wings, crying in great pain. We scarcely turned our heads to look at this mother whippoorwill but scanned the spot from which she started. As our eyes became accustomed to the sunshine-flecked twilight, we found her nest, just a hollow in a heap of dead leaves, and in it two baby whippoorwills, not so long as my forefinger and covered with a yellowish down hard to distinguish from the leaves among which they lay. Their large eyes were closed, and they lay as inert as lifeless things.

The mother was in terrible distress. In a circle she dragged herself along the ground, flying up a foot or two and falling back, and striving by every gesture possible to entice us to follow; but we looked very little at her. We watched to see how long the babies would lie motionless. In an amazing manner the mother was able to intersperse her loud and constant outcries with very soft, tender-toned chirps and short calls that were intended for the babies' reassurance.

As we did not move away from the nest, she circled clear around us, finally flying up to a tree branch not much higher than our heads about a rod beyond the nest. There she sat facing us and the nest, continuing her piteous cries and tender baby talk. Her eyes were amazingly large and lustrous, and her feathers fluffed out softly, giving her almost a circular effect.

Meantime the babies were absolutely obedient. Seized by the impulse to touch a live wild thing, I bent down and put my finger on the head of one of the fluffballs. It evidently could see me through its translucent eyelids or perceive me by some other acute sense; for as my hand neared it, a heavy shudder passed once over it. Then it endured my touch without moving, and the other did not move at all.

But my motion had terrified the mother into such an excess of grieving cries that we took pity on her and moved away. She continued her protests until we were clear back on the roadway, from which we could not see her. We suppose she darted down to the nest and praised her precious ones for their perfect obedience and self-control under the attack of giants as terrifying as monsters from Mars.

It's Time to Pray

(Continued from page 9)

but the Spirit of God goes forth to meet it. Even before the prayer is uttered, or the yearning of the heart made known, grace from Christ goes forth to meet the grace that is working upon the human soul."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 206. Daily communion with God is the secret of radiant, confident living in these war-troubled days. He bids us be free from the burdens that press in about us. He pleads: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. We come to Him by taking our problems to Him in prayer.

GEMS of TRUTH

Better to die a pauper in purse than a pauper in soul; better fail to get money than allow money to get you.

No matter what happens, there is always someone who knew it would.

A little premature authority is fatal to some good men.

In the footprints on the sands of time, some people leave only the marks of a heel.

Vacant lots and vacant minds usually become dumping grounds for rubbish.

When saving for old age, be sure to lay up a few pleasant thoughts.

The tongue, being in a wet place, is apt to slip when going very fast.

Your life is practically over when you begin to brag about what you have done.

Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else.

OUR TIMES, APRIL, 1951

? PLEASE EXPLAIN ?

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

Please explain Ecclesiastes 7:16. Is it possible to be too good?—R.T.

Ecclesiastes 7:16 reads: "Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?" It is not possible to be too good. But it is possible to have a counterfeit goodness which is not goodness at all, and which will cause the one who trusts in it to be lost.

The second clause interprets the first. The secret is that the counterfeit righteousness and this foolish wisdom are what we try to achieve by our own efforts. We try to make ourselves righteous and wise, and succeed only in destroying ourselves. Wisdom is the gift of God (James 1:5), and it is received by faith, prayer, a diligent study of God's revelation—the Bible—and the right attitude toward the trials and discipline of life (Romans 5:1-5). Righteousness also is the gift of God, received by faith. (Revelation 19:8; Romans 3:22-26.) Such true wisdom and righteousness always produce a humble mind and a modest demeanor. Self-righteousness and human wisdom make the possessor proud, boastful, and contemptuous of others. God protects the humble who accept His righteousness; and He leaves the self-righteous and proud to the fruit of their own efforts—destruction.

Who is the Sodom referred to in Ezekiel 16:46?—N.M.

This verse reads: "Thine elder sister is Samaria, she and her daughters that dwell at thy left hand: and thy younger sister, that dwelleth at thy right hand, is Sodom and her daughters." Adam Clarke says

on this verse: "It is supposed that the prophet by *Sodom* in this place means the Israelites that dwelt beyond Jordan, in the land of the Moabites and Ammonites; or rather, of the Moabites and Ammonites themselves. Literally, Sodom could not be called the *younger sister* of Jerusalem, as it existed before Jerusalem had a name. In looking *east* from Jerusalem Samaria was on the *left*, and Sodom on the *right hand*, that is, the *first* was on the *north*, the *second* on the *south* of Jerusalem."

It is obvious that the name Sodom here is figurative, for the language of the whole chapter is filled with the figure of personification. Under these figures God rebuked the apostate Israelites in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah for their idolatry and their pride. Judah was especially rebuked for self-righteous pride. She considered herself superior to the kingdom of Israel, to the tribes beyond Jordan, and to the heathen Moabites and Ammonites. She considered these others as wicked as Sodom and Gomorrah, which God had destroyed. Yet Judah was doing things worse than literal Sodom had done.

In your opinion and belief, how was Christ baptized? Please give proof.—F.M.D.

By immersion. We find in the Scriptures that He was baptized in the river Jordan, and "when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water." Matthew 3:16. If it had been only a matter of being sprinkled, He need not have gone into the water. This could have been done out of the water just anywhere. When Christ went down into the river Jordan and was immersed, He gave "us an example, that [we] should follow His steps." 1 Peter 2:21. We are told that John the Baptist did his "baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there." John 3:23. If he had been only sprinkling people, he would not have had to go where there was much water. He could have carried a gallon jug with him and it would have served the purpose. A gallon of water would have sprinkled many people.

Colossians 2:12 refers to the Christian baptism as a burial. We die to sin and are buried. We come forth from the watery grave to live in the newness of life. We are "buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him." By no manner of means can we stretch our imaginations to the point where we can conceive of sprinkling or pouring as a burial. We are to be "buried *with Him* in baptism."



IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK

By Inez Carr

ON A BRASS plate in an old Chinese garden, resplendent with red and white flowers and twining vines, are the Chinese characters which interpreted read, "Enjoy yourself. It's later than you think." This sage epigram has been used in many places and by many individuals, changing trends and circumstances of their lives—at times turning them from things that *seemed* very important to things that *were* very important. Because of the suggestion many a man has placed first things first just prior to the too-late hour.

History is repeating itself. Long, long ago a man called to the passing multitude while he built an ark according to Heaven's specifications. He proclaimed, "It's later than you think; come, enter the ark of safety."

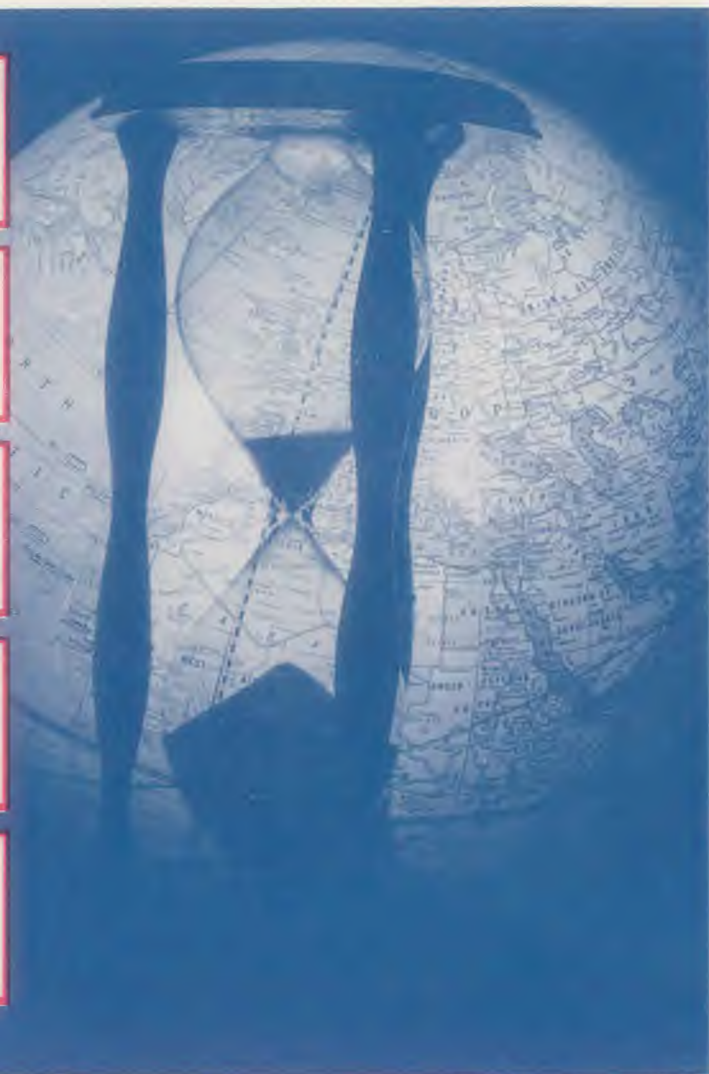
The storm clouds are already overhead. They are reaching the saturation point

and are preparing to rain destruction. The stage is set; the drama is about to begin. The Lord is calling, "Come, thou and all thy house, into the ark. The door is still open, but it's later than you think."

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve."

The Bible is still an open book in free America. We may turn its pages at will in our homes, churches, on the bus, train, plane, or on the street; at any time or place we may seek words that contain life here and guidance to life hereafter.

We may fortify our souls by faith in His promises before the storm breaks; but it's later than we think, and we need to run to the Stronghold now and test out the promises. The promises cannot fail, but we can fail if we delay to enter into His storm shelter—a deep and abiding trust in God. Friend, IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK.



CAREW FROM MONKMEYER