

SIGNS of the TIMES

THE WORLD'S PROPHETIC WEEKLY



ATHEISM in the PRESS

LOUIS H. CHRISTIAN, *London, England*

THE NEWSPAPER and periodical press of our day is a mighty factor for good. Modern civilization could not exist without it. It educates the masses; it defends the weak; it exposes sham and corruption in high places. But, while we recognize that the press in so many ways is a power for good and for the betterment of mankind, we cannot but deplore the present tendency to make the daily papers serve the cause of the false philosophy of evolution, and even of rank atheism.

We see this first of all in Russia. Almost every city of any importance in that country has journals that are out-and-out atheistic. On a recent trip to Russia I noted in Moscow alone five antireligious periodicals, as for instance: *Antireligiosnik* (The Anti-religious)—an antireligious scientific review; *Bezbozhnik* (The Atheist)—an illustrated antireligious magazine; *Bezbozhnik u Stanka* (The Atheist at the Workshop)—an illustrated antireligious magazine; *Derevenski Bezbozhnik* (The Village Atheist)—an antireligious popular review; *Juni Bezbozhnik* (The Young Atheist)—an antireligious young pioneers' review.

In other parts of the Soviet Republic, and in other languages, there are also antireligious journals to be found. Thus among the newspapers and periodicals published in the Armenian language we find one, *Anastwaz* (The Atheist)—an illustrated antireligious popular review. In the Polish language we find one, *Bezbozhnik Wojencki* (The Militant Atheist)—an antireligious magazine published in Moscow. For the Jews there is printed in their own language in Moscow a popular antireligious review called *Apikoires* (The Atheist)—popular antireligious review. There are many German colonists in Russia, and to propagate atheism among them there is printed at Charkov the antireligious review called *Neuland* (The New Land). These papers against religion, or at least some of them, have a very large circulation. In many other cities are similar papers, although, in a sense, it seems as if atheism is rather slackening up in its zeal. Just now even the Society of the Godless is less in evidence than formerly. About a year ago the society boasted that they had erected their central office for the world in Berlin; but the advent of the present order has struck mighty blows against the forces of atheism.

However, it is not alone in Russia, Turkey, or Japan that the press is outspoken and in favor of atheism and materialistic philosophy; we see the same in nearly every country of Europe and in America. Many papers are published whose sole purpose is to undermine faith in the Scriptures and to make war on religion. But, aside from this, there is a far more insidious press propaganda against the inspiration of the Scriptures and the Christian faith. We think of the almost numberless articles appearing in many papers concerning the age of man or the new discoveries of geology with reference to the origin of the human race and the earth itself. Some journals seem to delight in glibly telling of what happened hundreds of millions of years ago.

For a long time the papers in Europe reported certain discoveries made over in Mongolia; and it was popularly and confidently stated that the Desert of Gobi, not the Garden of Eden, was the original home of man. We were told that the first human beings emerged by a "slow process of evolution" (whatever that may be) out of some slimy matter that nobody now has ever seen. The papers were filled with pictures of great dinosaurs and other creatures that existed on this earth before the Flood and had evidently perished in that catastrophe. But now recently the papers are reporting that these stories about the origin of man in Gobi were a mistake. It has been discovered that man originated down in Africa. Even the Neanderthal man, or his ancestors, that is, if he had any, emigrated from Uganda to Europe.

All these statements, of course, are the veriest guesswork. To teach them is unworthy of the name and work of learned men. But, through these superficial articles, built on flimsy assumptions and hypotheses, multitudes have their faith in the Holy Scriptures weakened. It cannot be stated too often that true science has discovered nothing which discredits the Bible. On the contrary, all discoveries made by true geology, and, indeed, in every realm of genuine science, bring new evidence in favor of the Holy Scriptures. It is time that we returned to the Bible and to the faith of our fathers in the living God. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever." Isaiah 40:8. To accept this word is the truest wisdom.



From this little booth in a Russian city are sold all kinds of atheistic literature. Russia is reading itself into atheism to-day.

JESUS Was the SON of GOD

*How could you account for His life and teachings,
were He merely a human being?*

JAMES BASIL SPENCER

IMAGINE the early disciples going into a pagan city to preach Christ. They did not rent large halls, did no newspaper advertising, had no large choir and no singing evangelist. They had only the Old Testament Scriptures, a mighty faith in a risen Saviour, and hearts full of the Holy Spirit. Thousands were converted from sin to righteousness, and took upon themselves the name of Christian.

How did these early preachers get untold numbers to give up all for the name of Jesus? How did they prove to the heathen of their day that Jesus was not a dead Jew, but that He was the promised Messiah, the long-looked-for deliverer, the divine Son of God? We submit some of the evidence they offered:

PROPHECIES OF CHRIST

If you will read the four Gospels and the book of Acts, you will see how these earnest preachers appealed to the prophecies of the Old Testament to prove their claims. Christ had told them to search the Old Testament Scriptures, for "they are they which testify of Me," He said. John 5:39. There are three hundred thirty-three prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament. Many of these were fulfilled at His first advent. The place where He would be born, where He would live, how He should labor and die, were all foretold hundreds of years before His birth. The prophet Daniel told the very year He was to begin his public ministry.

Note this testimony of the apostle Paul: "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: that Christ should suffer and . . . rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles." Acts 26:22, 23.

NOT ASHAMED OF CHRIST

They were not ashamed of the Saviour they preached. They appealed to His sinless, spotless life as evidence that He was the Son of God. He was different, so different, from other people of His time. Was He a money lover? No. Was He a formalist? No. If He were just an ordinary man of Nazareth, who taught Him the Sermon on the Mount? Who gave Him His grand, glorious conceptions of spiritual truth?

The disciples told of His wonderful power as proof of His Godship. Blind eyes were opened, cripples were healed, lepers were cleansed, the dead were raised. He had power over nature, demons, disease, and death.

Then He had power to make Himself to be remembered. What other carpenter of that era is to-day preached in more than nine hundred languages? How account for His birth being recorded on every dollar, every legal paper, and every letter that is posted in this fair land of ours? How daring, if He were not the Christ, the words spoken of Mary in that little village of Bethany so long ago, "Whosoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." Mark 14:9. He left no books written by Himself, but He declared, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35.

His closest friends, those who knew Him best, joined with Peter in saying, "Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:69. Living with Him for more than three years, they would have found some weakness in Him had there been any.

WHAT HIS ENEMIES SAID

More than this, His enemies confessed Him innocent. Devils declared Him to be the "Holy One of God." Sinless angels proclaimed Him the "Son of God." And God, His Father, from heaven twice said of Him: "This is My beloved Son."

Besides all this evidence, we have the testimony of those who saw Him after His resurrection. Listen to Paul: "I delivered unto you first of all, . . . how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; and that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve; after that He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once. . . . After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all He was seen of me." 1 Corinthians 15:3-7. And now hear John: "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore." Revelation 1:17, 18.

Never doubt it, Jesus was all He claimed to be,—the world's only Saviour. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

A man of wealth died without heirs. His personal effects were sold at public auction. Among them was a picture of the old man's son, who had died some years before his father. No one seemed to want it save an old woman who had been his nurse. She had only a quarter, and feared to bid so little; but she ventured. No one bid against her, and she took the picture. At home she



To a world sunk in paganism the apostles carried the message of a Saviour mighty to redeem.

carefully dusted and cleaned it. When she removed the back, she found the father's will, granting all his property to the one who thought enough of his son to buy the picture.

What will God not give to all who love and have faith in His Son? "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son." Revelation 21:7.

RUNNING WITH PATIENCE

"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Hebrews 12:1, 2.

"When the apostle bids us look to Jesus, we are called to no limited vision. To behold Him in all His ways and works, our eyes must sweep the whole horizon round. If we look for the Creator of all things, we see Jesus. If we search for the Redeemer of the world, it is to Jesus we are brought. Do we look for the center around which all God's plans and purposes revolve? there is Jesus. Do we yearn for a sacrifice of such merit that it can reach to the deepest taint of sin? We find it in Jesus. Do we look for an offering so worthy that God can accept it

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AN ETERNALLY burning hell has never existed outside the minds of men. The word "purgatory" cannot be found within the lids of the Bible, and is but a relic of the Dark Ages. And while some religious leaders are fanning hard to keep the fires of hell burning in the minds of the masses, light from the word of God is streaming forth, so that there are millions to-day who no longer believe there is a lake of fire somewhere, and that the wicked who have died are now there writhing in agony and pain.

But let us be careful that we do not go to the other extreme, and take the position that because of the goodness and mercy of God, He will excuse the sinner. The Scriptures clearly teach that there is a day of judgment coming for those who reject the love and mercy of God and spurn the sacrifice of Jesus made for them on Calvary's cross.

Peter states that "the heavens and the earth, which are now, . . . are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:7. The apostle had just referred to the Flood, "whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished," and compares the final judgment of the ungodly to those awful days when the Deluge swept this earth.

"MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT"

In the first instance, he says the ungodly were destroyed by water; in the final judgment, they are to be destroyed by fire. Clarifying all that he has said before, in the tenth verse he adds: "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." Here we see that the wicked will be punished on this earth. This fact is also stated in Proverbs 11:31, and in other texts.

Furthermore, we learn from these passages in 2 Peter 3 something about the time when the wicked will be punished. In verse seven we are told that they are "reserved unto . . . the day of judgment." The language in the tenth verse puts the punishment of the wicked in the future, while in chapter 2, verse 9, the apostle expressly states that "the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." Our Saviour taught that the punishment of the wicked will take place at the "end of the world." He said, "The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 13:41, 42. From these scriptures it is clear that the wicked are not in torment now, but that their punishment will be meted to them at the end of the world.

WHAT KIND OF DESTRUCTION?

In the Scriptures we find recorded an example of the punishment that awaits the sinner. More than once it is stated that the judgment sent upon Sodom and Gomorrah was an example of the fate that awaits evil-

Will SINNERS Be Punished?

It used to be that almost every one believed sinners would burn forever and ever. Now many believe they will not be punished at all. What is the truth?

WALTER W. WALKER



The doctrine of eternal agony for the unsaved was once a major theological tenet.

doers. In Jude, seventh verse, the Scripture says: "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Speaking of this same incident, 2 Peter 2:6 says: "Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly." Thus we see that the "eternal fire" burned these cities "into ashes," and their destruction was an example to the ungodly, the effect of the fire, and not its duration, being eternal. Jesus said of these cities: "The same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." Luke 17:29.

Let us examine the testimony of a number of the men whom God inspired to write the

Bible, and find out just what they had to say on this important subject. First notice the testimony of David as recorded in Psalm 37:10: "For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be; yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." As to what will become of them, he states this in the twentieth verse of this same psalm: "The wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away." And John the revelator uses even stronger language, in Revelation 21:8: "The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION

But the testimony of the prophet Malachi is the clearest statement to be found in all the Bible on the awful fate that awaits the persistent rejecter of God's mercy: "Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. . . . And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord." Malachi 4:1-3. Finally, there is the testimony of Jesus in Matthew 10:28, where He says, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Man can kill, but God can destroy. And He will destroy the wicked, root and branch.

Sin entered this world some six thousand years ago. What a record it has left behind! What a condition it presents to-day,—everywhere misery, suffering, and despair! How merciful has our heavenly Father been to bear with it so long! But some day, and ere long, with one mighty stroke, God is going to rid His universe of every vestige of sin and sinners. That awful time is spoken of as "the great day of the Lord." "The mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress." Zephaniah 1:14, 15.

What sorrow will overtake the lost, what regrets! Jesus, describing that time, said there would be weeping and gnashing of teeth. The apostle Peter, describing that

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Watch Your

Vitamins

Health and vitality are largely dependent upon the vitamins we get in certain classes of foods.

Dietitian GEORGE E. CORNFORTH

WHAT are "vitamins," "food minerals," and "roughage." Vitamins may be found to be present in, or absent from, foods by feeding different combinations of foods to animals and noting the effect upon the creatures' growth, health, and vigor.

The chemical composition of vitamins,—that is, what they actually are, is not understood, just as no one understands what electricity is.

Three vitamins have been recognized, and evidence of the existence of two more has recently been given. They are named, like algebraic quantities, A, B, C, D, and X.

The foods that are specially rich in vitamins are vegetables, especially leafy vegetables, commonly called "greens," and raw-salad vegetables, and in fruits, milk, eggs, and the bran and embryo of cereals.

PROTECTS AGAINST EYE DISEASE

Vitamin A is called antiophthalmic because it protects from an eye disease called xerophthalmia. This disease is produced experimentally in rats by feeding them on a diet that is complete in every particular except that the fat in the diet is supplied by some such fat as lard or Crisco, and that no greens are included in the diet. After a rat has been kept on this diet for a time, its eyelids become swollen and inflamed, then the eyes mature, and finally the sight of the eye is lost. If, before the disease has progressed too far, a very small amount of food supplying this factor, such as butter, is included in the diet, the disease is cured. Children fed solely on cereals and skimmed milk—I mean not purposely, but when the parents do not know better or think they cannot afford a better diet—are found suffering from this disease.

Vitamin B is named from the fact that people who are deprived of it suffer from

the disease beriberi, a form of neuritis in which there is degeneration of the nerves and of the heart muscle, and usually digestive disturbance with weakness, fatigue, and numbness of the legs. People whose diet is made up too largely of white bread or white rice suffer from this disease. The disease is



cured or prevented by including in the diet all-of-the-wheat bread and natural brown rice, and by giving the polishings that are removed from rice in the process of preparing white rice. This disease is produced experimentally in pigeons by feeding them on white bread or white rice. The pigeons first lose the power to fly, then lose the power to walk, then the head is drawn back, and at last they die; but if, before the disease has progressed too far, a small amount of whole wheat or natural brown rice or rice polishings is fed to the pigeon, the bird is revived and becomes normal in a surprisingly short time.

PREVENTS SCURVY AND RICKETS

Vitamin C is called antiscorbutic because it prevents and cures scurvy. Scurvy is not due to the eating of salt meat and fish, as was once supposed, but to the lack of fresh raw food in the diet. This vitamin is supplied by raw vegetables, especially cabbage, and raw fruits, especially lemons, limes, oranges, and grapefruit. Tomatoes also supply this vitamin, even when cooked and

canned. Children who are fed on cooked or Pasteurized milk must be given some food that supplies this vitamin, to keep them in health. This lack in cooked milk is supplied by orange juice, turnip juice, or tomato juice, even canned tomato juice.

Vitamin D is called antirachitic because it prevents rickets. This property was at first supposed to be possessed by the A vitamin. When young rats are fed on a diet that is complete in every particular except that it lacks this vitamin, the chest caves in along both sides of the breastbone. The disease may be cured by giving a small amount of butter or cod-liver oil, but the deformed chest will never become normal. This shows how very important it is that children be provided with a diet that will protect them from scurvy, because if they once suffer from the disease, though they may be cured, they will always carry whatever deformities may have been caused by the disease.

The known sources of this vitamin are butter, cream, milk, and cod-liver oil.

THE ANTISTERILITY VITAMIN

Workers in nutrition laboratories who have studied the effect of different diets on rats have noticed that when they have supplied every known factor that I have so far described, the rats do not reproduce normally. Either they are sterile or the litters are abnormally small or the mothers do not succeed in raising the young rats. The attempt to discover the reason for this has led to the belief that there is another vitamin which has been called the antisterility vitamin and which is found in lettuce, alfalfa, whole wheat, and egg yolk.

If these factors are not all present in the diet of the young, growth cannot continue. The great importance of supplying in the diet not merely enough vitamins to barely keep us from being sick, but to support vigorous health is emphasized by Dr. E. V. McCollum of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, who says: "In the past we have failed to appreciate the seriousness of the condition of malnutrition which falls but little short of a deficiency disease. The effects on vitality may be very pronounced in cases where a faulty diet is persisted in to a point where clinically observable symptoms are about ready to appear, but where no clear-cut lesions are detectable."

Vitamins are destroyed by cooking with alkalis, which circumstance is a strong argument against the use of soda in cooking any kind of vegetables, or in preparing any food, for that matter.

In a recent lecture outlining the work that has been done on vitamins during the last year, Dr. Walter G. Eddy of Teachers' College, Columbia University, told some interesting things about vitamins. One was that we are no nearer to knowing what vitamins are. Another was that vitamins seem to bring to us the energy of sunlight; that



there is a connection between radiant energy and the antirachitic vitamin; the more sunlight we get the less vitamin we can get along with, and the more vitamin we get the less sunlight we can get along with. It has been known for some time that sunlight is influential in curing rickets and that cod-liver oil is potential in curing rickets, but that olive oil is of no value in the cure of rickets; but it has been found that by irradiating olive oil with ultra-violet light, power to cure rickets is conferred upon the olive oil.

VITAMINS RADIOACTIVE?

It was also found that if cod-liver oil, egg yolk, or any antirachitic substance is oxidized and the oxidized substance is allowed to act on a photographic plate through a screen, the plate is fogged. There is therefore something in vitamins that is radioactive.

I am sure that after reading this discussion the reader will agree that, considering what slight variations in diet produce profound results in the condition of the health, it is supremely important that people know what foods must be included in their own diet and in that of their children to keep them in health.

The simple, natural foods, such as green leafy vegetables, whole-wheat cereals, and fruits, especially fresh fruits, are entitled to a most prominent place in the diet of children, and of adults too. The ideal menu satisfies not only the appetite, but also the demands of the body for foods that will enable it to remain in a state of glowing health and vitality.

Will Sinners Be Punished?

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day, said: "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat." 2 Peter 3:12. What a fire!—the heavens dissolved, the earth a molten mass!

After the fires of the last day, God has promised to create "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13. When that glad day comes, there will be not a discordant note in all the universe of God, but everywhere peace and harmony. Describing that glorious day the apostle John says: "Every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever." Revelation 5:13. We can be among that happy throng, if we choose to be. Jesus made His sacrifice for all. Shall we not accept His gracious invitation?

Who Will Stand in the Gap?

ABRAHAM stood in the gap when God revealed His purpose to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because their sin was very grievous. Every prayer was answered. When Abraham stopped praying, the judgment of God fell upon the city. Even then God remembered Abraham and delivered Lot. In judgment God remembers mercy because His children pray.

Moses stood in the gap at a time when God's wrath was kindled against Israel because of their idolatry, and again when they murmured against God's servants. As a result "the Lord repented of the evil which He thought to do unto His people," and again the Lord said, "I have pardoned according to thy word."

Samuel stood in the gap many years when the people lost the ark of Jehovah and after-



Christ the Sin Bearer

PERCY T. MAGAN

THE entire work of our Lord was an act of loving communion with our fallen race in its misery. He numbered Himself with the transgressors, and made the burden of our sins His own. His very being entered lovingly, sympathetically, and profoundly into the sinner's experience, and through love and sympathy realized the crushing weight of sin for him. This was the vital difference between Jesus and the Pharisees, between goodness which, bearing the burden of poor men and women, says, "Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28), and goodness which has no sympathy with the sinner, and which bears no burden for him, and which says, "Come not near to me; for I am holier than thou" (Isaiah 65:5).

Sin was the most fatal and crushing of all man's burdens, and sin weighed heaviest upon Jesus. When the Master received sinners, they were conscious of this. He did not merely talk about sin-bearing love; He exhibited it. There was that in His very presence which instinctively told them the infinite cost of forgiveness. They saw it in every line and lineament of that gentle, and oftentimes troubled face. Its tragic notes were heard in every tone of His voice. They were aware that He had carried on His own heart the weight which was lifted from theirs, and that their debt to Him was immeasurable. That was why they poured their precious ointment on His head, and wet His feet with tears and wiped them with the hairs of their head. If there was not as much as one articulate word in all the New Testament on the subject of Christ's bearing our sin, one could argue quite confidently from the redemptive power of goodness displayed in His every walk and way that He did unquestionably bear it. He bore it in a love which entered victoriously into sinful hearts, and reconciled them to God.



wards turned away from God and desired a king like the nations round about them; and again when King Saul disobeyed God, and spared Agag and the best of the sheep. It was then that Samuel "cried unto the Lord all night."

Elijah stood in the gap caused by the worship of Baal on the part of King Ahab, his wife, and the people. For three and a half years Elijah stood alone in the breach until God answered by fire and His enemies were destroyed. Then His people fell on their faces, crying out: "The Lord, He is the God; the Lord, He is the God."

Job stood in the gap for his whole family when they spent their time feasting. He rose up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings unto the Lord according to the number of them all; for Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually."

Where is an Abraham, or a Moses, a Samuel, or an Elijah, or a Job who will stand in the gap to-day? "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him."

In Ezekiel's day, God said of His foolish prophets: "Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord." Ezekiel 13:5. Shall He say the same to-day? The battle is on,—the battle between truth and error, between the right and the wrong, between God and Satan. Who among us will stand against the wiles of the devil and withstand in this evil day? God is taking out a people for His name (Acts 15:14), and therefore is looking for those who will firmly stand with Christ by faith in the midst of Jordan (the victory of Calvary) until all the people are passed over (Joshua 3:1-17).—From the Great Commission Prayer League.

Jesus Was the Son of God

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for a guilty world? Again we see Jesus. Do we long for one who can bear the burden of human woes, the world's sicknesses and sorrows, and so our own? We find the Compassionate One, and lo! it is Jesus.

"Do we look at the course and ask the significance of human history? It is found in Jesus. If we look to the unnumbered sepulchers of the holy dead, our minds are turned to Jesus, who will raise them. If we contemplate the destiny of the righteous living, again we look to Jesus; for He is coming for them. If we look to prophecy, we see Jesus; for it is of the times of restitution which He will ordain, that all the holy prophets have spoken since the world began.

"If the mind desires to dwell upon the future inheritance of the saints; there still we see, in all His glory, the beloved Jesus; for He it is who establishes the kingdom, and bids the blessed of the Father to enter in and possess it forever and ever. Thus, in whatever direction we look, above or below, to things near or afar off, to the past, present, or future, in every Bible doctrine, in every practical truth, at the end of every vista, we see Jesus, the chiefest of all, the One altogether lovely."



What's Inside?

THE earth," announces Dr. Perry Byerly, seismologist of the University of California, "is built of concentric spherical shells surrounding a fluid iron core with prevalent sharp discontinuities in the structure.

"The outer crust is constituted of ten miles of concrete overlaid with thicknesses of sedimentary rock.

"Beneath this granite shell and attached to it is another thickness of rock, probably basaltic, which I believe to be about twelve miles thick. This is the surface structure under the continent. Under the ocean it is entirely different. The first structure there is probably basaltic rock twenty-five miles thick.

"The first sharp discontinuity of break in the shell occurs at a depth of about two hundred miles, and the second break at a distance of about fifteen hundred miles from the surface."

Says the San Francisco *Chronicle*, which reports this lecture: "Professor Byerly, in his calculations, used intricate mathematical formulas, and the compilations of earth movements over a long period of time, and checked them against the known phenomena of research. He declared he was 'sure' of his findings."

Very well; perhaps he is. But we, who are neither scientists nor seismologists, rather wonder how long these findings will stand. Research is much like a chameleon; it changes its hues against varying backgrounds, and declaring this thing to-day, is never abashed to declare that thing to-morrow. Seriously, we wonder if in twelve or eighteen months some brother scientist will not appear with a complete contradiction of Dr. Byerly's assertions,—a contradiction based upon new intricate mathematical formulas and new compilations of earth movements over a long period of time, checked by newly-known phenomena, ascertained by new research,—so fallible and so protean is science!

But though scientists differ and err, nature remains the same. So, we think, it is with God's other revelation of Himself, the Holy Scriptures. In their interpretations thereof how frequently men err, pervert, and are misled! Yet the word of God awaits for all who will read it. Let us rely, not on another man's interpretation, or on the views and discussions of the great authorities of the church, but on the plain Scripture. Let us read and study the Bible for ourselves. "If any man will do His will, He shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself." John 7:17. The one who sincerely wills to do the will of God may find divine aid in solving the problems of both present and future.

Lynch Law

ABOUT twelve miles from where the SIGNS OF THE TIMES is published there recently occurred one of the most shocking lynchings in Californian history. A mob of between 10,000 and 15,000 men, women, and children stormed the county jail at San Jose. Two men, confessed murderers, were led out by the mob and hanged to trees in St. James Park across the street from the jail.

The act was shocking, not because it was unjustified, but because it revealed the decreasing respect for security and order. It involved a double disrespect to the law. First came the secret flouting of our statutes by the criminals in question, when they kidnaped a young man, bound him and weighted him with heavy concrete blocks, slugged him, threw him into San Francisco Bay, shot at him as he struggled in the waters, and then calmly watched the body sink out of sight. Later came the open flouting of the law by the thousands of citizens whom we have mentioned, who felt that crime must be pun-

ished, that the ways of the law, in our modern times of sentimentalism and degeneracy, were too wavering and uncertain, and therefore took retaliation into their own hands, that they might see for a surety that justice was done. The very fact that so large a number of respectable persons were found to take part in the riot proves the growing feeling of the people that crime is slowly gaining the upper hand, and that desperate efforts must be made to punish it, if we are not to be entirely overwhelmed.

Anciently a great prophet of Israel, surveying the iniquities of that time, a time of abounding lawlessness and unblushing criminality, had this to say: "Your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. . . . The act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. . . . They have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness." Isaiah 59:3, 4, 6-9. Might not this language with all appropriateness be applied to our own times, with their burden of reckless criminality and fiendish indifference to the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?

Why is it that in this age, blessed beyond all others by the light of science and the broad diffusion of education, we witness a steady growth of violence and lawlessness?

We believe one reason may be found in the contempt with which people regard divine law, and even God Himself. Men have rejected the idea of an omniscient Providence, of a Sover-



Seven national organizations of the Lutheran churches, representing 3,000,000 members, are celebrating the 450th anniversary of Martin Luther, born in 1583. Prominent Lutheran officials are here shown presenting President Franklin D. Roosevelt with a plaque commemorative of the German Reformer.

eign "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation." Exodus 34:6, 7. They have even rejected the idea of a God who is the Father of all. Instead, they seek their ancestry in mud and amœbas. Thence by a long chain of suspicious relics they forge for themselves a pedigree, gradually rising from mollusks to apes, and thence to our pres-



ent estate. All this progress was made by ruthless force, by the destruction of the weak, the cruelty of the strong. The fittest thus surviving, mankind reached a high plane. It would be hard to think of a philosophy more unmoral, more contradictory to the sense of right. Yet it was avidly accepted, and forms the law and the gospel of twentieth-century knowledge.

If mankind has come so far by force, may he not go yet farther in the same path? If the tooth and claw, the thorn club and battle-ax were the instruments of human progress in all former days, may not the future progress of the race be found with the revolver and brass knuckles, the machine gun and automatic pistol? What is left of the conceptions of that which is right and just, and that which is wrong and disgraceful? Moral significance washes away in the cold lapping waters of Darwinism. One may largely do as one pleases, at least to the extent that one is able; for right and wrong are the passing judgments of the race, and righteousness is but a notion of the fathers. "Let us eat and drink; for to-morrow we die." 1 Corinthians 15:32.

It is not extraordinary that such conditions occur in our times. The clear language of the Scriptures predicts the lawlessness of this present age. "In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." 2 Timothy 3:1-4. Or as another version reads, "Men will be selfish, fond of money, boastful, haughty, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreverent, callous, relentless, scurrilous, dissolute, and savage; they will hate goodness, they will be treacherous, reckless and conceited, prefer-



At the eleventh anniversary of the Fascist march on Rome, a vast throng of Italians gathered in the Piazza Venezia, Rome, to listen to a patriotic address by Mussolini. The dictator declared that Italy and Fascism must advance "materially as well as spiritually."

ring pleasure to God." Or yet another, "Men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, profane. They will be disobedient to parents, thankless, irreligious, destitute of natural affection, unforgiving, slanderers. They will have no self-control, but will be brutal, opposed to goodness, treacherous, headstrong, self-important."

How curiously exact a portrait of 1933 A. D., when one considers that the apostle penned this language two thousand years before!

Yet while the rising inundation of vicious and uncalled-for crime, arousing citizens to furious retaliation, shocks and

amazes all thinking men, there is much consolation in the apostle's words. "In the last days," he foretells, "perilous times shall come." It is at the close of our world's troubled career that these conditions are aggravated, when human iniquity is near to overflowing, and the sands in the hourglass run low. Soon shall appear the Saviour of all who believe on Him. Jesus Christ will return. He shall not come as once He came to Bethlehem's manger, in lowliness and obscurity. "Behold, He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him." "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 1:7; 6:14-17. "And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Isaiah 25:9.

The Land of Liberty

RECENTLY Judge William G. De Meza, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, sentenced thirteen tract distributors of religious literature to ten days in jail for canvassing without permits. The judge offered to suspend the sentence in each case, provided each person arrested would promise to cease the distribution of pamphlets issued by a radio evangelist. The prisoners refused the offer, and submitted to the unjust decree, reserving the right to distribute pamphlets in the future." This is the statement of a current magazine reporting recent difficulties in religious liberty.

The SIGNS OF THE TIMES knows nothing concerning these thirteen persons. The literature and tracts which they were engaged in disseminating may not have been essentially wholesome and uplifting in their religious outlook. Their doctrines may have been marred by fanaticism, or distorted by bigotry. We do not know. But all this is very much beside the point. The real issue is, Are we to have religious liberty in this country? or shall the magistrates decide what faiths may be propagated?

There is a growing tendency in the nations of the world to utterly reject the principles of civil and religious liberty. And occasionally this tendency rears its head in our own land. We cannot emphasize too strongly that the very essence of Americanism consists in this, that every man has a right to select whatever political and religious affiliations he pleases,—or none at all, if he so pleases. And if an individual unites himself to the creed of his choice, he may propagate that creed in any manner which does not violate the persons or property of other men, nor conflict with those common decencies which all must observe in a peaceable and wholesome community. For a township, a city, a state, or this United States to undertake to forbid the distribution of religious literature, and to cause the imprisonment of persons who engage in such work, is a denial of a right for which in former centuries men gave their lifeblood.

Once more, we are not aware that we have any special religious sympathy with the persons who were thus arrested. It is entirely possible that if we were aware of their doctrinal views, we should not care to conform thereto. But we have every sympathy with these persons as with American citizens who are being deprived of their liberties, and who have suffered imprisonment for upholding the principles on which, long since, this nation was founded.

D.



Following the STAR

THEY were of the aristocracy of the learned—the wise men of the East. For many years they had studied the ancient records and searched the parchment scrolls wherein was inscribed the wisdom of Persia. The Magi occupied positions of wealth and influence. They were recognized as statesmen, as educators, as students of science, and as the religious leaders of the Orient.

These men, honest of heart, were sincere seekers after truth. Although much of their philosophy was built around error, false theory, and vain superstition, still the light of God, shining even amid heathenism, enlightened their minds.

Persia's wise men were the scientists of that day. As they observed the operation of nature's laws, they recognized many of the basic, underlying principles of the universe. In their astronomical study they were made to realize the controlling power of the omnipotent Creator who upholds all things "by the word of His power." Hebrews 1:3.

STUDENTS OF SCRIPTURE

There in that far country these scholars studied into the highest learning of that time. They were inspired with the hope that, perchance in their day, there might appear the divine Teacher, whose coming seemed dimly foretold in their ancient scrolls. The years passed by. At last they were led to a survey of the Hebrew Scriptures. There they discerned the glorious prophetic truths pointing to the coming of the Messiah. With eagerness they read the words, "There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel." Numbers 24:17. He who said, "I am . . . the bright and morning Star" (Revelation 22:16), was revealing Himself to these in quest of truth.

The glory that flooded the hills of Bethlehem at the birth of Christ was reflected in Persia's darkened sky. The light faded away, and there shone forth a high white star. The interest of the people was excited, and the Magi were strangely stirred by this phenomenon. Again they turned to the treasured prophecies which now seemed open to their understanding. The fullness of time had come; the Messiah and Prince was born in Israel. While not realizing the full import of these events, they were willing to follow divine direction as it was revealed to them. They followed, and in the light of the star were led across the weary desert miles to the land of Judea.

In Jerusalem, the Magi immediately made eager inquiry for the King. "We have seen

His star in the East, and are come to worship Him." Matthew 2:2. But they did not find the city astir with the glad news of the Messiah's birth. Amazed and perplexed, they sought the priests of the temple, who were found poring intently over the accumulated store of handed-down tradition. The wondrous truth God had intrusted to His chosen people was obscured by the vain precepts of men. Although the recognized scholars and religious leaders of the day, these Jewish teachers had lost their way in a maze of empty philosophy; their wisdom had become entangled with human reasoning. They no longer perceived the revelation of God in nature, and they failed to discern the grand truth of His written word. Their eyes were blind to the light of the star that would have led them to their Messiah.

The wise men were met with coldness and indifference. These religious teachers could tell them nothing. Finally at the command of Herod, however, they turned to the scrolls and there found the words of Micah, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, . . . out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel." Micah 5:2.

Disappointed and troubled, the wise men left Jerusalem. The gates of the city were closed behind them, for it was evening. The hearts of Israel, too, were closed to the light of truth, for their minds were darkened.

Rays of starlight lengthened along Judea's horizon. Looking up, the Magi gladly beheld this omen of their guidance. By its light they were led to the town of Bethlehem. In glad acknowledgment of the Christ they fell down and worshiped Him. Kneeling there before the lowly manger, they offered gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Far more precious, however, was their transcending gift—a true worship of faith and love.

A LIGHT STILL SHINING

A bit of religious mythology? Rather hard to believe? No, my friend, for the shining light of that star is still guiding men and women to Jesus Christ. Across the sandy way of life those wise men of yesterday have left a path that leads to the Saviour of the world. Eager steps have found the Way of truth; earnest hearts are following the Light of life.

* * * * *

Although nineteen hundred centuries separate us from the sad experience of a people who rejected the light of truth, still an apt comparison prevails to-day. As a widely quoted writer, Alfred N. Whitehead, observes, "The modern world has lost God and is seeking Him."

Our scholars and men called "wise" seem, like those religious teachers of old, to have lost the way. These modern leaders fail to discern the only star of hope which is shedding its light on our darkened world to-day.



The star is the same as of old, for it leads us to the Christ.

Professors of religious thought have attempted to merge conjectural scientific theories with attenuated religious principles, thus creating our so-called "modern philosophy." They assure us that no truly literate scholar or thinker of to-day holds to anything so narrow and archaic as fundamental Christianity. Every tenet of faith has been attacked and, they would have us believe, well refuted.

o Bethlehem and CHRIST



From the Scriptures the wise men of the East received that spiritual light which enabled them to see in the star of Bethlehem a token of the coming Messiah.

These critics grandiloquently assert that "these buttresses of the Christian epic have crumbled as a result of the progress of scholarship in the last generation." In place of the religion of Jesus Christ these distinguished sages would introduce a new order. From their "wise, mature reflections" they have evolved, as stated by one of their authorities, "a secularized social religion like

*As when Jesus was born, there were some who professed to be religious leaders, yet who could not direct the wise men to Him, so now the directions of the Modernists lead not to the Saviour of the world. * * **

ELEANOR BAER

Unitarian Humanism or advanced Christian Socialism."

In spite of the onslaughts of modern criticism, however, the truth of the Bible stands invincible. True scholarship and Christianity are not incompatible. In graphic prophecy of the last days, Paul speaks of those who will be "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Timothy 3:7.

Our modernists have lost sight of the star that leads the truly wise of every age to Him who said, "I am . . . the truth." John 14:6. By the strategy of "higher criticism" they are destroying the faith of thousands. By speculative philosophy men called "wise" have set many adrift on the uncharted sea of human reasoning and a worldly skepticism. They have darkened the world with doubt.

Still there shines undimmed the guiding star to light the way back to the true knowledge of God.

"Dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto" (1 Timothy 6:16), God is the source of truth. He is ascribed in Hebrew song as the God of truth, and the psalmist further speaks of this eternal attribute, "The truth of the Lord endureth forever." Psalm 117:2.

PILATE'S QUESTION

It was Pilate who voiced the desire of all human hearts when he questioned, "What is truth?" John 18:38. How sadly significant it is that although addressing this query to Him who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), Pilate failed to grasp its answer. Truth, as it were, is the eternal quest; and how elusive it has proved to those who have sought it at the broken cisterns of earth's vain philosophy! The wisest of all the ages have uttered truth only as they have repeated the words of God to man.

Christ gives us the blessed promise, "Ye shall know the truth," and it "shall make you free." John 8:32. In view of this assurance surely all who do not avail themselves of true knowledge are without excuse. God has given to mankind a threefold revelation of truth—in nature, in His written word, and in Jesus Christ.

Creation is an irrefutable witness to the omnipotent One who "spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." Psalm 33:9. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork." Psalm 19:1. "Nature testifies that One infinite in power, great in goodness, mercy, and love, created the earth, and filled it with life and gladness. . . . Wherever we turn, we may hear the voice of God, and see evidences of His goodness." It was in the language of nature that God first spoke to the minds of the wise men of the East. They discerned His power and character, but did not regard these revelations of nature as from God. They followed on to know better the God of truth.

THE REVELATION OF GOD

"Thy word is truth." John 17:17. The Bible is a written revelation of God to man. In its precepts we find reflected the character of the Deity. The Scriptures were not written by "the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy

(Continued on page 14)



The "SIGNS" QUESTION CORNER

Conducted by
WILLIAM G. WIRTH
5447 El Verano Avenue,
Eagle Rock, California

If you have a question on some subject apropos to the field of the "SIGNS OF THE TIMES," write preferably direct to Dr. Wirth. Anonymous questions will not be answered.



SABBATH KEEPING

A lady from the state of Washington wishes to know what a non-Sabbath-keeping servant should be permitted to do on the Sabbath in a Sabbath-keeping family; also whether it is proper for her daughter to work in a large store on the Sabbath "since the store is conducted for the public good."

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is a Sabbath unto Jehovah thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Jehovah blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11. This fourth commandment of the Decalogue shows clearly that the Sabbath-keeping housewife ought not to permit a non-Sabbath-keeping servant to do the regular housework on the seventh day of the week.

When it comes to the question of what work the non-Sabbath-keeping servant may be allowed to do for herself on the Sabbath, I do not feel qualified to determine this. It must be left to the sound judgment and sanctified common sense of the Sabbath-keeping employer. However, I may say, in general, that the right of private conscience and the principles of religious liberty should be respected.

I can feel with this mother over her desire to see her daughter keep the Sabbath in the right way. I pray that God will impress upon this young woman's heart the need of keeping all of God's commandments. She will be richly blessed in so doing. Let her beware of that satanic sophistry which would deceive her into believing that though she works in a "large store" on the Sabbath, she may still observe that day on the ground that this service is for the public good. It must be patent that that kind of reasoning could be stretched to cover practically all kinds of work in which we might engage, and result in no cessation of work on the Sabbath as enjoined by the fourth commandment. If the Sabbath is right and we sense its obligation, let us observe it in a clean-cut manner, and by so doing win the respect of our own selves, our fellows, and our God. Any other course is bound to bring merited reproach from others and condemnation from Heaven. Obedience to God's commands proceeds in a direct, straight line; it makes no evasive or sophistical detours, which, whether we admit it or not, only betray our inner sense of guilt.

The Bible method of beginning and ending the day is from sunset to sunset. See Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31; Leviticus 23:32; Mark 1:32. This mode of beginning sacred festivals was in force until the twelfth century A. D. At that time the use of hours based on

the light of the natural day (from sunrise to sunset), which hours, of course, varied in length with the length of the day, the day being longer in summer and shorter in winter, was put aside generally by the mechanically fixed sixty-minute hours beginning at midnight and ending at midnight, brought in by the invention of clockwork. This midnight-beginning day was taken over from the Roman civil day, which began at midnight and ended at midnight. In England, most European countries, and the United States this Roman civil day is accepted as the norm by state and church.

However, while it may be proper to accept this Roman civil day for the ordinary days of the week, when it comes to the holy day of God, the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment, its beginning and ending from sunset to sunset should be followed by all who would do His will.

It has been said that in colonial days in New England, Sunday was often observed from sunset to sunset.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

From Texas comes an inquiry as to certain alleged requirements for membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

While Seventh-day Adventists have the kindest of feelings toward fraternal secret societies in Christian lands, yet because these societies in form, ritual, ceremony, and teaching enter the field of religion, they do not encourage their members to join them. Seventh-day Adventism fears that such secret-order religion would serve as a misplaced substitute for the religious beliefs and practices of the Bible; or if not a substitute, as a real though perhaps unconscious danger to the maintenance and preservation of distinctive denominational standards. I would urge the questioner to study carefully the principles found in 2 Corinthians 6:14ff. and Isaiah 8:10-13.

Holding to the individual right of conscience, Seventh-day Adventism does not bar from its church fellowship any man who is "an anti-Prohibitionist in his opinion and political beliefs, even though this man does not use liquor in any form." Having said this, it must quickly be added that denominationally Seventh-day Adventists stand fully for Prohibition. See Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-32.

A person need not "be a pacifist, a believer in peace at any price, to be eligible for membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

While Seventh-day Adventism believes it is good for the souls of those not of its faith to contribute to the worthy cause of spreading Bible truth and the gospel message to all peoples in all places of the earth (see Isaiah 60), and strongly encourages its members in various campaigns to solicit this money—following in this practically all other reli-

gious persuasions—it is entirely erroneous to think that "a person must be willing to solicit money from nonbelievers (people who do not believe in the Adventist doctrine at all) for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be eligible for membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

In fine, let the questioner grasp completely the thought that Seventh-day Adventism believes in ecclesiastical direction, not ecclesiastical subjection; in ecclesiastical leadership, not ecclesiastical compulsion.

"666" AND NRA

Two questions, one from Indiana and the other from Arkansas, ask if there is not a direct connection between the prophecies of the "666," the mark of the beast, and the present NRA (National Recovery Administration).

As to whether those "who wear the Blue Eagle," the insignia of the NRA, have the "mark of the beast, and will be destroyed in the battle of Armageddon," may I refer the questioner to the pertinent and illuminating editorial in this paper of October 3, this year. After stating that the NRA is not the fulfillment of the mystical "666" of Revelation 13:18, the editorial continues: "It is hard to think of any great movement, either good or bad, to which the '666' has not been applied. Successive fanatics have claimed to see its fulfillment in Julian the Apostate, in Mohammed, in Napoleon. During the war it was extensively applied to the kaiser. After the war it was applied to Lenin and Mussolini. We expect at any moment to receive literature from some one or other, assuring us that the damning figures find a complete satisfaction in the name of Herr Hitler. We have already received an epistle informing us that Franklin Delano Roosevelt fits the name exactly. It is safe to say that whenever any individual or any movement arises which strongly opposes the prejudices of certain rather religious persons, they immediately see a complete fulfillment of the Antichrist, and attempt to link it with the '666.'"

"What is the '666'?" To what or to whom does it apply? We cannot here enter into the long discussion which would be needed to make this point clear. We can only point out that according to the Bible itself it is: (1) Directly the number of a man (Revelation 13:18)—that is, it applies directly to an individual or to a succession of individuals, rather than to an organization. (2) But indirectly it is the number of the 'beast' (Revelation 13:18), an apostate religious power wielding civil authority against the people of God (Revelation 13:5, 6). (3) This power was to continue for forty-two prophetic months (Revelation 13:5), or literally 1260 years. (We may note in passing that we do not understand that even the most sanguine friends of the NRA predict for it an existence of so extended a duration.) (4) The 'beast,' or Antichrist, has its headquarters in Europe, and not in America (Revelation 13:2)."

In a word, the "beast" of Revelation 13:18 refers to the ecclesiastical-political power brought to view in the first part of the chapter, the papacy. The mention of "man" shows that this power revolves around one dominating human being, who is the head of the apostasy and controls it,—the pope. The number "666" refers to the numerical values of the various Latin letters making up one of the titles of the pope, "Vicarius filii Dei." The numerical values of the letters of this title that have a number value are as follows: v 5, i 1, c 100, i 1, u 5, i 1, l 50, i 1, i 1, d 500, i 1, making a total of 666.



Dr. Hermann Goering, president of the Nazi ministry, piloted the plane in which he and his chief, Adolf Hitler, recently toured the German states in the interest of their political campaign. Goering was a war pilot during 1914-1918.

Europe's Caldron BOILS

BESS MADDEN PINGENOT

THE fate of Europe is again in the hands of Germany," states Guglielmo Ferrero, the foremost historian of Europe, in a recent newspaper article. He continues, "If the exaltation of National Socialism (Hitlerism), at once conservative and revolutionary, spreads and waxes fervent in Germany, one cannot see how a new catastrophe can be averted."

Ever since the September elections of 1930 revealed the rapid growth of a militant, Fascist Germany, Europe has been on edge. Old fears, suspicions, and hates have flamed up anew. The hope in the future, which characterized the years 1925-30, has vanished. It is not strange, then, that with the *coup d'état* of the Nazis and the establishment of Hitler as dictator, there was open talk of war in Europe. One newspaper correspondent wrote at the time: "On key fronts, in critical danger zones, tenseness is increasing, armed forces are in motion. The Rhineland, with the Polish Corridor and Austria, all bitter with memories of postwar tragedies, have stirred simultaneously with the rise of Adolph Hitler and the reappearance of Germany's imperial flag."

So acute was the situation at that time, so great the danger of war, that four great nations, led by Mussolini, signed a peace pact intended to guarantee a warless Europe for ten years.

THE ANSCHLUSS

But now, a scarce four months later, Europe is again in grave danger of war. The center of the present controversy is Austria, and the question is the *Anschluss*, or Austro-German union. The German Nazis and their Austrian supporters are determined that Austria and Germany shall unite in a greater Germany. Germany alone of the nations really desires this union. Austria at one time was favorable, but that was when Germany was a republic. Since the advent of Hitler into power, Austria has changed her mind. But she is weak; unless she is given help, she cannot live within the frontiers or under the conditions which the Treaty of Versailles has imposed upon her. There are two ways of strengthening Austria; to unite her again with Hungary or to form the Danubian states into a vast economic union. There is no other solution outside the *An-*

schluss. Quoting the historian Ferrero again, we note that "the Austrian question is becoming acute; and if the great powers do not succeed in coming to an agreement as a means of settling it, they will one day find themselves confronted by two alternatives: either to let Germany take possession of Austria or to go to war."

And war it will surely be if the Germans make the wrong move. For there will never be an Austro-German union if France can prevent it. Since the question has become acute, Henry Berenger, an authority on French foreign affairs, issued this statement: "It is useless to temporize or to quibble; Austria must remain outside of Germany or there will be a European conflict—and what a conflict!—within a short time." France has stated positively that she will guarantee the political and economic independence of Austria, and adds significantly, "France is strong enough to resist attempts at violence."

This last statement was issued after Premier Edouard Daladier had made the first official tour of inspection of France's new border fortifications. These fortifications, designed with the latest military knowledge, form a great wall one hundred twenty-five miles long and fifteen miles deep. This wall, beginning at Calles, on the northern border

of France, extends along the country to the Mediterranean Sea. "They are a system of fortresses with great central fortification and flying bases linked by machine-gun pill boxes, cemented trench works, artillery emplacements, and underground strongholds where great bodies of men can take shelter in safety from the most intense bombardment of modern artillery."

THE COST OF DEFENSE

This wall, which forms a definite barrier against Germany on the east, took 10,000 men five years to build at a cost of \$100,000,000. Returning from his inspection, Premier Daladier said, "The shield is in place. It is a good metal. The country has reason to be calm and resolute." Thus France calmly waits to see what Germany will do, determined to fight, if need be, that the Treaty of Versailles may be upheld.

For the years since the war have been a continual struggle between France and Germany over the question of revision. The treaty guarantees the independence of Austria.

Perhaps we can better realize how grave this question of the *Anschluss* is by recalling what its proposal provoked two years ago. In 1931 Germany and Austria announced the formation of a customs union between the two countries. Immediately, France met Germany's challenge to the treaty with a counter offensive which rocked the world. At that time she waged a financial war, which did not end until Germany and Central Europe were bankrupt, Great Britain forced off the gold standard, and an unparalleled run made on American gold. Due to French delay, the Hoover moratorium came too late to save Germany, and as a result of the *Anschluss* 1931 closed the worst year since the war. And as the *Anschluss* two years ago precipitated a financial war which caused a world crash, so the union at the present time, if insisted upon by the Nazis, may plunge Europe into actual war. For the question is more serious now than in 1931; then all that was proposed was an economic union; to-day the Nazis are demanding political union as well.

AN OMINOUS FUTURE

How will it end? To any observer the future bodes ill for Europe and the peace of the world. In a number of critical spots tension has increased. Knowing that another war would probably mean "cosmic suicide," the nations nevertheless continue to prepare for war and seem unable to adjust the situations which threaten to pro-

(Continued on page 14)



The

BIBLE

Pictures Man as He Is

♦

The Bible is a book of realism. It does not gloss over the sins of a Noah or a David. Its teaching portrays man as weak and sinful and in need of divine help.

♦

WALTER RUSSELL BOWIE



The judgment upon Jezebel, queen of Israel, is one of the Bible's great lessons of moral retribution.

WHAT does the Bible teach us about man? In the first place, it reveals the fact of his moral imperfection. The Bible is the supreme Book of ideals, but it is first the Book of utter realism. It never glosses facts. It never smooths the portraits of its heroes. Cromwell, when he charged the artist to paint his portrait, wart and all, might well have had in mind the example of the Bible, for it paints its characters unswervingly, with their disfigurements and deformities, their blemishes and their blame.

The Bible has not turned its third page before we come upon the account of Cain murdering his brother Abel, and we hear those words which so many rebellious human hearts in all the centuries since have echoed: "Am I my brother's keeper?" A few pages further on, there is the ugly picture of the drunkenness of Noah and the viciousness of the children of Lot. Jacob, who is to be the progenitor of the twelve tribes, begins his career by a wretched trick in which he deceives his blind father and steals the birthright blessing of the firstborn which should have gone to his brother Esau. Moses, the great deliverer, in a moment of furious anger, kills an Egyptian taskmaster and conceals the deed; and this same Moses, in a moment of weakness later flinches from the task that God would have intrusted to him, and ultimately had to divide it with Aaron. Samson, the intrepid fighter, succumbs to a woman's wiles and gives at last to the treacherous Delilah the secret of his strength. David the beautiful, beloved of men and of such a spirit that we do not wonder that he was called beloved of God also, is led by his passion into one deep and treacherous sin that stained his soul forever afterwards. So in the New Testament, also, some of the greatest figures are revealed with feet of clay, some of the knightliest with their vulnerable points where the poisoned arrows of failure had entered in. Peter

the ardent denied his Lord. Paul had his shortcomings of which he was constantly ashamed. The whole group of disciples, called as they were to sainthood, were only very slowly and imperfectly shaped toward the pattern which their Lord intended them to fulfill.

MEN OF THEIR TIMES

In recognizing all this moral imperfection of the Biblical characters and this frankness with which the Bible sets forth their sins, we must be careful to remember one fact, the ignoring of which would lead us into grave error and unfairness. It should be remembered that the Bible is linked with the periods in which it was written and with the periods which it describes. It presents men against the background of what their own age thought and believed in. From our twentieth-century point of view, bathed as it is in the long light of Christian conceptions, some of the figures which were held up to reverence, particularly in the Old Testament, might seem to embarrass our moral conscience altogether. But the fact is that the Bible describes real men against the background of their real times. It shows them emerging from primitive conceptions and primitive ideas. It shows the great figures, like their contemporaries, moving still in the valleys of human attainment, but nevertheless rising in their desire and achievement head and shoulders above the crowd.

All through the Bible, its glory is that its judgment of sin is as earnest as its description is sure. Evil is not toyed with nor treated with laziness and cynical indifference. Always there is the high consciousness that wrong ends at last in misery and shame, that moral unfaithfulness will not escape its doom of failure, and that the wages of sin is death. Cain the murderer goes out into the world branded by the mark which he will never erase until his affrighted soul cries

out in bitterness, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." The brothers of Joseph sell him as a slave into Egypt and laugh with cruel satisfaction at their envious triumph; but the time comes when they say one to another: "We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us." Saul, the first king of Israel, destroys through evil choices his sense of a divine spirit, and lonely and morbid, he goes at last to the witch of Endor, saying, "I am sore distressed; for . . . God is departed from me, and answereth me no more." And at length on the disastrous battlefield of Mount Gilboa, with his army routed and his kingdom broken, he took his sword and fell upon it—in that tragic final act symbolizing his whole life, which year by year had been destroyed by his own perverted possibilities. David carried through, unscathed for the moment, his guilty purpose to possess Bathsheba; but the dark hour came when, with his child dying, the prophet Nathan stood before him and told him in a parable the story of a cruel wrong, which roused David's indignation; and then, full in the face of David's conscience he flung the condemnation, "Thou art the man."

PROPHETS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Through the pages of the Old Testament, again and again there move those figures of the prophets, voicing the judgments of an eternal righteousness, calling men's consciences to the bar of a judgment which not the mightiest of them could escape. Ahab the king shrinks before Elijah with the stifled exclamation, "Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?" and hears the dread answer: "I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the

Lord." "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;" cries Isaiah—"that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! . . . As the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust." "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God," sang the psalmist; but the voice of the fool is not the voice of that deep instinct of right and wrong which the Bible reveals to exist in men. "God is not mocked," that record says; "for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." And in the eternal issue of right and wrong, the Bible from a hundred tongues sounds the solemn challenge which Deuteronomy ascribes to Moses, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death: . . . therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

A TIME OF CRISIS

Here again the message of the Bible chimes in with our modern need. It is plain that the great world crisis through which we have been passing traces back to causes which consist at bottom not in material conditions



In the dungeons of Philistia Samson learned a wisdom to which he had never attained in the days of his triumphs.

set up from earth to heaven. Selfish and crafty as many of his instincts were, he too had within him a sense of his need of God if his life was to be complete. He began as the deceiver who crept off with his brother's birthright; he ended as the man who, having learned deep lessons, wrestled with God and prevailed.

A LAW OF PROGRESS

When we turn to the nobler characters of the Bible, we see them, at their poorest, sorry for their conscious wrongdoing; and at their best, filled with a scorn of mean and common things which lifted them by the power of a growing excellence. Read the Psalms and hear the voice of David crying in the bitterness of his remorse, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. . . . Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Turn to the New Testament and listen to Peter saying, as with sudden awe he faced the greatness of Jesus, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Hear Paul laying bare his soul to the Christians of Rome, "I see another law in my members, . . . bringing me into captivity to the law of sin. . . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" So out of their sense of shortcoming and shame they cried. They could not rest in conscious evil. They might struggle in the valleys, but somewhere there was the path to the mountain top. They groped in darkness, but they

lifted eyes which were wistful for the light.

And as men had this dissatisfaction with themselves, so also they refused to be content with the circumstances of an evil world. They willed to be something more than pawns in the grip of the forces of their generation. Elijah confronts the wickedness of the kingdom of Ahab. He is alone, one voice against the timid silence of the secret multitude, who might have preferred goodness, but did not dare. But Elijah withstands Ahab to his face. First of the great liberators of the common people, he champions the poor man against the mighty. And before Elijah was through, Ahab's throne was broken in pieces before the moral forces which the prophet had let loose. Amos likewise stands in the corrupt capital of Bethel and lifts up a new standard of conscience around which men might rally.

WHAT PURPOSE IN LIFE?

These and other great figures of the Bible were no ineffective Hamlets crying, "The time is out of joint: O cursed spite, that ever I was born to set it right!" They stood, like Isaiah, before the double revelation of God's purity and the nation's evil, hearing the voice of God asking, "Whom shall I send?" and they answered, as Isaiah did, "Here am I; send me." They stood, as Paul of Tarsus did in the moment of his vision, and replied, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" They went out, as Paul afterwards went out, to dare the mighty venture of winning the world for the kingdom of God. They revealed that fire of heroic possibilities which forever slumbers in the heart of man until the breath of God blows it into prevailing

A New System of Bible Marking

By JOHN L. SHULER

DIRECTIONS FOR MARKING SUBJECTS IN YOUR BIBLE

1. On the blank leaves at the front or back of your Bible make a list of all the subjects as you mark them, with the key letters which stand for each subject and the first Bible reference with which that lesson begins; for example, for this week's lesson write on the flyleaf of your Bible: "SP, Seven Plagues, begin Revelation 16."
 2. Then turn to Revelation 16 and write beside it the second text, thus: "2SP, Revelation 18:8."
 3. Then turn to Revelation 18:8 and write beside it the third text, thus: "3SP, Isaiah 34:8."
 4. Continue in this way throughout the lesson.
 5. At the last text write "End SP."
- Note: Mark only those references in the lesson which are numbered, and always put the number of the text and the key letters in front of the text.

LESSON No. 13—The Seven Last Plagues

KEY LETTERS—SP (Seven Plagues)

1. Revelation 16. Read this chapter and tell what constitutes each of the seven last plagues. Nothing like it has ever happened; so it is bound to be in the future.
2. Rev. 18:8. They will all come in one prophetic day or one literal year. Ezek. 4:6.
3. Isa. 34:8. They will come during the last year of this present age just before the appearing of Christ. Compare Rev. 16:18, 20 and Rev. 6:14-17.
4. Dan. 12:1. These plagues will bring the worst time of trouble ever known.



5. Rev. 15:1. These plagues are the wrath of God without mercy. Rev. 14:10.
6. Rev. 15:5-8. There will be no intercessory work for sinners during these plagues.
7. Rev. 22:11, 12. Every person's case will be forever decided before the first plague comes. These plagues cannot come and will not come until Jesus ceases to plead His blood for sinners.
8. Ps. 91:7-10. The righteous will be protected during these plagues. Study Isa. 41:17, 18; 33:14, 16, 17; 65:13, 14; 25:4; 49:10; 60:2; 58:10; Rev. 3:10; Joel 3:16; Ps. 46:1-3; Isa. 32:18, 19.
9. Rev. 14:12. The only way of escape from the plagues is to keep all the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.
10. Gen. 7:1, 4, 16. The door of salvation was closed seven days before the Flood started. In the closing days of this age the door of salvation will be closed before the first plague starts.
11. Luke 13:24-28. Many will try to enter when it is too late.
12. Matt. 24:44. We should be ready every day, right now. 2 Cor. 6:2; Isa. 55:6; Heb. 4:7.

flame. They made plain then what our own souls know now, that there is no satisfaction within us until we have seen and followed our highest and our best.

Thus the Bible treats sin and evil not as something to be lamented over, but as something to be changed. The Bible is the eternal tonic against cynicism and moral surrender. Its message is like the answer which a man once made to another man who was inveighing against religion. "Look at all the brutal, stupid things that make up life," the second man said; "I could have made a better world than this." And the first man replied; "That is what God put you here for; go and do it!"

And the Bible, which thus is a revelation of the possibilities in man, is also, and supremely, a revelation of the reality of God. It shows this human life of ours reaching up to something higher than itself. If the Bible is true, then the voice of repentance and the cry of need and the yearning look of aspiring human faces are not directed into emptiness. Above our little lives, there broods the eternal life. All these outreachings beyond ourselves are met by One whom men can learn increasingly to know, to love, and securely trust.

(To be continued)

Following the Star

(Continued from page 9)

Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21. Through study of His word, the physical powers are developed, the mind is ennobled and elevated, the mental faculties stimulated, and the soul fortified with spiritual strength. Christ enjoins us to "search the Scriptures." John 5:39. The psalmist exclaims, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart." Psalm 119:11. In writing to Timothy who had been taught the word of God from early childhood, Paul says, "Thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." 2 Timothy 3:15. The scholars of the East were not too wise to diligently study the words of truth in Hebrew writings.

"I am . . . the truth," says Jesus. John 14:6. While Scripture is the written word, Jesus Christ is the revealed Word of God. The same Word that "was God" and "was in the beginning with God" was "made flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:1-3, 14. Christ is the living revelation of God to men. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. As they followed the divine guidance, the Magi of the East were led at last to Christ, "the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6.

To-day, men called "wise" seek a knowledge of truth at the shrine of modern philosophic thought. Of these vain teachings, God declares, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." 1 Corinthians 1:19. The prophet of old questioned, "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" 1 Corinthians 1:20.

Let us, with the wise men of yesterday, follow the guiding light of the star to the truth in Christ Jesus.

Europe's Caldron Boils

(Continued from page 11)

voke it. A survey of world conditions brings to mind the prophecy of John the revelator: "After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that no wind should blow on the earth, or on the sea, or upon any tree. And I saw another angel ascend from the sunrising, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a great voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." Revelation 7:1-3, A. R. V.

Thus the affairs of men and of nations shall be held in check, and the winds of strife shall not blow unrestrained, until the servants of God receive the seal of the living God in their foreheads. But once the righteous are sealed, the angels will loosen the

winds, which are now held in check; then shall come a time of trouble such as the world has never seen; then the nations of earth will gather their forces together for that last great battle, Armageddon, described in the sixteenth chapter of Revelation; and then shall the end come. That fateful day approaches. Not far in the future Jesus Christ will come a second time, to redeem His chosen, faithful children, and receive them into His kingdom.

Shall we be ready for Him when He comes? In that day, glorious and terrible beyond conception, shall we be met of Him in peace? Do we know that He is our Saviour now, so that we may know He will be our Saviour when He shall appear?

We may temporarily dismiss such questions from our minds, but inevitably we must answer at the coming of the Redeemer. Let us so prepare ourselves in heart and life that we may welcome Him with joy.



Poisoned Water

ALGER H. JOHNS

ONE of the greatest wonders of nature as found in the mountains is the progress of the countless streams of water which find their source in the "eternal snow" that caps the highest peaks. This ice-cold water, gushing from miniature waterfalls, dashing over rocks, and forming here and there crystal-clear pools, ever widens until it forms mighty rivers flowing through cities and on to the sea.

A picnic party was enjoying this water in the mountains, with never a thought but that it was pure. However, in the late afternoon some of the party became sick. Surely that delightful water could not have been the cause of the sickness! The water looked pure. But a few days later a corpse was found near the source of that rivulet; and it was this which had contaminated the whole stream.

It was only a few years ago that every stream in the mountains was pure, but to-day in the most frequented places on the banks of the streams there are signs which read, "Danger; Water Contaminated."

SOURCES

As one of those who drank of that poisoned water, and who has often thought of the effect of such an experience on the physical life, I have come to the belief that the spiritual life is just as susceptible to poisoned water. There is no one strong enough to drink continually of a poisoned stream and yet remain well. Perhaps the most prevalent excuse for delving into modernism, false philosophy, atheism, and impure reading, is that "it is good to read such literature, to be better able to converse intelligently on the subject." The world is filled with such reading, and it is too bad that on the covers of such books there could not be engraved the words, "Danger! Contaminated." Perhaps a small drink will cause a slight sickness; but it takes only a very little more to cause death,—spiritual death.

It is the source of knowledge that makes such

a vast difference. A bad source will never produce good results. The garb of infidelity is only a cunning mask worn by the archenemy of souls. To the one neglecting the word of God, such reading will perhaps seem as a ray of light. How necessary, then, to continue daily to drink of the pure word of God, and with the reading mingle earnest communion with God in prayer!

The rivers flowing through the large cities are black with dirt, the very embodiment of impurity. Because of this contamination, it is in some places against the law to catch and sell for food fish from these waters. It does not take great intelligence to know of the danger of even tasting this water, because the dirt can be seen. But it is the clear water which looks perfectly harmless, but nevertheless contains deadly germs, wherein lurks the greater danger. Many of our modern books declare from the beginning their hostility to God; but it is the cleverly concealed poison parading under a guise of Christianity that causes the most damage to the unwary.

EFFECT OF EVIL LITERATURE

It is a sad experience to meet those who are floundering and gasping for a breath of the pure word of God. A middle-aged woman, educated and intelligent, passed her time reading poisoned literature. The Bible was neglected, and finally thrown away. The forces of evil grimly watched her in her losing battle. She was one who had said, "I am too strong ever to lose my faith in the Bible."

The life of such a one never advances. If we could see her now, we would realize that she has lost control of herself. Those who leave God do not begin a life that is more ennobling, or a life that is an example to others. Their pathway is always downward. Depraved nature is given the right of way.

No matter what difficulty man is in, God pleadingly says, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." Psalm 50:15. The indwelling Christ is not a psychic fog of doubt, not an imaginative dreaming. He is the foundation of the greatest bulwark, the source of the purest stream, ever given to man. He refreshes, strengthens, and sustains man, as nothing else can.

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J. R. FERREN, Circulation Manager

A. O. TAIT, A. L. BAKER, Editors

G. DALRYMPLE, Assistant Editor

What Manner of Man Is This?

JESUS CHRIST was born in the meanest of circumstances, but the air above was filled with the hallelujahs of the heavenly host. His lodging was a cattle pen, but a star drew distinguished visitants from afar to do Him homage.

His birth was contrary to the laws of life. His death was contrary to the laws of death. No miracle is so inexplicable as His life and teaching.

He had no cornfields or fisheries, but He could spread a table for five thousand and have bread and fish to spare. He walked on no beautiful carpets, but He walked on the waters, and they supported Him.

INDEX for the 1933 volume of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES is being prepared, and will be furnished free on request.

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for DECEMBER 19, 1933

His crucifixion was the crime of crimes, but, on God's side, no lower price than His infinite agony could have made possible our redemption. When He died few men mourned, but a black crepe was hung over the sun. Though men trembled not for their sins, the earth beneath shook under the load. All nature honored Him; sinners alone rejected Him.

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Was it merely the son of Joseph and Mary who crossed the world's horizon nineteen hundred years ago? Was it merely human blood that was spilled on Calvary's hill for the redemption of sinners and which has worked such wonders in men and nations through the centuries?

What thinking man can keep from exclaiming: "My Lord, and my God!"—Keith L. Brooks.

No Paper Next Week

As there are only fifty numbers in each year's volume of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES, there will be no paper next week. Your next paper will be dated Tuesday, January 2, 1934, and will be received approximately two weeks from the date this issue reached you.

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