

The Bible and

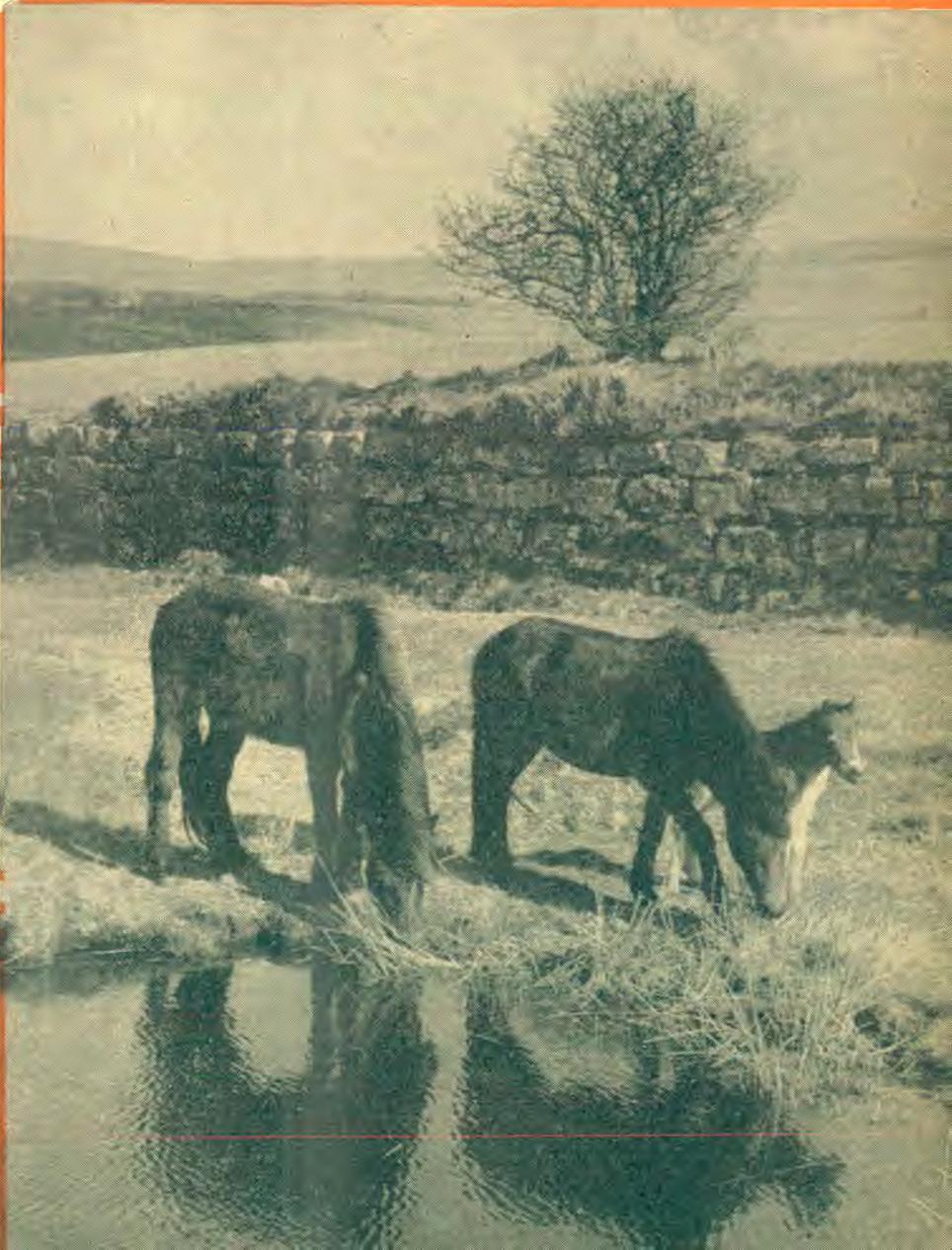


OUR TIMES



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While Yale scientists are working on the perpetuation of life, the beginnings of life are being investigated in Chicago University.

LIVING FOR EVER

By A. S. Maxwell

★ SCIENTISTS have now come up with a new and dramatic theory. They claim to have solved the problem of death and resurrection. They are ready—almost ready, that is—to promise eternal life to anybody who will use the right chemicals.

"Subject to a few qualifications," writes William L. Laurence in *Look* magazine, "scientific means are now available to assure all persons now living, for all time to come and for as long as life remains on earth, a continuity of existence of their physical bodies in a never-ending, constantly renewing, self-perpetuating act of being reborn—in *this world, not in the next.*"

"This is not a vague science-fiction forecast," Mr. Laurence boldly adds. "The time when this can become a reality is not a thousand years from now, or a hundred years from to-day, or even just

a promise for the world of to-morrow. The time has already come. It is here and now. Everyone now living can benefit. . . . Theoretically speaking, death, from now on, may be banished from the earth."

This is indeed a startling claim, and, coming from so reliable a source as the famous science reporter of the *New York Times*, it demands attention. For if science has banished death, if, at long last, it has discovered the secret of perpetual life, if it can now simulate resurrection, then the churches might just as well fold up here and now. For, though some may have forgotten the fact, they all are based on the hope of resurrection. All trace their history back to the belief of the pioneers of Christianity in the resurrection of Christ and the resultant belief in the resurrection of all His

followers at His second coming. As the apostle Paul wrote: "If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." 1 Cor. 15:13, 14.

This claim of the scientists, therefore, is extremely vital. But on what is it based?

Supposed "Seed of Perpetual Life"

Mr. Laurence informs us that the discoveries have grown out of research being carried on by Professor Toss G. Harrison of Yale University, Professor Han Spemann of the University of Freiburg, Germany, and Professor Oscar E. Schotté of Amherst College, Massachusetts. These men have concentrated their studies on the strange power which seems to be inherent in all living creatures to replace worn or wounded tissues. They are convinced that if only they can find out exactly how this happens, and the chemical combinations involved, they will have discovered the secret of perpetual life.

"Studying lowly salamanders and tadpoles, which somehow possess the power of regenerating lost limbs," says William Laurence, "Schotté came upon startling evidence that these creatures have not only the power to regenerate a lost limb but also retain the remarkable and unheard-of ability to duplicate their entire organism a limitless number of times, provided the proper conditions are met.

"Further studies along this new frontier of life led Schotté to a far-reaching conclusion: This ability of the individual experimental animal to create an exact duplicate of himself to an extent unlimited in time resides not only in such lowly creatures as salamanders and tadpoles, but is a universal law present wherever life manifests itself—from the lowest to the highest—up to and including man."

This strange life-force is called by these scientists—for want of a better name—"the sculptor," and, "given the proper stuff of life and favourable working conditions, this master, a veritable Michelangelo working with living matter instead of with marble, could fashion new bodies out of old and regenerate the individual over and over again."

Mr. Laurence goes on to claim that "this newly discovered seed of perpetual life," this "fountain of youth sought through the ages," has actually been identified. And what is it? Nothing else than "the regenerative scar tissue that keeps the body in constant repair throughout life" and rebuilds almost every cell and organ every seven years.

This "discovery" has suggested to Mr. Laurence's keen, imaginative mind some highly interesting possibilities. "To duplicate the individual in his original image," he suggests, "all one would need would be just one cell of scar tissue, a microscopic bit taken from a slight wound that had just begun to heal." This would be placed under "proper conditions" and fed by the right chemicals, and hey presto, a new man would emerge exactly like the one from whom the piece of scar tissue was taken.

Mr. Laurence envisions the day when a piece of scar tissue taken from Winston Churchill will produce another Mr. Churchill, or when Albert Einstein's cut finger will result in another Albert Einstein. It is all very fascinating and, if we may say so, all very ridiculous. It is indeed amazing to what extremes the scientific imagination will go.

A "Few" Difficulties Admitted!

To be fair to Mr. Laurence we should state that he does admit that there are still a few slight difficulties in the way before this dream can come true. "We do not know," he says, "and we are still very far from knowing," what are the "proper conditions" under which the scar tissue will function as outlined. Another difficulty is involved in identifying and isolating the chemicals which scar tissue needs for its miraculous operations. But Mr. Laurence sweeps them all away as though they did not exist. Scientists are "certain to learn the secret," he says; "the only question merely being, 'how soon.'"

But these two "difficulties," or "roadblocks" as this writer calls them, are, it would seem to us, fundamental. They form the core or heart of the mystery of life which has baffled man since time began. And the question arises, If scientists are indeed knocking on the gate of the final secret, *will God open it?* Will He permit man to find a way to perpetuate himself with all his sinful propensities? Could He afford to do this, with the best interests of His universe in mind? Could He do it in the light of Calvary and the divine plan of redemption as revealed in the Bible?

Still Only One Hope

It takes but a moment's thought to perceive that these new explorations and anticipations of certain scientists are in flat contradiction to the basic teachings of the Christian faith. According to the Bible, man is mortal, subject to death, and his stay on this planet is limited by death. His only hope

(Continued on page 5.)

Why I Believe the Bible



By E. A. Butters



★ As Christian men and women we ought to be able to give a reason for the hope that is within us. Not what someone else believes, but what we personally believe. The first thing, then, that ought to be decided is, "Why I believe the Bible."

Let us list two reasons that we put in simple words so that even a child can understand what we mean.

1. The history of the Book.
2. The power of the Book.

Guardians of the Sacred "Oracles"

If you read the first two verses of Romans chapter three, you will discover that Paul says that the main advantage the Jews had over the other nations was "that unto them were committed the Oracles of God." Even a general look through the Old Testament will make one realize that they were a people of little account in the contemporary world. In Egypt they were a tribe of slaves, and after being brought out by Moses they were nomads of the wilderness until Joshua settled them in Canaan.

The record of their occupancy of Canaan is one of constant struggle for survival and eventually Israel was carried away to Assyria and Judah to Babylon. The temple, the centre of the worship of Jehovah, and the city of Jerusalem, were both burned with fire and levelled to the ground.

Humanly speaking, that should not only be the end of the nation, but of the sacred writings that were given them. But not only were they preserved during the captivity, but this period produced the greatest prophets, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.



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A master-craftsman preparing the special Bible presented to the Queen at her Coronation.

Most nations had their own gods and remained faithful to them, but the Jews went after every god they came into contact with. That was one of the causes of their troubles: "They chose new gods; then was war in their gates." Judges 5:8. The only time when there was anything like respect for the Holy Writings and for Jehovah Himself was during the golden age of David and Solomon. Ahab's wicked queen Jezebel sought to destroy the worship of Jehovah altogether by active persecution and later its value had so far fallen that the priest expressed great surprise when the book of the law was found in the temple, and it was found in a rubbish dump. (2 Chron. 34:15.)

Despite all this the Word was preserved and by about the year 300 B.C. the whole was brought together and translated from the Hebrew into the Greek, giving it a world-wide circulation in the common language of the world.

To-day it is printed in over 1,000 of this world's tongues and the British and Foreign Bible Society sends out millions of copies a year.

The history of the Book is an evidence of its divine origin and preservation.

The Power of the Book

Shakespeare wrote wonderful poetry, and so did John Milton, but a reading of their poems would never change a life. The reading of the Bible does.

Before John Wesley started his great life-work this country was a sink of iniquity; even the church had lost its power. The Wesleys came preaching the Bible Gospel and historians are agreed that the country's response to it saved England from as terrible a revolution as France witnessed during the Revolution. The work of William Wilberforce for the slaves, of Elizabeth Fry for prisoners, and George Muller for the orphans all sprang out of a faith in the Word of God.

There is an island in the South Seas called Massau. It has 2,000 inhabitants and some years ago the District Commissioner stated that they were so wicked in their ways that in a short time they would be extinct. To this island came five natives from other islands not long out of heathenism themselves, armed not with firearms but with the Bible. They preached that Word in all its simplicity and beauty. The inhabitants listened to and accepted its message. In six months they were all Christians. The Commissioner visited that island later and reported that the Mission had changed that place from an abode of devils to a paradise of God. I would want no surer proof that the Bible is the Word of the living God than that.

What then is the power behind the Book? It is made of ordinary paper and with the same kind of ink as any other book. It often has black covers and a special binding; but even if it had a paper back like a sixpenny novel the power would be there. What is that power? The little boy knew when he called it his "Jesus Book." That's the secret. The story of Jesus' love and His saving power runs through all the books of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation like a red cord. Delete Him from it and it is just an ordinary book. He is the promised Seed in Genesis, the object of the sanctuary service in Exodus, He appears to Joshua as the Captain of the Lord's host. Then He came in person, "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:14. He lived a spotless life, worked miracles, died on the cross, rose from the dead, and now sits at the right hand of God waiting to come again and finish the work He began. How can we get to know all this and the saving power of the Gospel save by the Book of God, the Holy Bible?

Divine Instructor, gracious Lord,
Be Thou for ever near;
Teach me to love Thy sacred Word,
And view my Saviour here.

Living For Ever

(Continued from page 3.)

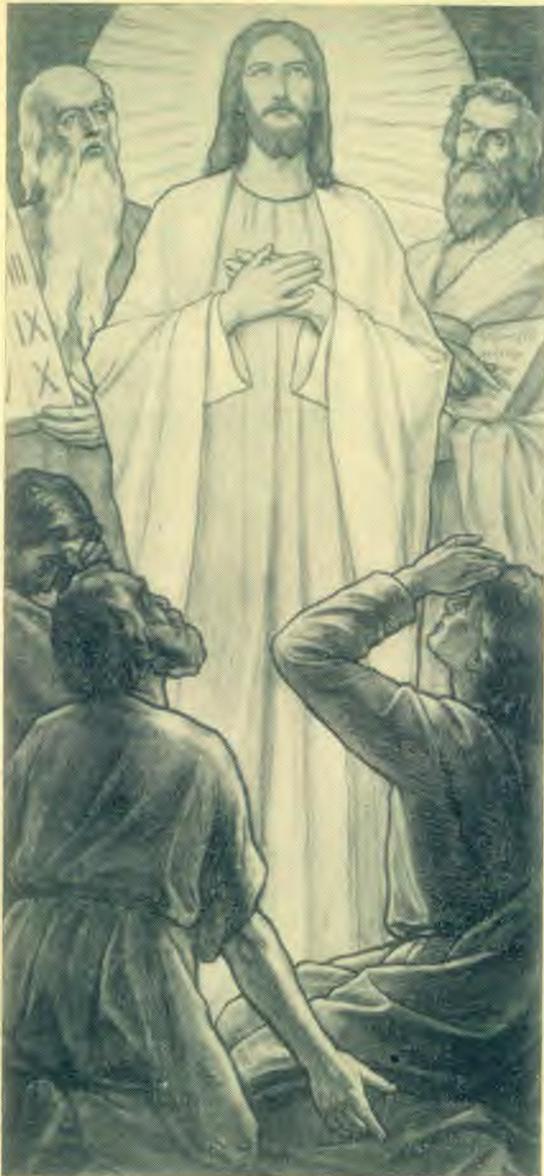
of life beyond death is dependent entirely on his belief in the efficacy of Christ's atoning sacrifice. (John 3:16.) Whatever expectation he may have of life beyond the grave comes to him through the Gospel of the grace of God. (2 Tim. 1:10.) If he ultimately finds himself the recipient of eternal life his gratitude will be due entirely to Christ, not to some scientist who has worked out the "proper conditions" for his resuscitation.

Resurrection by chemistry is a fitting counterpart to the false teaching of origin by evolution. Twin heresies, compounded by the arch-enemy of Christ, they are intended to destroy all faith in His creative and redeeming power. Together they form what may well be Satan's most subtle attempt to confuse and confound the Christian church.

Appropriate indeed is that famous extract from the *Journal des Goncourt*, dated April 7, 1869, significantly quoted by *Look* magazine in connection with the article, *You May Live For Ever*:

"They were saying that Berthelot [a famous chemist] had predicted that a hundred years from now, thanks to physical and chemical science, man would know of what the atom is constituted and would be able, at will, to moderate, extinguish and light up the sun as if it were a gas lamp. Claude Bernard [then France's foremost physiologist], for his part, had apparently declared that in a hundred years of physiological science man would be so completely the master of organic law that he would create life in competition with God. To all this we raised no objection, but we have the feeling that when this time comes in science, God with His white beard will come down to earth, swinging a bunch of keys, and will say to humanity, the way they say at ten o'clock at the saloon, 'Closing time, gentlemen!'"

We have the same feeling. It could well be that man's tampering with the ultimate secret of the universe is a further indication that the end of all things is at hand. As he reaches out his hand to pluck this last glowing fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil—just as he imagines that he has found out how to live for ever—he may bring upon himself his final sentence of death.



By Ludwig Otto

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Jesus was transfigured in glory before the disciples.

★ AMONG the contemporaries of the Man of Nazareth were some Greeks who, on a certain occasion, declared: "We would see Jesus." Since then, how many millions of His devoted followers have echoed that wistful cry? How many have yearned for a glimpse of the One they have learned to love, longing to know just what "the Desire of all nations" really looked like in the flesh? But alas, the first century of our era knew nothing of photography, and so far as painting, engraving, sculpture, or any other form of en-

PORTRAIT of a SAVIOUR

By George Elliott

during art is concerned, no authentic portrayal of Jesus Christ exists to-day.

There are, to be sure, several legendary likenesses of the Christ, a number of apocryphal descriptions of Him, and from about the time of Constantine some Christian mosaics also feature the Nazarene. In some of these representations He is shown as bearded, with flowing hair, penetrating and clear eyes, having much physical beauty, calm dignity, and strength.

In addition to these, many of the world's greatest artists have strained their talents and imagination in efforts to capture upon canvas their conception of His nobility. It is written, however, that we walk by faith and not by sight. And who among the children of men is able truly to visualize the serene magnificence of Goodness personified?

The Academy of Inspiration

But for the many who have been denied as yet an actual view of the living, loving Messiah, God has designed something even more graphic. For us He has immortalized in pen-picture, in character study, a portrait of the wonderful Jesus. The Master-artist is none other than the Holy Spirit. He it was who, in the days of creation, vitalized newly-sculptured humanity upon earth and garnished the heavens above. Now His delicate touch has left its finest impress in His monograph, the Bible. For there, in the National Gallery of Israel's experience nineteen centuries ago, He has hung for us the sublimest series of spiritual masterpieces. Symbolic but factual, post-impress-

sionist yet real, they convey irresistibly to every student a rapt, inner vision of Gospel truth.

The subject is, of course, Jesus Christ, the objective human redemption, and in an unfolding panorama is traced its attainment "in His steps." The classification covers thirty-three years of the Incarnation of the Son of God. And what a sequence of holy prints they comprise, fitting closely and exactly into an inspired mosaic. The attention becomes riveted on such works as "Shepherds' Vigil," "Flight Into Egypt," "Temple Audition," "Baptism," "Ministry of Healing," "The Way," "Behold the Man," "Resurrection," and "Ascension." And stencilled across every page is the stark outline of a cross.

True, as these biographical sketches have been scanned through the centuries by countless souls, they have been interpreted differently. The Subject appeals to one or another as saint or superhero, mystic or martyr, physician or philosopher, iconoclast or idealist. Conjecture grows in seeking to reconcile the titles of "Lamb of God" and "Lion of the tribe of Judah." The dual designation, "Son of man" and "Son of God," is to some contradictory, to others complementary. While who can explain the mystery of "a Servant" who is also "King of kings"? But from first to last these studies depict Christ as our one and only Saviour! In their completeness they "give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Cor. 4:6.

All the scenes in this sanctified drama are imperishable. Four examples of the scintillating glory of the Master stand out on occasions when He "looked," "spoke," "touched," and "wept."

The first brings to life the incident where there came running to Jesus a rich young ruler who fancied he had always obeyed all the commandments of God. "Then Jesus beholding him loved him." Mark 10:21. Here is Christ as the image of the invisible God looking upon mankind with special regard for those who are trying to do the right. (2 Chron. 16:9.) Yet the picture fades out in a shade of disappointment. Respectability is not enough. Only the righteousness of God will suffice through surrender to all His claims and faith in His Anointed.

The second exhibit is a large and impressive tableau upon a mountainside. Divinity flashes through humanity as Jesus enunciates principles of more than human origin. He proceeds to pronounce a blessing upon the humble, the afflicted, the meek, the sincere, the pure, the peaceful, the oppressed, and all who endure hardship for His

sake. All who will can make these beatitudes their own if they will let Jesus change and transform the heart.

The third picture is a full-length portrait in high relief. Picked out in primary colours, its symbolism is profound. It is a message to all who are afflicted. The sacred chronicle chisels out the commanding figure of Jesus as the great Physician with the panacea for the world's ills. From the background intrudes a leper from whom Jesus, like His compatriots, might have been expected to shrink. But "Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him." Matt. 8:3. What a peerless illustration of our heavenly Father who, while hating sin, leaned over the edge of the firmament and in the Incarnation of the Christ touched the fallen race. (2 Cor. 5:19.)

The fourth impression is a miniature. In the smallest compass is packed the largest compassion. It signifies those to whom the awful price of our redemption means little or nothing. It is an appeal to the rejecters of God's grace. Looking upon some of them afar off Jesus "beheld the city, and wept." Luke 19:41. The acid of acute anguish etched out the grand yet sombre lines along which Jesus purchased human redemption. He wept. Should not we? for was it not our sins which crucified the Prince of glory? In the one who looks with true penitence at the portrait of a Saviour there comes a change. Pride is banished. Self dies. He, or she, is led to exclaim:

Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eyes at times can see,
The very dying form of One who suffered there
for me;
And from my smitten heart with tears, two wonders
I confess;
The wonder of His glorious love, and my own
worthlessness.



World Domination Via Middle East

ACCORDING to Kenneth de Courcy in the *National Message*: "The Soviet hierarchy has definitely decided to concentrate its major attempt at world domination in the Middle East.

"Action in east Asia is intended to bleed the Western allies white; propaganda in Europe is intended to demoralize and neutralize; action in the Middle East is intended to be politically and militarily decisive; while action in Africa is intended to make it impossible for the Western powers to mount a counter-offensive when Russia eventually strikes her decisive blow in the Middle East. This is the clear over-all strategic pattern which has now been decided upon."

★ ANOTHER chance beyond this life to accept salvation! A future probation in which to renounce evil and choose good! A further opportunity to qualify for whatever bliss the good Lord has in store for His human family! Such is the expectation by which many are salving a troubled conscience. Such is the teaching of many who seek to explain such problems as are presented by the unwarned and unenlightened heathen who have gone down into Christless graves.

Some years ago the writer was urging the claims of Christ upon a fellow teenager who was embracing the way of the world with zest. "Wine, women, and song" constituted for him life's *summum bonum*, and were the daily topic of his conversation. Though young and inexperienced, I tried to call a halt to his recklessness by reminding him that "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27.

"But some time before that final judgment," he countered, "there will be a second chance for everybody to be good. My landlady is a Christian. She studies her Bible, and she assures me this is so. I'll have a good time now, and wait till then before becoming a Christian."

Years later, having become a Gospel minister, I discussed the problem of Sabbath-keeping with a good soul who was a Christian. "Yes," she admitted, "I know that the Sabbath is right, and should be kept. But it's not easy in this modern world. In fact, it's impossible for most of us, and God knows it. When Christ comes to rule the earth, I believe He will make Sabbath observance easy for all, and I'll keep it then."

Both these souls knew what was right, believed it to be right, even planned to do right, but were delaying until that supposed "future chance." Both believed in a blissful hereafter, both hoped to inherit it, but were putting their trust in a future "second probation" during which the needed preparation of heart and life would be made.

The thought that, for weal or woe, the destiny of the dead has already been settled, that beyond this present life is no further chance to make amends, is unappealing to the natural human heart. So it is that assurances of a means of grace beyond the present life, are popularly regarded with great favour.

The "Universalist's" False Hope

Various are the "second chance" teachings. Foremost, and most pleasing, is that of the Universalist, who confidently contends that even the most revolting reprobate will not only be given a chance



By C. S. Dixon

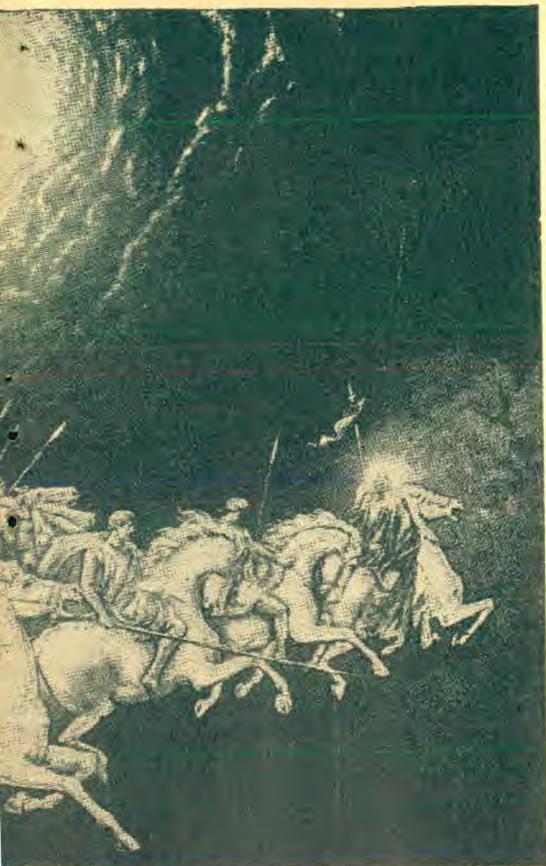
The heavens open to disclose Jesus c

Will There Be A

By R.

beyond the tomb to prepare for paradise, but will definitely accept it. None will be lost, they say. Indeed, to suggest otherwise is, they say, to misrepresent God, to distort His character, and to limit His power to save. The claim continues that, after all, doesn't Paul say something about "every knee" bowing before the Redeemer, and "every tongue" confessing His love and justice? (Phil. 2:10.)

We are reminded of the story of the Universalist minister who preached one Sunday in a small country church. For an hour, he assured that congregation of rugged farm folk, that so great was God's love, so infinite His power and willing-



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in glory with His attendant hosts.

Second Chance ?

VINE

ness to pardon our transgressions, that all would at last be saved. None would be lost.

After his discourse, he offered to come again some Sunday should they desire to benefit by his services. A godly old farmer at once rose to his feet: "Sir," he said, "if what you have told us to-day is the truth, we don't need you to come again, for our salvation is sure. But if what you have told us is untrue, then we don't want you to visit us again." By which penetrating remark he showed at least one great weakness of Universalist doctrine.

Such teaching comes dangerously near to repeating that of the false prophets of Jeremiah's

day. The people at that time were warned: "Hearken not unto the words of the prophets. . . . They say still unto them that despise Me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you." Jer. 23:16, 17. This teaching, declared the prophet of the Lord, was merely "a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord." Verse 16.

A doctrine may be pleasing, plausible, and popular; it may be championed by the erudite, and supported by the cleverest arguments; it may seem to bring peace to troubled hearts, and hope to flagging spirits; it may be preached about with such eloquence and sincerity that doubts would seem to be quite impossible. Yet, in spite of all, it may be wrong. Indeed, the Scriptures' clear warning is that wrong doctrines will ever have a popular appeal, and that they will be most abundant and subtle during the last days of earth's history. (2 Tim. 4:3, 4.) This is understandable, since the last days—our days—are a time when Satan's efforts to deceive reach highest intensity. (Rev. 12:12.)

Similar to Universalism is Spiritualism, one of whose seven basic pillars of faith contends that unhindered spiritual progress beyond the veil of death awaits every human soul. It matters not whether we are saintly or sinful, godly or profane, Christian or Communist the future, they say, has only spiritual progress in store for the disembodied soul.

Will Christ Compel Righteousness?

Other "future chance" conceptions are many and various. Some believe in a temporal millennium, soon to begin, during which the devil will be bound, and the iron rule of Christ will compel world conversion. It is argued for example by F. W. Porter that: "The reflective stand appalled and dismayed at the evils of the situation [to-day], and the hopelessness of reformation by human agency. We need a Government with absolute power to *compel righteousness* and justice among men, and this is the especial feature in Christ's reign. . . . His government will be absolute and vigorous, firm and irresistible, *enforcing obedience*, and compelling submission."

Not salvation by grace, but by legislation and compulsion is here visualized. But the end is salvation, nevertheless. Here is clearly implied that those who have failed, perhaps through moral weakness or maybe force of circumstances, to receive conversion, will be forcibly regenerated by a

dictatorial Christ whose merciful tolerance of rebellion has ceased.

The practical effect of such "future chance" theories is clear.

First and foremost is the fact that the urge to live aright is weakened and perhaps even quenched. After all, why suffer for the sake of principle, why sacrifice money, career, pleasure, reputation, and esteem in order to obey the truth, if things are going to be worked out for us hereafter?

Secondly, tending as they do to moral laxity, "second chance" teachings are dangerously capable of leading a person to commit "the great transgression" by daily grieving the Spirit of God "whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Psa. 19:13; Eph. 4:30.)

Thirdly, teachings of a future probation imply the limitation of God's present power to save. Yet the Lord assured Paul who was facing the sore buffetings of Satan: "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor. 12:9. This assurance of the Lord is untrue if we are to believe all that is taught about a future chance, for it is held that present circumstances are often too difficult, and present weaknesses too strongly entrenched, for folk to live aright. Agreed, not all *prove* God's grace, but that is no reflection on God. The fact that a patient dies, after failing to take the medicine prescribed by the doctor, is no proof that either the doctor or the medicine has failed.

When sadly reflecting on the condition of His apostate people of old, the Lord asked: "What could be done more to My vineyard, that I have not done in it?" Isa. 5:4. Nothing more could be done. The limit had been reached. Not that God's grace was insufficient to bring personal victory, but that most of the people had resisted Him so long that their hearts were hardened. The answer, implicit in our Lord's question, is that not even a future probation could solve the problems of His people's obstinacy.

Fourthly, this teaching of a future opportunity for all, under circumstances that make rejection of Christ impossible, would naturally weaken our zeal in fulfilling our Lord's command to preach the Gospel to every creature. (Matt. 28:18, 19.) Reverently we may well ask, why bother to obey the Gospel commission at such sacrifice and expense, if all are destined to submit to Christ hereafter?

The Day of Salvation is "Now"

Finally, this teaching belies the Bible's clearest answer to the question heading this article.

Said Paul: "Behold, *now* is the accepted time; behold, *now* is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2. Paul knew of only one day of salvation, only one time in which acceptance by God could be achieved—and that time is now! No future chance, no second probation, ever figured in Paul's teaching. True, he visualized the bowing of "every knee" before Christ; but this universal genuflexion, so far as it embraces the impenitent, is, as the prophecies prove, their final recognition that the Christ whom they have spurned in this life is, after all, the true "King of kings." This act, however, will not save them from the punishment of eternal death which will be forthwith and mercifully inflicted; no more than a frank confession of his guilt will save a murderer from the gallows.

God loves us too much, and His concern for our eternal welfare is too great, for Him to do anything other than tell us clearly and frankly in His Word what His plans and requirements are. His warnings are not intended to alarm us, but to encourage us to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Guide, without delay. So it is that He repeatedly assures us that our time of probation is strictly limited. At the end will be the decree: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; . . . and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still." Rev. 22:11. One day, it *will* be too late to change, as this fateful decree shows.

Again in Proverbs is the sombre picture of a time coming when: "They shall call upon Me [God], but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me: for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: they would none of My counsel: they despised all My reproof. Therefore shall they eat the fruit of their own way." Prov. 1:28-31. Here are visualized people who at last realize their folly, and turn to God for succour—but too late!

From them will be wrung that heart-rending confession: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20.

Among that hapless throng will doubtless be many who hoped for a second probation, who anticipated "unhindered spiritual progress" hereafter as an automatic continuation of their lives on earth, who depended on an "iron rule" of Christ to subdue them and their wayward passions.

Be Not Deceived

Our adversary, the devil, is well aware of the issues at stake. His great concern is to unfit us to

(Continued on page 12.)

WHAT IS TRUTH?



By E. W. H. Vick

★ I WAS confronted the other day with the rather difficult problem of choosing a new tie. Down from the storekeeper's shelves came a rich variety. The easiest way out would be to have bought many, but to choose one was an exercising necessity. Finally, by applying the process of elimination, the choice was made. Hundreds of ties, choose one! Many voices in the religious world, choose one! A recent census report places the number of denominations in the region of two hundred and fifty! A seeker after truth is confronted with a great problem: Is there one that is right? Which one is the right one? Can I know for sure?

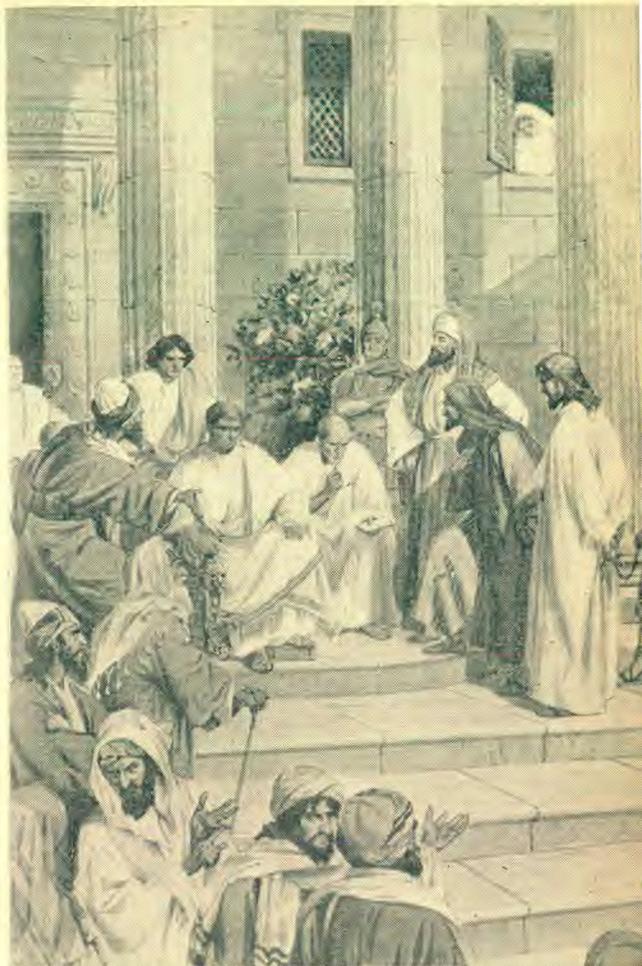
Truth is not a matter of taste or temperament. A fact cannot be changed, however much I dislike it. Truth brings stability and satisfaction. God puts dissatisfaction in the heart of man until life finds its true centre. Man, being a creature of questions, probes and searches, asking all the time, What is truth?

God does not mock us. We can be satisfied in our quest. We can know for sure, and when we have found then we know that we are safe.

Truth is consistent, progressive, satisfying. All truth is one, and all truth is God's truth for God is truth. Truth in one phase agrees with truth in another phase. The scientist's discovery accords with the preacher's text—all truth is one.

The Progressive Revelation of Truth

When God reveals truth to man's heart He gives him a little at first, as if to see what he will do with it. Then if the attitude is good, more revelations follow. To be contented with what we know debars from us more progress. To find more truth we must have truth hunger.



By Wm. Hole

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Jesus is questioned by Pontius Pilate.

New occasions teach new duties,
Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must onward still and upward
Who would keep abreast of truth.

Before we are admitted through the inner door we have to pass the outer one.

Jesus said: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." When we have found, we know. The searcher for truth as well as the discoverer of scientific novelties, has his moments of ecstasy, when he shouts his "Eureka." If we know the truth we have real freedom. Would Jesus speak of the freedom and satisfaction that the knowledge of truth brings, if there were no certainty? Would He speak of personal conviction if there were no basis for it in reality? Could He then utter such words as: "If any man will to do His will, he shall know of the doctrine"?

Truth is external to ourselves; we cannot, therefore, arrive at truth unaided. If God is the source of truth and Jesus is the revelation of truth, then in Jesus is the goal of all our searching. Happy is the man who in searching for truth as for mere facts finds after his quest that he is brought face to face with a person: "I am . . . the Truth." It is as if the Lord made a map and gave it to us, and then said: "Now let us walk the road together, I will be both path and destination, the Way, the Truth and the Life." So to find out God's truth requires open-hearted expectancy in the search, and earnest following as each step is revealed.

Truth Demands Decision

Truth calls for decision. We pass judgment on truth and so does the truth pass judgment on us. While many sincerely seek for the "truth as it is in Jesus," many in delaying to follow it wholeheartedly are preventing themselves from receiving more. No-one can ever be the same person after being brought to know God's truth. For weal or woe, what we make of what we know is God's criterion in the judgment.

There is truth that especially applies to the present. Peter calls it "present truth." 2 Peter 1:12. In difficult periods of history various aspects of the complete whole are emphasized, yet it is always the truth as it is in Jesus. In Noah's day it was the proclamation of judgment; in Jesus' day the preaching of the kingdom of heaven, in Luther's day that faith alone saves a man. In the individual life, too, there is present truth at each stage of spiritual development. First a soul is led to accept Christ, to own Him as His Saviour, then as his Lord; and then come other demands—present truth, Jesus calling for you to go with Him into a new experience!

Truth for To-day.

God has truth for to-day. Two hundred and more denominations cry: "We have the truth!" How can I know which is right? The Bible is God's written Word, His revelation of truth. By applying one simple question we can arrive at our object. What does the Bible say? In this way link after link in the chain of truth may be forged. The Bible plainly teaches that only in Jesus can we be saved. So those who teach the truth will teach that. The Bible plainly teaches that Jesus is coming again. Those who teach the truth will teach this too. The Bible plainly teaches that the seventh day is the Sabbath. Those who have the

truth will teach this, too. This is the way to find your "church home," for the church is the custodian of the truth. Paul called it "the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Tim. 3:15.

With so much insecurity in our world to-day, with so much conflict in the shadows of our own personalities, it is worth all there is in this world and the next to search, to find, and to follow God's truth.

"And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." Jer. 29:13. With Philip of old may our response be: "We have found Him." John 1:45. For in Him is the goal of all human searching and the solution to every human need.

Will There Be a Second Chance?

(Continued from page 10.)

stand in the presence of Christ at His second advent. He would, of course, prefer us completely to ignore the facts of Christ's coming; but upon those who cherish some belief—however unbiblical—that Christ will one day intervene in world affairs, he urges such doctrines as that of a "future chance" in order to weaken their urge to prepare. His purpose in this world has ever been to blind men's eyes to the true nature of the glorious Gospel of Christ. (See 2 Corinthians 4:4.)

In the well-known parable, the rich fool who greedily hoarded his wealth, ignoring the needs of the poor, was given no hope of any future chance. That very night his fate was sealed. (Luke 12:20, 21.)

In the equally well-known parable of the talents, when the Master returned to his servants, it was to reward them according to how they had handled his goods. There was no second chance given to the unhappy sluggard who had neglected his solitary talent. (Matt. 25:14-30.)

When Christ returns in glory, it is not to convert the world, but to reward every man according to his works. (Rev. 22:12; Matt. 16:27.) Were it otherwise, why should the Scriptures repeat the urge that we prepare for the day of the Lord which shall come as a thief in the night? (Rev. 16:15.) That great day will serve not to unite the world, but to separate the good from the bad, Christians from non-Christians, the "wheat" from the "tares." (Matt. 13:37-43.)

Door of Mercy Still Open

We conclude with the picture of those final scenes as described by Christ Himself: "When the

Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom. . . . Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire." Matt. 25:31-34, 41.

We should rejoice that the door of mercy is still open; that God loves us, whoever we are; that He is able and willing to save us through His Son Jesus Christ. But remember that the only safe time for decision is now. "Now is the accepted time. . . . Now is the day of salvation."

Moon Voyage

"DURING the next decade," predicts Arthur C. Clarke, Chairman of the Interplanetary Society, "the techniques necessary to send small, radio-controlled rockets to the moon will become available."

Your BIBLE QUESTIONS Answered

Can a date be fixed for the coming of Jesus?

No! for Jesus Himself said, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven." Many in the past have fixed dates when Christ should come, but all have failed. We know that we are nearing the day by the many signs which are being fulfilled. When He does come all will know for "every eye shall see Him," and as Christ Himself said in Matthew 25:31: "When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory." He will also come "with the voice of the Archangel, and the trump of God." It will be no secret affair known only to a few.



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THE CHILDREN'S



Pages

Peter and the Bear

By Patricia Stark

THIS story happened a long time ago when my grandfather was a small boy. Grandfather lived on a farm in northern Minnesota with his mother and father and three sisters. Grandfather's name was Peter.

The land near Peter's home was covered with trees. About

half a mile from the farmhouse was a large wood, and many people from the cities would come out that way to hunt.

One morning at breakfast, while the family was sitting around the table, Peter's father said to him, "Peter, I'm going up to the woods to-day to cut

some firewood. While I'm gone I want you to do the work around the farm."

Now there was one thing that Peter had been warned against over and over again, and that was never to go into the woods alone. The reason he had been warned about this was that there were many wild bears in the woods.

Peter went out to the barn after his father had gone and he milked the cows. Then he fed all the chickens. By the time he had finished all the things he had been told to do, it was almost three o'clock. His sisters were playing in the house, and his mother was baking some bread. So he decided he would play that he was an explorer and see what he could find at the edge of the woods.

He took his toy gun and off he went. He walked on and on, but the longer he walked the farther into the woods he went.

"I'll pretend that it's night and I'm going to camp here," Peter said. So he sat down under a tree for a while. It wasn't long before his head fell forward and he was sound asleep. He slept for only a short time, but when he woke up it had already begun to get dark and Peter was afraid. He got up and tried to remember which way he had come.

"I think I came from this way, and if I hurry I'll be able to be home before Papa. Then he won't know that I was here in the woods." So he started on the way back home.

All along the way he kept hearing strange noises. Every time he heard one of these noises he would hurry on that much faster.

As Peter turned the last bend in the road before he came to the clearing, he heard a dreadful sound. It sounded like a loud scream. Or was it a roar? Peter remembered all the stories he had heard his father and the neighbours tell of the wild bears and of the many hunters that



Unjumble the names of things connected with the cornfields of Galilee. All are mentioned in the Bible. Neatly list them, then colour the picture and send it with your name, age, and address to Auntie Margaret, The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts., not later than August 6th. (In case Our Times arrives late, still send your entry. All attempts will be considered.)

had lost their lives when the bears caught them.

The sound was coming nearer, and now he could hear a crashing sound. It was a bear coming toward him! Then suddenly the bear was right in front of him, not more than thirty feet away. Peter couldn't move a step farther. He just stood there and looked at the bear. The bear stopped also and watched him.

"Oh, what will I do?" said Peter, and he began to cry; for you see, he was a little boy and here was a big, wild bear. The bear began to come toward

Peter, but as he began to rise up on his hind feet a sharp sound rang out, and the bear fell at Peter's feet. There stood Peter's father and two of the neighbours with guns in their hands.

Peter ran to his father and began to cry and tell him how sorry he was that he had disobeyed and that he would always mind after that. To this very day, even though he is an old man, Peter, my grandfather, always remembers what happened once because he didn't obey his father.

How the Black Cat Repaid

By Arthur Warren

"MIAW! Miaw! Miaw!"

"It's that black cat Woozie. What's the matter with it?" said the cleaning woman.

I should explain that Woozie was a black half-Persian cat that belonged to Mrs. Greer, who lived in a flat in Hunter Street, in the West End of London. He hadn't always belonged to Mrs. Greer; but one night in September, 1941, German warplanes had dropped bombs near Hunter Street, and in the morning this black kitten, which had been injured in the raid, came to the door of Mrs. Greer's apartments.

"Miaw! Miaw!" said the kitten.

Kind Mrs. Greer took the kitten into the house and looked after its wounds. Soon it got well again and made its home with her.

"We will call it 'Woozie,'" she said.

One day Mrs. Greer left the house and went out to buy some things at the shop. While she was away, Mrs. Vert, who did cleaning in the flats, heard Woozie's voice calling loudly: "Miaw! Miaw!"

Mrs. Vert listened. There it was again: "Miaw! Miaw! Miaw!" he called.

"What can be the matter with that cat?" she said to herself. "He seems to want me to go along with him."

Yes, Woozie did. Mrs. Vert became more and more sure of that as she listened. So she followed the cat.

Up to Mrs. Greer's door went Woozie, and there he at once began scratching at the window. The cleaning woman looked in, and, behold, there was a burglar inside, stealing Mrs. Greer's things!

Of course, the man was frightened, when he saw that he was discovered. He rushed out, knocking the woman over, and dashed quickly down the stairs and ran off.

"Miaw! Miaw!" said Woozie.

The wicked man got away. "But," said Mrs. Greer, when she came back, "if he had not been disturbed he would have taken our silver plate, and our clothes. That cat saved them!"

"Miaw! Miaw!" said Woozie.

And I am sure Mrs. Greer gave Woozie an extra good dinner that day.

Results of Competition No. 10

Prizewinners.—Ruth Price, Sunny Bank, Barkham Ride, Wick Hill, Wokingham. Age 14; Hazel Harris, 119 Fallowfield, Cambridge. Age 9.

Honourable Mention.—Jennifer Cole (Exeter); Esther Shaw (Skegness); Siegfried Baron (Church); Miriam Harris (Cambridge); Glenys Simpson (Coventry); Elaine Bunker (Tavistock); Eleonora Baron (Church); Jean Simmons (Torquay); Pamela Wimbrow (Hawkesbury).

Partial Results of Competition No. 5/6

Prize-winners.—Rona Bevan, 47 Market Street, Mottram, Manchester. Age 14; Marianne Nyary, 2 Brockley Close, Coventry. Age 8.

Honourable Mention.—Jean Hocking (Liskeard); Allan Grant (Cregagh); Shirley Roebuck (Bournemouth); Michael Plank (Birmingham, 27); Colin Doggett (Norwich); Jean Sparkes (Clapham Common); Rosemary Lillie (London, E. 1); Leslie Price (Coventry); Rita Moss (Southampton); Anthony Emm (High Wycombe); Ruth Campion (Torquay); Justine Stokes (Bournemouth); Mary Strower (Lowestoft); Pearl Rich (Launceston); Ann Pendle (Manchester, 14); Edna Reid (Belfast); John Richardson (Palmer's Green, N.13); Eleonora Baron (Church); Jilda Sleeman (Torquay); Maureen Woodman (Southampton); Hazel Payne (Exeter); Valerie Leete (Reading).

Those who tried hard.—Amy Randlestone (Stockton); Anne Young (Richmond); Pat Woodhams (Maldon); Sheila Cook (Dartington, Devon); D. C. Atkins (Derby); Daphne Rippingale (Stanway); Jacqueline Bates (Derby); Siegfried Baron (Church); Margaret Hughes (Manchester); Keith Walker (Reddish); Richard Payne (Woodman-cote); Janet Farmer (Birmingham, 20); Gwynneth Edwards (Stoke-on-Trent); Christine Johnson (London, S.E.9); David Minshall (Denton); Sheila Mountford (Stoke-on-Trent); Patricia Chapman (Hull); John Plant (Stoke-on-Trent); Keith Bothfield (Birmingham, 21); Mary White (Glasgow, S.3); Sylvia Burns (Leeds, 3); Elizabeth Ritchie (Belfast); John Chapple (Barnstaple); Katherine James (Stroud); Marjorie Austin (Nairobi, Kenya); Delma Tape (Kenford); Adrienne Piens (Romford); Colin Stokes (Enfield); Nigel Payne (Woodman-cote); Michael Utton (Lowestoft); Pearl Preston (Newton Abbot); Michael Craggs (York); Robert Jones (Canterbury); Susan Hacker (Slough); Lynne Evans (Torquay); Barry Henderson (South Shields); Pat Bennett (Southampton); Lavinia Dalton (Newport); Heather Payne (Woodman-cote); Janet Hustwick (Cardiff); George Howie (Bucksburn); Gillian Plant (Stoke-on-Trent); Veronica Bream (Norwich); No Name (Birmingham); Sadie McCann (Edinburgh, 7); Ronald Dickinson (Middlesbrough); Stuart Payne (Woodman-cote); Miss Broad (Stoke-in-Teignhead).

The Bible and OUR TIMES

(Formerly "Present Truth")

Vol. 69. No. 15. 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

Supreme Social Tragedy

DISCUSSING his recent play, *Shadow of the Vine*, Mr. Beverley Nichols said: "Drunkenness, to me, is a disease . . . it is the supreme social tragedy: and its horror is often enhanced by the fact that it not only destroys the victim but warps and blights the lives of all those with whom he comes in contact." His play, the author states, "tries to tell the story of a tragedy which is darkening the lives of a multitude of our fellow citizens. I think it is a story that is worth the telling . . . even if it hurts."

Glittering Prize

"THE Middle East offers a glittering prize," asserted Major-General L. O. Lyne in a recent broadcast. "The oil resources of the area are almost unlimited. An advance here would put Russian forces on the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, and would sever at once our communications with the Far East. That would be a disaster for the Commonwealth."

World Catholicism

THE Catholic World Mission Map reveals a total number of Catholics of 457,300,000 out of a world population of 2,368,000,000. Brazil has the largest Catholic population with 47

millions, followed by Italy with 46 millions, and France with 35 millions. The United States has 29 millions, Spain 28, Germany 26, Mexico 24, Poland 21, Argentina 17, and the Philippine Islands 16 millions.

fourth of Russia's air power is in the Far East, based on the Sakhalin and Kurile Islands, a few minutes north by air from Japan.

Guided Missile Submarine

THE United States Navy now has in commission a submarine capable of carrying and discharging supersonic guided missile planes with powerful warheads which may be atomic.

Oil Prospecting in Israel

ISRAEL is starting oil prospecting in earnest. Thirty-one licences have been issued to searchers who will investigate some two million acres from the Southern Negev to as far north as Haifa.

Is Starvation Coming?

IN their latest book, *Prophecy of Famine*, H. J. Massingham and Edward Hyams say that soon "we may even live in a world in which the majority of children have the aged, haggard faces of the old and the swollen bellies of starvation."

New Altitude Record

THE British Canberra bomber has established a new aircraft altitude record by reaching a height of 63,668 feet, which is 4,222 feet higher than the previous record.

My Prayer

O Lord, I need Thee day by day,
Wilt Thou my Saviour be,
I know that Thou didst die upon
the cross
To set me free.

I knew Thee not, O Lord, until
Thy blessed face I saw;
And oh, my very heart cries out,
To know Thee more and more.

And yet I cannot come to Thee,
I am so full of sin,
Unless Thou first come unto me,
And put Thy power within.

I claim no merits of my own,
But this my only plea,
That Thou wilt make my heart a
place

That's fit to welcome Thee.
Pamela M. Jones.

Russian Air Power in Far East

GENERAL OTTO P. WEYLAND, U.S. Air Force Commander in the Far East, estimates that one-

