



*The Bible and*

**TOUR  
TIMES**



When the World Council meets for its second session in 1954 one of the most important themes will be the second coming of Jesus.

# A WORLD IN EXPECTANCY

By Arthur S. Maxwell

★ Two world wars, with all their terrible destruction, suffering, and sorrow, have completely shattered the complacency in which much of the Christian world was basking forty or fifty years ago. Indeed, "Modern history has been so catastrophic," says the *Watchman-Examiner*, "that even optimistic, progressive liberals have had to face a possible end to what we know as civilization. The easy-going assumption that this was to be the 'Christian Century' has had to be abandoned. The world is farther from being Christianized than when the century began."

As a result, says this Baptist journal, many are turning to the study of eschatology, the Christian doctrine of the last things. They are turning from man to God for deliverance. They

are beginning to hope that Jesus Christ will return.

It is surprising how many people are writing in similar vein to-day. In the July issue of the *Moody Monthly*, Wilbur M. Smith says: "At the beginning of the twentieth century, it was commonly believed throughout Christendom, especially in America, that we were on the verge of a millennium. This it was thought would be achieved, for the most part, by the preaching of a social Gospel, the elimination of war, and the evolution of contemporary man into a new state of goodness. . . . Anyone who spoke otherwise, of dark days to come, or Armageddon, . . . and other related subjects, even though found in the Word of God, was considered a pessimistic freak, to be laughed at or

denounced." "But now," continues this writer, "suddenly, from quarters where we would least expect it, the whole area of eschatology is set before the church for discussion and decision."

#### The Only Hope

Mr. Smith has in mind, of course, the situation which has arisen within the World Council of Churches as a result of the report of its twenty-three theologians, who a few months ago stated frankly that, in their opinion, the Christian hope is nothing less than the personal, literal return of Jesus Christ. "There is no hope," said these World Council adventists, "except in the crucified, risen, and coming Lord."

Because of this report the whole question of the second coming of Christ will be projected into the general Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1954. In the meantime we can be sure it will be debated by every member church throughout the world. Millions of Christians, of many diverse denominations, who a few years ago would never have dreamed of mentioning such a subject, will find themselves compelled to discuss it. They will also be forced to a decision: whether to reject the idea of the second advent as visionary and impossible, or to accept it as the one bright hope of a dying world.

The Salvation Army, throughout its eighty years of service, has not said much about this vital subject; but in the *War Cry* of 1st November its general, Albert Orsborn, felt moved to write upon "The Midnight Cry," in which he said: "It is my conviction that the world's clock is nearly at midnight. The night is real, the midnight dark and menacing, but the morning cometh. We believe profoundly and look with earnest expectation to the coming of the Lord, and to the reign of peace and righteousness. We must sound an alarm in God's holy mountain. Awake, Awake, the King is at hand!"

If the Salvation Army should rally around its general and follow his wise counsel in this matter, still more people will begin to look for the return of Jesus.

Thus the great expectancy grows and spreads, leaping from heart to heart, from church to church, and from nation to nation. Around the globe there is already a great multitude "looking for that blessed hope, and the

glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Just prior to the first advent of our Lord there was a similar state of suspense and eager watchfulness. As a result of the study of Old Testament prophecies the conviction had become widespread that the time for the appearance of the Messiah had arrived. So, when John the Baptist began to preach, the record says, "The people were in expectation, and all men debated in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not." Luke 3:15, margin. At the same time Simeon was "waiting for the consolation of Israel." Luke 2:25.

#### "At the Doors"

So to-day a similar situation is developing, but on a global scale. The self-same prophecies which told of Christ's first coming in suffering and humiliation reveal with equal clarity His return in glory—some of them naming the very signs that will herald His appearing. These signs are now evident in every phase of the world's life. No-one can fail to understand their meaning. Each passing year it is becoming increasingly apparent that the blessed hope of the ages is about to be fulfilled, that Jesus is near, "even at the doors."

In unnumbered hearts the yearning grows for the deliverance that He alone can bring. From unnumbered lips the prayer ascends to heaven, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." God grant we may be ready to meet Him in peace when expectation becomes reality.



#### Focus on the Mediterranean

"It is an inescapable fact," says the *Catholic Times*, "that throughout our history the Mediterranean has been of cardinal importance to the human race. Even before the Christian era it was on the shores of the Mediterranean that out of the Dark Ages emerged that Greek civilization which cradled so much of modern European culture; and it was on those shores that Christianity itself was vouchsafed to the world at large.

"It cannot be regarded as an accident that to-day the onslaught upon our Christian civilization has placed the Mediterranean among the first of its objectives."



At His ascension Jesus promised that He would surely return.

# "I Shall Return"

By C. Denys Baildam

Yes, there is! And if we would only stop to listen, we, too, would hear His message ringing through the world to-day: "I will come again." It is Jesus Christ Himself who is the Commander, and that promise He made nineteen hundred and twenty years ago.

That Jesus Himself will come again is the most hopeful and certain fact of our time. It is emphasized in the Bible; it is included in God's plan of redemption for man; a world full of iniquity demands it! With surety we can say that it is man's *only* hope. If there were to be no second coming of Jesus, God's whole plan for man's redemption would be in vain, for His second coming is to His first coming when a babe, as the time of harvest in the autumn is to the time of seed-sowing in the spring. When He came to the world over nineteen hundred and fifty years ago as a human being, Jesus sowed the seeds that would produce ultimately, the harvest of eternal life. He lived, He ministered, and He died, thus paying the price of humanity's debt to God. Surely, He is about to thrust in His sickle, gather the harvest, to "see of the travail of His soul," and to "be satisfied." Isa. 53:11.

The programme which God has made for the return of His Son, is not dependent on the promises of man, but is based upon the infallible promises of God Himself. Could there be better news than this? Listen to the words of Jesus: "Let not your heart be troubled. . . . I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again*, . . . that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3. No subject holds more prominence in Scripture than the second advent of Jesus. It is mentioned no fewer than three hundred times in the New Testament alone. It is the Christian's "blessed hope." Titus 2:13. Yet, how rarely do we hear a sermon on this vital subject to-day.

★ AMID the turmoil and unrest of our distressed world, where pain and sorrow are common to all, there goes up a plaintive cry for a better place in which to live—a cry for help such as no man can give. Mankind grasps at straws as civilization sinks lower and lower into the sea of despair and world revolution. How long must we wait for deliverance—if any deliverance is to come? Whither are we bound? What of the future?

When the allied soldiers were forced to leave the Pacific Islands in the hands of the Japanese in the early days of World War II, General MacArthur left a message of hope with the inhabitants. He promised them, "I shall return!" Many weary months passed, but at last General MacArthur fulfilled his promise and sailed back again to the islands bringing liberation and freedom.

Is there some mighty Commander, supreme in power and justice, who could take charge in this world to-day, and carry out His purpose and make the world an eternal dwelling place, free from war and want, distress, and sin?

The Gospel is incomplete without the "blessed hope." Jesus wished His people ever to keep His second advent in mind. He taught His disciples to pray, "Thy kingdom come. . . ." The apostle Paul, when speaking of the holy communion, said that by partaking of the emblems we "do show the Lord's death till He come." Listen to the two angels who spoke to the disciples as Jesus was being taken up to His Father at His ascension: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go." Acts 1:11. Friend, there can be no doubt that Jesus is coming again.

#### How Will He Come?

How will He come? Again we hear Paul: "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout." 1 Thess. 4:16-18. "Behold, He cometh with clouds." Rev. 1:7. Matthew records: "As the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:27. The Psalmist declares: "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence." Psa. 50:5. The coming of our Lord will not be enshrouded in secrecy as some declare, but will be an open revelation of the power and glory of heaven. "In like manner" as He went, literally, personally, visibly, and audibly. How many saw Him ascend? Yes, truly, His disciples. But how many will see Him come again? "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." Rev. 1:7. "Every eye"—agnostic, atheist, sceptic, sinner, and saint—all alike will see Him! Jesus will come with a host of angels. (Matt. 25:31.) It will not be a secret coming. He warned against any teaching of a secret coming: "If any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." Matt. 24:23-26. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God." 1 Thess. 4:16.

When will Jesus come? Again let the Bible answer our question: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, . . . but My Father only." Matt. 24:36. He will come as a thief in the night—that is, unexpectedly. "For in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44. (See also 1 Thessalonians

5:2; 2 Peter 3:10.) When do we expect a thief? We never do. We must, therefore, always be prepared. The Scriptures do not tell us the date of His coming, but they do tell us of the signs which will take place in the world just before this great event, and by recognizing these signs, we may know when His coming is near. (Read Matthew 24.)

#### What Will He Come For?

Why will Jesus come? He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords. (Rev. 19:16.) At His first advent, Jesus came as a lowly Babe. At His second advent, He will come as victorious King, having conquered pain and sorrow and death. (1 Cor. 15:51-55.) The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for with His coming, we have the promise of a resurrection. (1 Thess. 4:16, 17; 1 Cor. 15:26.) Without the second advent of Jesus the bands of death could not be broken, for the second advent and the resurrection are inseparably connected. What a glorious thought! And what a glorious reunion day that will be! No words of man can describe that hour, for at the sound of His voice the graves will be opened, and a multitude will come forth to be given eternal life by Him who is "the Resurrection, and the Life." What a shout of praise and thanksgiving will rend the sky. Fathers and mothers will hold to their hearts those long-lost children whom they dearly loved. Husbands and wives, companions long separated, will meet again.

Friend, this is a wonderful picture which God has given to us in His Word. Sad to say, however, the Scriptures depict those who are not ready to meet Jesus, who will flee from the presence of the glory of Christ and call upon the rocks and mountains to fall upon them to hide them from His face. (Rev. 6:14-17.) For those who do not make full preparation, it will be a day of calamity. Are you ready for that day? O friend, you want to hear His welcome voice, don't you? You want to be among those whom Jesus will come to claim as His redeemed, and to say with John the Revelator, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Rev. 22:20. Then, if you do, are you ready for the appearing of Jesus? Have you put on the robe of Christ's righteousness? Is your heart set fully on the things above? Make yourself right with God now, so that you can share eternal life then!

# FREE GIFTS

## *for Every Need*

By R. D. Vine

Small wonder that it is the primary target of Satan's subversive efforts. Our adversary can more readily tolerate any other human activity than that of uplifting the Gospel of Christ. For, as Paul stated, Satan daily seeks to blind men's eyes, "lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, . . . should shine unto them." 2 Cor. 4:4. This is the supreme object of all his nefarious activities. Every conceivable means is resorted to so that the church's efforts be frustrated. It is clear, therefore, that the church has need of more than human power if its work of heralding the Gospel is to be completed. The Lord was aware of this, and so He promised His followers the enabling power of His Holy Spirit. Just before His ascension, His final assurance to that meagre handful of disheartened and feeble followers was: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Acts 1:8.

### Christ's Promise Fulfilled

It is this spiritual power from God that will make the church "mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." 2 Cor. 10:4. It is the same power that will successfully resist and overcome the church's spiritual foes. Says Isaiah: "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Isa. 59:19. It is possession of this Spirit which alone truly qualifies a man as a son of God: "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God," says Paul (Rom. 8:14); and he adds the solemn



God is just as willing to-day as He was at Pentecost to bestow the gift of His Spirit.

★ GOD's church has the greatest and noblest task on earth to perform. It is commissioned to take to all men everywhere the good news of eternal salvation. Its work is to release men from the shackles of sin, to dispel the darkness of error, to bring the reassuring message of a Saviour's love, and to tell of His plan to come again to this world as "King of kings, and Lord of lords."

Unlike the normal, secular pursuits of life, the work of the church is not merely for time, but for eternity. It is appointed to show the way, not only to successful life here, but to abundant life hereafter. The church ministers that men may live eternally. Its task is, therefore, one which completely dwarfs all others in importance.

thought that "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Rom. 8:9.

This priceless gift was bestowed after our Lord's ascension, at which time "He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." Eph. 4:8. The fulfilment of His promise of power is here spoken of as "gifts," because it took various forms. "He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers." "To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues." 1 Cor. 12:8-10; Eph. 4:11. The great purpose of this diversity of gifts is for "the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Eph. 4:12.

#### Diversity Yet Unity

"The body of Christ" is the church. (Rom. 12:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:27.) And as the body is made up of many organs, each differing in nature, size, and function, yet each contributing to the harmonious working of the whole body, so it is with the church. Its members have natures, abilities, and spiritual gifts which differ considerably; but God designs that all shall work harmoniously as a unit for one transcendent purpose.

While all are essential, they vary in importance. First among the special gifts of the Spirit is that of apostleship. (1 Cor. 12:28.) An apostle is one who is "sent forth, a messenger, an ambassador." (See Mark 3:13, R.V., margin.) This supreme gift has ever been conferred by God without regard to social standing or education. Humble, illiterate men like the Galilean fishermen (Acts 4:13) were chosen equally with the cultured Saul of Tarsus. Upon the apostles, or Gospel ministers, was the main task of preaching the good news of salvation, and of evangelizing the world. The apostles were the "front line" soldiers of Christ. They were especially endowed to break into the enemy's territory, dispelling heathen darkness, and extending Christ's kingdom throughout the world.

#### The Gift to Be Preferred

In times of special need, the gift of prophecy

has been pre-eminent among the manifestations of spiritual power. This is the second in Paul's list, yet hardly second in importance. Indeed, he urges us to "follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophecy." 1 Cor. 14:1. This gift is generally—and rightly—thought of as a means of foretelling the future; but its primary purpose was to reveal God's will to men. The gift "enabled its possessors to utter, with the authority of inspiration, divine strains of warning, exhortation, encouragement, or rebuke; and to teach and enforce the truths of Christianity with supernatural energy and effect."—Conybeare and Howson in *Life and Epistles of St. Paul*, page 337.

The gifts of the Spirit, as we have seen, vary in value; therefore we are admonished to "covet earnestly the best gifts," such as this gift of prophecy. (1 Cor. 12:31.) In times of spiritual dearth, when ministers have themselves perverted and neglected God's message to man, prophets have been raised up as God's special mouthpieces.

Thus has it also been before any great crisis. Before the Flood, God raised up Noah to warn that dissolute generation. (2 Peter 2:5.) Doubtless they had their own spiritual leaders and advisers who denounced Noah's fearful message as a profane travesty of the truth. His message, they claimed, was an unholy reflection on a loving God who wouldn't dream of destroying any of His creatures.

Later in history, when the time came for Israel to be freed from the shackles of Egyptian bondage, God endowed Moses with the prophetic gift. (Deut. 18:15.) Time marched on, and as the Assyrian crisis faced God's people, He raised up such prophets as Joel, Isaiah, Micah, and Nahum. When Assyria waned, and the Babylonians threatened, God gave the prophetic gift to such men as Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Jeremiah.

When Jerusalem fell, the temple laid waste, the country despoiled, and the people swept into captivity, prophetic power was given to such as Daniel and Ezekiel. By their Spirit-filled ministry the people were saved from apostasy.

To prepare the way for Christ's first advent John the Baptist was endowed with prophetic power.

(Continued on page 10.)

★ FOR reasons of His own, God permitted evil to develop and demonstrate itself as contrasted with righteousness. Men were to see a demonstration of things they would not otherwise believe. Perhaps only in this way could mortal beings lose for ever the desire to experiment with wickedness and rebellion against God. This involves, sooner or later, a divine intervention at a specific point of time in human history, such as is provided in the biblical day

infinitely more. He expounded doctrine and uttered many prophecies concerning the end of this world. In theological terms, Christ's eschatology, or teaching about the last things, was specific that the judgment of God was to be an intervention and a termination in history. "For the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have

# THE DAY OF RECKONING

*How God will Vindicate Himself before the Universe*

By Harry W. Lowe

of judgment. Freedom to choose right or wrong involves either a final day of reckoning, or eventual universal catastrophe. It resolves itself, in other words, into the justification and triumph of God or of the devil.

The apostle Paul declared, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." 2 Cor. 5:10. If you had the time and inclination to read through the Bible with this thought in mind, you would find more than one thousand references to the judgment. This teaching came near to disappearing from our modern pulpits, but men of the world are bringing it back into our thinking. This is an age of bomb and blitz, and impending destruction; and it is therefore not difficult to understand the last day of Scripture. To-day we differ somewhat over the nature of the events which may end human existence, but not over their inevitability. When God vindicates righteousness before the world, there must of necessity emerge a righteous world.

"Final judgment there must be; but there must be something beyond it, viz., the fulfilment of God's purpose in a universe which in every corner mirrors and expresses the praise of His goodness," says Dr. Oliver Quick, in *Doctrine of the Creed*, widely used in Episcopalian circles.

## Jesus and the Judgment

It is popular to present Jesus as the Teacher of morality and the Exemplar of kindness, peace, and brotherly love. He was all that and

done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29.

Not once only did He utter such predictions. On another occasion He said, "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works." Matt. 16:27.

The unpopularity of these things is due to an objection to the idea of retribution. Men do not wish to meet their past actions or to hear their bygone words. They have too many skeletons in what they hope are fast-locked cupboards.

Sceptics used to smile when Christians of an earlier generation quoted Christ's words, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matt. 12:36. In this radio-conscious age, however, we do not raise an eyelid in surprise when science tells us that the human voice, which so easily and quickly girdles the globe, rolls on and out through space for hundreds of years. We can still hear the voice of Caruso and Melba and Clara Butt, long years after their decease. We should no longer smile at the thought of recording angels and of words sent on to judgment, nor of Heaven's ability to reward every man according to his works.

There is a saying attributed to Anne of Austria which illustrates the certainty of judgment: "God is a sure paymaster. He may not pay at the end of every week, or month, or





By T. K. Martin

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Before the bar of God all will receive the reward of righteousness or the sentence of eternal doom.

year; but, remember, He pays in the end."

#### The Apostles and the Day of Reckoning

Paul preached unequivocally that "every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Rom. 14:12. Why should modern man believe, on the one hand, that Truman, Stalin, and Churchill can be recorded for hearing a hundred years hence, and, on the other, that God cannot reproduce the words of Pharaoh, Herod, Pontius Pilate, and all the other little mortals who have flitted through the earthly scene? Why should we believe, on the one hand, that photographs of Hitler, Mussolini, and Pétain are authentic scientific pictures of the dead, and on the other, that the Creator cannot produce these men in person, with all others who have passed this way, and by means of a resurrection of the dead gather all men in judgment before His throne?

This latter gathering before the throne of God is precisely what John presents to us: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand

before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Rev. 20:12.

That is the reckoning day which man can neither delay nor escape. To the wicked, that is the "Dies Irae, Dies Illa" which inspired the great medieval hymn:

That day of wrath, that dreadful day,  
When heaven and earth shall pass away,  
What power shall be the sinner's stay?  
How shall he meet that dreadful day?

#### A Day of Deliverance

We must not, however, allow our minds to think that the day of reckoning is a day of unrelieved gloom. None but the deliberately sinful need fear that day. To men and women whose sins are forgiven, that day will bring to fruition all their deepest longings and aspirations for a higher and better life. "He that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:8.

Heaven has means of recording every kindly deed, every act of mercy, every noble word, every sincere effort to uphold goodness and truth. All of this, as well as the revelation of evil, will come to light before heaven and earth in the great day when God will "declare . . . His righteousness: that He might be just, and the Justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 5:26.

In the famous passage where Paul says, "We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ," he quotes this prophecy: "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God." Rom. 14:11.

In a parallel passage Paul speaks of Christ's willingness to die for the sins of men, as a consequence of which "God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow; . . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:9-11. That will be universal vindication for the righteousness of God.

In the great reckoning day, lost sinners will confess—too late—that God has been righteous. Good men will confess now and rest in the justice and mercy of a loving God.

The philosopher Socrates was ordered by the Athenian senate to join a band sent to arrest and destroy one Leon, a respected citizen of wealth and rank, in order that the thirty governing tyrants might enjoy his estate. "I will never assist in an unjust act!" Socrates answered. Chericles tartly asked if he thought he could talk thus and not suffer for it. "I expect to suffer a thousand ills, but none so great as to do unjustly!" was the memorable answer of Socrates.

Long before this, Abraham uttered the reassuring question, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Gen. 18:25.



## Free Gifts for Every Need

*(Continued from page 7.)*

When the primitive church was being established and consolidated—a gruelling period for those early Christians—the gift of prophecy was given in a remarkable measure to such as Peter, Paul, and John.

## The Most Outstanding Gift

So vital a purpose has this gift of prophecy served, especially in times of stress, apostasy, or before great crises, that of all the spiritual gifts it is undoubtedly the most outstanding. The reason is clear that in such times, the greatest need of the church is not power to heal, or greater organizational ability, or power to work miracles, or even greater evangelistic zeal: but prophetic power that will confirm them in the faith and give them a clear and vital vision of God's will and purpose.

Thus it was to be also in the last days of this earth's history. As that transcending crisis of the ages drew near—the "great and very terrible" day of the Lord (Joel 2:11), God's remnant church was to be outstanding for its possession of the gift of prophecy. (Rev. 12:17; cf. 19:10.) Satan's death-struggle activities (Rev. 12:12) which increase in vehemence against God's faithful torchbearers as time draws to its close, create a need for prophetic power. Malachi foresaw God's benevolent bestowal of this gift on His remnant church, and described it under the symbol of the prophet Elijah. "Behold," he said, "I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." Mal. 4:5. We may expect the unchangeable God to work uniquely through some special individual as He always has done in the past; but there is also to be a general bestowal of prophetic power before Christ comes. (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:16-18.) This gift of prophecy will give the church a true understanding of the Bible. It will deepen convictions, clarify spiritual vision, and stimulate within each member of God's final church an impelling zeal to proclaim His message of love before the storm of doomsday actually breaks.

## The Gift of "Tongues"

Another gift of the Spirit is that of "diversities of tongues." 1 Cor. 12:28. This gift has two aspects. The most obvious—and most practical—effect of this gift was demonstrated on the day of Pentecost when the unlearned apostles were empowered by the Spirit to speak foreign tongues. They "began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Whereupon their hearers "were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, *(Continued on page 12.)*

# The Sabbath

has a

## Blessing for You!

By Peter L. Parker

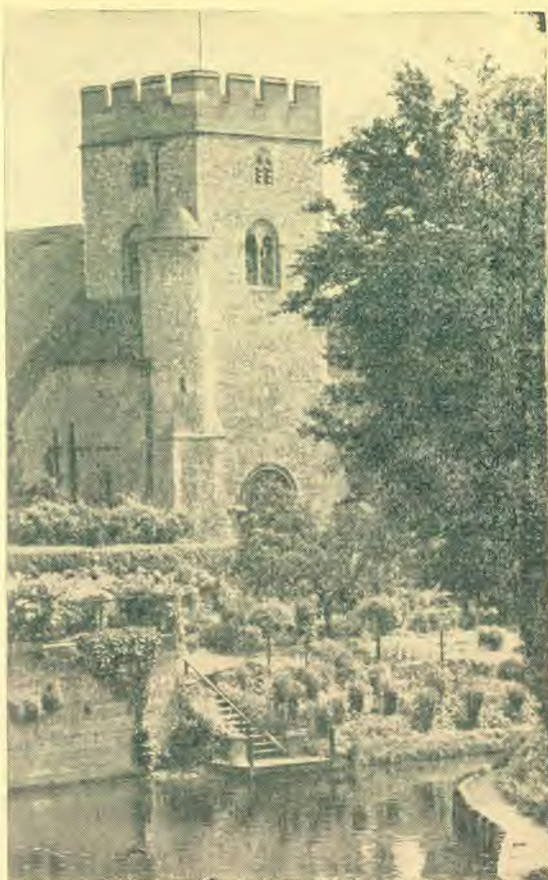
★ WE are sure that somewhere in history someone began keeping the seventh day as a special day of rest, as a holy day, for in almost every country in the world a seventh day is set aside for this purpose.

Looking through the annals of Bible history we find that Sabbath-keeping dates right back to the beginning of time for man. It was the day following the six days of the creation of the world and its inhabitants. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 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." Gen. 2:1-3.

Centuries later, at Sinai, the reminder was given: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." Exod. 20:8. It was the purpose of God that this day should not be forgotten, but should be kept continually. The command was, therefore, spoken by Him, and written with His finger in the very heart of His ten commandment law. It was made part of the great moral law so that just as it is a sin to steal, or kill, or commit adultery, so it is a sin to break the Sabbath day and to do unnecessary work on the day which God has blessed and made holy.

### Should It Be in the Moral Law?

We may perhaps ask ourselves, Why is it that God included an observance like the Sabbath among other clearly moral precepts for man? Why should doing ordinary work on a certain day of the week be sin, and yet not sin on another day?



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"Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together,"  
urges the Word of God.

The answer is to be found in our Lord's words: "The Sabbath was made for man." Mark 2:27. Its observance was not imposed upon man as some arbitrary rule to make man cower under the authority of an exacting Creator. God is a God of love, and He ordained the Sabbath for man's good. If he neglects it, therefore, it will be to his hurt.

The first Sabbath was given to Adam and Eve as a sign of God's creative power, and this still holds good to-day. We are reminded on the Sabbath day to "worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Rev. 14:7.

Since the fall of man, it has become a double reminder—not only that God can create new worlds, but also that He can create new hearts. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me," is the penitent sinner's plea. (Psa. 51:10.) "A new heart

also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them" (Ezek. 36:26, 27) is God's promise to those who will have faith and believe. The Sabbath day is a sign to man that God has the power to accomplish this change of heart.

#### For "All People"

We have heard it said that the Sabbath is no longer necessary to-day, that it was given to a certain people for a certain age. As the Sabbath day was given at the very beginning of time on this world in the days of man's innocence, and has been kept by faithful people ever since, with all its attendant blessings, we can hardly believe that only a certain people may profit by it.

For what purpose, we may ask, could the Sabbath day have been given only to certain people? To keep them reminded of God? To draw them to His law? To remind them of His power? To curb any tides of licentiousness? To satisfy the religious longings in man for a closer association with his God? To give to them refreshing diversion from secular duties? These, and other reasons too, show us why the Sabbath should be kept to-day by all peoples.

The promises in the Bible are ready to be grasped by whosoever will. "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, honourable; and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isa. 58:13, 14.

"Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants, every one that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of My covenant; even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be

accepted upon Mine altar; for Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." Isa. 56:6, 7.

#### It Must Be His Day

God is calling people to-day to keep His Sabbath day holy, and if we would really partake of the blessings promised, then we should keep the day which God has especially sanctified and blessed. "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exod. 20:11.

God did not hallow the first day, or the sixth day, or one of the others as well. The six are just ordinary days in which, according to the commandment, we ought to work. The seventh day is the one which we are asked and commanded to keep. This day is Saturday in our English calendar. Sunday is not the seventh day and was never blessed and sanctified anywhere in the whole scriptural record.

Civil decrees may have commanded that men should observe Sunday. One given by Constantine in A.D. 321 ordained that men should "rest on the venerable day of the sun." Ecclesiastical powers even have, contrary to God's Word, demanded the observance of this day, such as the Council of Laodicea in A.D. 363. But the Sabbath day still remains the seventh day, and a blessing rests on all who will keep it. Will you not begin to keep God's Sabbath day? Will you not accept the wonderful blessing He has promised? I know I need that blessing, and it is to me a joy and a privilege to observe the true Sabbath.



#### Free Gifts for Every Need

(Continued from page 10.)

Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" Acts 2:4, 7, 8. In a sense this gift was more essential than that it is to-day. Without it, those uneducated apostles could never have conveyed the Gospel message to those who spoke other languages; but God's workers to-day generally have opportunity to learn the language of the people for whom they are called to work. The pentecostal aspect of the gift of tongues was

very definitely evangelical. It was essential, for the Gospel could not otherwise have been proclaimed.

#### Another Aspect

There is, however, another aspect of this gift. Says Paul: "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him. . . . He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church." 1 Cor. 14:2, 4. It will be remembered that Paul speaks not only of the "tongues of men" but also "of angels" in that wonderful chapter which shows that Christian love and charity is to be preferred above all. (1 Cor. 13:1.) At Pentecost it was "the tongues of men;" but in times of special personal inspiration, certain of God's followers have expressed their ecstatic joy by means of the tongue "of angels." This required the subsidiary gifts of interpretation and discerning of spirits, for of all spiritual gifts, this of ecstatic tongues was most subject to abuse. So much so, in fact, that Paul penned a lengthy rebuke to the Corinthian Christians whose ecstatic babblings had brought discredit and ridicule upon their assembly. He reminded them that "tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not." 1 Cor. 14:22. The true gift will therefore not stun and outrage the honest non-believers' feelings with the unintelligible babble which one so often meets to-day. It will rather be so dignified and beautiful in its operation as to subdue and tender the feelings of those who hear.

Space forbids more than a brief mention of some of the other gifts of the Spirit which Paul enumerates. Closely allied to that of apostleship and prophecy is that of teaching. Natural aptitudes in this respect, as also in the case of the gift of "governments" or church administration, are utilized by God and invigorated by His Spirit. Upon such will, in a special sense, be conferred "the word of wisdom" and "of knowledge," so that they may

successfully perform their tasks. (1 Cor. 12:8.)

Paul speaks of the Spirit's gifts as "differing according to the grace that is given to us." Rom. 12:6. As God sees fit, so are His gifts variously bestowed.

#### Every Gift Counterfeited

Now the devil's most effective means of deceiving well-meaning folk is by counterfeiting God's gifts. Thus for the gift of faith, he substitutes presumption; for apostleship, he substitutes a zeal without knowledge; for prophecy, he substitutes false prophets who "use their tongues, and say, He saith" (Jer. 23:31); for divine healing, he substitutes so-called "faith" healing which results from his willingly withdrawing his afflicting hand when it serves his purpose to do so; for the gift of tongues, he substitutes gibberish. The devil is even capable of counterfeiting miracles—as in the case of Pharaoh's magicians. (Exod. 7:9-12.) In the last days John visualized "the spirits of devils, working miracles." Rev. 16:14.

What great test can we apply to distinguish the false from the true? Isaiah answers: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8:20. A man may preach with fervour, he may claim the prophetic gift, he may speak in "tongues," he may heal, but if his life is not in full harmony with God's law—the Ten Commandments—or with "the testimony"—the Bible—then we can be sure that his power is not from God.

Furthermore Paul shows that one great mark of true Spirit possession is a willingness to give Jesus Christ His rightful place. (1 Cor. 12:5.) Any pretenders to inspiration who speak slightly of Jesus, or whose lives are not in harmony with His holy law, are none of His. "Ye are My friends," Jesus said, "if ye do whatsoever I command you." John 15:14. (See Luke 6:46; John 14:10.)

Above everything else, however, the true gift of the Spirit will engender a spirit of Christian love among God's followers.

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# THE CHILDREN'S



# Pages

## How Monkeys Are Caught

By Paul Freiwirth

HAVE you ever wondered how monkeys are caught and brought to a zoo? Perhaps you have thought that it must be quite difficult to catch them, especially the smaller ones who are so quick to jump from one tree to another. However, catching monkeys can really be much easier than you would imagine. I do not know how all the monkeys we see in the zoos are trapped, but I would like to tell you how one of the big zoos in Europe got its little monkeys many years ago.

First of all, a group of men were sent to a jungle where many monkeys lived. As soon as the men arrived, they began

to look for a small open space where the trees were not too close together. Here they did some strange things. They placed several basins of water on the ground and began to wash their faces. Then they put on large, heavy boots and walked away. While the men were doing this, many curious monkeys were watching them from the trees, but the men acted as though they did not know any monkeys were there.

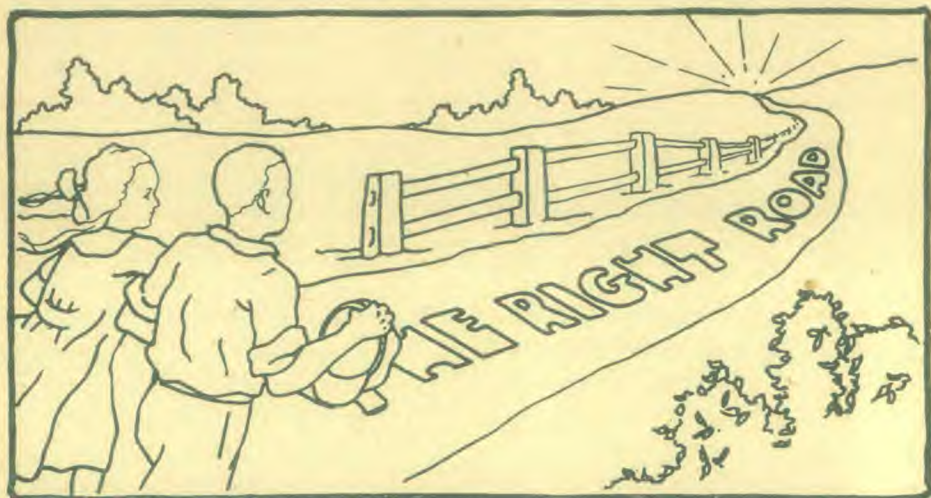
After these men had gone away, all the little monkeys from the trees round about hurriedly came down. Since monkeys love to copy what others do, they thought they would try to do exactly what

the men had done! The animal catchers had purposely left plenty of washbasins behind, and also plenty of boots, so most of the monkeys could imitate what the men had done before them. And, sure enough, the monkeys eagerly started to wash their dirty little faces. Then they tried on the big boots, too.

All went well, and the monkeys made a terrific noise because they were having a good time, but suddenly their joyful laughter stopped. You see, the monkey catchers had fastened the boots to the ground, and had also put glue inside them, so the monkeys could not get their feet out of the boots, nor could they get away. When they finally realized that they were caught they became sad and began to cry bitterly.

Can you guess what happened next? That's right, as soon as the monkey catchers, who had been hiding nearby, heard the wailing of the monkeys, they immediately came back and took all the little monkeys away. Now the little monkeys would spend the rest of their lives in cages at the zoo, to be stared at and watched by curious boys and girls.

I'm sure you are thinking



See how nicely you can paint this picture and send it with your name, age, and address to Auntie Margaret, The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts., not later than November 27th.

that the monkeys were very foolish to copy all that the men had done, and so get caught; but do you know that many boys and girls have been caught by Satan in quite the same way? There is nothing that Satan loves better than to have boys and girls watch other people do the things which Jesus would not have them do. Then, those same boys and girls begin to want to do those things themselves, because they, like the monkeys in the jungle, think that they can "get away with it."

But the sad thing is, sooner or later they discover that they cannot get away with it! I know of some boys and girls who have copied others in going to the cinema, in reading comic books, in using bad language, or in listening to bad radio and television programmes. They have thought it would be a big thrill and lots of fun to do what others were doing. But do you think it brought happiness and joy to them? Indeed not! Sometimes perhaps it took a while before they began to be sorry for what they had done, but in nearly every case they ended up caught in Satan's traps.

Has it ever happened that anyone told you, "Don't let them make a monkey out of you"? Nobody likes to be called a monkey, does he? Satan spends much of his time trying to do just that with every one of us! He wants us to do everything the Bible tells us not to do. He does not use washbasins and boots and glue the way the monkey catchers did, but he does use many things that make us think and do bad things. Through them, Satan presents a beautiful picture of what is supposed to happen when one disobeys God. The sad part of it is that the picture is not true!

# THE Sunbeams' CORNER



## Your Letter

My Dear Sunbeams,

WHAT a pity that summer has gone, with all its holiday thrills and happy memories. We are now heading for winter, and as the days go by we see less and less of the sun, and the nights get longer and longer. Even when the sun is at its brightest, it seems to have lost most of the warmth and

good and true, will have Jesus shining through them all the time. We shine by being cheerful and helpful, kind and forgiving. To help us to shine we have our Sunbeam rules—simple rules, but so very, very important. Never forget them will you?

Yours affectionately,

AUNTIE MARGARET.

---

## All Can Serve the Master

Children's hands and children's feet,

Children's little voices sweet,  
Children's eyes and children's ears—

All can serve the Master.

Hands can labour every day,

Feet run swiftly to obey,  
Voices softly speak and sing—  
All can serve the Master.

Eyes can see the things to do,

Ears can listen, helping, too,  
Hearts can love and whisper low—

All can serve the Master.

—Selected.

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brilliance that we enjoyed so much when we were on holiday.

I'm glad that our Sunbeams are not like the sun. Their brightness grows—or should grow—with each passing day. Whatever the weather, or whatever the time of the year, it will be found that our loyal Sunbeams are shining with beautiful brilliance. Their lives, as Solomon said, are "as a shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." This text is in Proverbs 4:18.

We shine, of course, by letting Jesus come into our hearts. The Bible describes Jesus as the "Sun of righteousness." All who are

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## Results of Competition No. 18

*Prize-winners.*—Marion Paget, "Sunny Bank," Barkham Ride, Wick Hill, Wokingham. Age 7; Sandra Tucker, 82 Lavender Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey. Age 7.

*Honourable Mention.*—Greta Fellows (Watford); Margaret Peart (Bishops Cleeve); Jean Simmons (Torquay); Sandra Hillier (Swindon); Hazel Harris (Cambridge); Antony Peart (Bishops Cleeve); Joan Evans (Ashton-under-Lyne); Malcolm Canham (Chelmsford); Josephine Dunstan (St. Mabyn); Brenda Plant (Stoke-on-Trent); Helen Newport (Barkham); Vera Clements (Swindon); Vanessa Jezzard (Dover); Greta Crocker (Binfield).

*Those who tried hard.*—Stuart Payne (Bishops Cleeve); Gillian Plant (Stoke-on-Trent); Ethel M'Coll (Dumbartonshire); Amy Randlesome (Stockton); Heather Payne (Bishops Cleeve); Ruth Price (Wokingham); Miriam Harris (Cambridge); M. Ford (Norwich); Esther Dunstan (St. Mabyn); John Roberts (Bishops Cleeve); Richard Payne (Bishops Cleeve); Jillian Hopkins (Coventry); Trevor Goddard (Iver); Marion Kinloch (New Machar); Judy Dunn (Swindon); David Simmons (Torquay); Nigel Payne (Bishops Cleeve); Anthony Emm (High Wycombe); John Plant (Stoke-on-Trent); John Cooper (Thorpe Bay); Jean Myers (Newcastle); Hazel Harrap (Winchester).

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## The Bible and OUR TIMES

(Formerly "Present Truth")

Vol. 68. No. 23. Price 3d.

Printed and published in Great Britain fortnightly on Thursday by

THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LTD.,  
WATFORD, HERTS.

EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON

Twelve months ..... 9/9 post free

Six months ..... 5/- post free

# Straws in the Wind

## Target-Seeking Torpedo

THE latest U.S. torpedoes, according to Ansel E. Talbert in the *New York Herald Tribune*, are "capable of finding and destroying an enemy under-sea craft far below the ocean's surface."

## Truth—New Style

SOVIET Russia, said the Archbishop of Canterbury, in an address in Chesterfield, claims "to have made a new society, with a new science, new laws of thought, and a new standard of what truth is—a queer standard it is. That is what change can do if it comes too rapidly."

## Needs Four Millions

MR. MOSHE SHARETT, Israeli Foreign Minister, asserted in an address in New York that the new state of Israel needed a population of four millions to maintain its position in a hostile Arab world. He also pleaded for more emigrants from Europe and America.

## Twice the Speed of Sound

A PILOTED American jet-rocket test plane has flown at more than 1,500 miles an hour or twice the speed of sound and has reached a record

height of 79,494 feet after being launched at 30,000 feet from a B.29 "mothership."

## Minerals in Israeli State

COPPER mining is to begin again in the Neger region, from

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## UNITY

O Triune God, Thou who art three,  
But one in love and life,  
Bring us into such unity  
Amid surrounding strife.

Strong be the throb of concord,  
Lord,  
That through Thy church shall  
flow:  
The steady pulse of harmony  
A life diviner show.

So may the world now see in us  
Thy Spirit working still;  
Know that the Father keeps our  
hearts,  
That Christ our minds doth fill.  
Gwen Yeates.

---

which Solomon obtained the metal for the building of the Temple. It is estimated that 5,000 tons will be mined annually, as well as 20,000 tons of manganese ore.

## Australian Uranium

AUSTRALIA'S vast northern territory until now only a region of precarious cattle ranches, has acquired a new importance by reason of the discovery there of large reserves of uranium. There is sufficient "for thousands of years' use of atomic power" according to a report in the Australian parliament.

## "Peking Man" Still Missing

NOTHING has been heard for the past ten years of the bones of the so-called "Peking man" credited by evolutionists with being half a million years old. They were placed for safety in the American legation in Peking in 1941 and the Communists accuse the Americans of "stealing" them. The Society of American Archæology, however, believe they are somewhere in the Orient.

## March of the Press

IN the seventeenth century, according to Harold Herd in *The March of Journalism* there were no more than a score of weekly "newsbooks." Now there are over 5,000 newspapers and periodicals in this country.

