

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

THE WORLD'S PROPHETIC WEEKLY



KEYSTONE

The FLIGHT of TIME

A SURVEY OF WORLD EVENTS

By the Editor



These fearsome creatures are merely gas-masked machine gunners of the British air force, in full war equipment.

INTERNATIONAL



MORE INTERPRETERS

ON THE occasion of his appointment as chancellor of Edinburgh University, Lord Tweedsmuir remarked that far too much time is spent nowadays in the gathering of facts and too little in the interpretation of their meaning. "We need more interpreters," he declared.

It is a very real need today. People are saturated with facts; they imbibe them hourly from radios, newspapers, and newsreels; but they have little understanding of their meaning.

Never was the populace better informed, and never so bewildered and perplexed.

Everybody is aware of all that is taking place around the world; the smallest details of all the wars, conquests, persecutions, riots, strikes, banditry, are flashed into our homes only seconds after they have happened.

We know everything, but how little do we understand! How meager is our

perception of the true trend of events! We have all knowledge, but such limited wisdom.

We have the facts, but we need interpreters.

We need leaders like "the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." 1 Chronicles 12:32.

How shall such understanding be found today?

We believe it will be discovered largely in the study of the Bible, and by that personal communion with God which invariably enriches the mind and balances the judgment.

"If any of you lack wisdom," says the apostle James, "let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally." James 1:5.

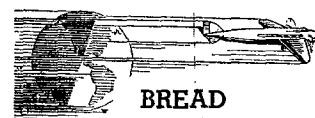
As Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar: "There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known . . . what shall be in the latter days." Daniel 2:28.

God will enlighten our minds if we approach Him in reverence, and open

His word with prayer. He knows the end from the beginning. To him the future is as plain as the past.

Guided by His word we, too, shall begin to understand the times, and to know what we ought to do. The great events of our day will fall into their proper setting like soldiers moving into line, in rhythm and harmony marching toward the glorious climax at Christ's return.

And when God has interpreted the facts to us, we in turn shall become His interpreters to others.



BREAD BOMBS

ONE of the most extraordinary happenings in the sad history of the Spanish civil war was the recent "bombing" of Madrid with loaves of bread by airmen of the insurgent forces. The evident intention, of course, was to convince the undernourished inhabitants of the beleaguered city that food is abundant with the followers of Franco and that the fruits of surrender would be sweet.

Some weeks later, however, the loyalist airmen retaliated by "bombing" Burgos, the insurgent capital, with articles of clothing. Tons of stockings, shirts, and other pieces of apparel were dropped by Government planes upon the astonished populace, this time, no doubt, to assure the rebels that there was no shortage of clothing, anyway, on the other side.

These two symbolic "bombings" would seem to indicate that the war is entering a new phase. Perhaps—let us hope so—both sides are getting weary of the struggle and are preparing to make peace. It is a good sign when enemies start dropping bread and clothing on each other.

This extraordinary picture from Berlin shows hundreds of school children about to pass through a gas-filled chamber to get them accustomed to war conditions.

INTERNATIONAL





One of the sad effects of the recent war scare was the destruction of many of London's beautiful parks for the provision of air-raid shelters. These are to remain for the present.

What a fine thing it would be if they would keep this up for a few weeks, pouring "coals of fire," as it were, on each other's heads until all animosity had been purged away and all barriers torn down with new-found love and laughter!

There is indeed a suggestion here that—if they would only accept it—might be worth more than a hundred million dollars to the Spanish people, and mean the salvation of what remains of their ravaged country.

A month's continuous "bombing" by both sides with bread and clothing would surely end the war for all time.

Franco and Negrin, you have both struck upon a brilliant plan. Instead of raining death and destruction on each other, why not continue to feed the hungry and clothe the naked on the other side? Keep it up, and you'll not only be home for Christmas, but will end the struggle with highest honor to everybody concerned, and withal set a glowing example of applied common sense before the whole war-mad world.

gions in "the four corners of the earth."

At the close of 1937, Seventh-day Adventists were conducting their work in 385 countries, islands and island groups, using in their work 714 languages and dialects. This is an increase of 65 languages during 1937, or practically one language added every five days during the year. The increase since 1929 has been 320 languages, or one new language added on an average of every nine days during the past eight years. The membership of the 8,388 Seventh-day Adventist churches throughout the world at the close of 1937 was 452,758, a net increase during the year of 14,619. The increase in membership since 1929 has been 153,203.

During the discussion of the report the fact was brought out that whereas one important Protestant church in America, numbering over three million members, had not sent out a single missionary during the years 1924-34 and, moreover, had recalled 40 already in the field, the Seventh-day Adventists during this same pe-

riod had sent out 1,376 missionaries, 872 from the United States and 504 from other home bases of the movement.

At a time when the financial resources of many Christian bodies are drying up, it is indeed heartening to note that during 1937 Seventh-day Adventists raised a grand total of \$4,534,984.93 for missionary enterprises at home and abroad.

The forward impulse of this denomination is no doubt traceable to the unshakable allegiance of the entire membership to the word of God, and their firm belief in the imminent personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.



PRAYERS FOR PEACE

IN A recent issue we referred to the amazing spectacle which occurred all over the world some weeks ago when thousands, sensing at last the imminence of universal destruction, flocked into the churches to pray for peace.

This remarkable turning to God was further evidenced by the unwonted appearance in many worldly periodicals of articles on the necessity and value of prayer. For a little while it seemed as though a mighty revival of godliness might break forth.

Among the many beautiful newspaper references to prayer and its efficacy in a time of world crisis, was the following tribute in the London *Times*. Its suggestions as to how best we may advance the cause of peace by our petitions deserve the thoughtful meditation of all:

"To pray for peace merely because war must involve the world and ourselves in agony and horror seems natural enough, yet the highest motive has another source than human fears and wishes.

"To pray rightly is to ask that the divine will may be done by us on earth, and

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FORWARD WITH GOD

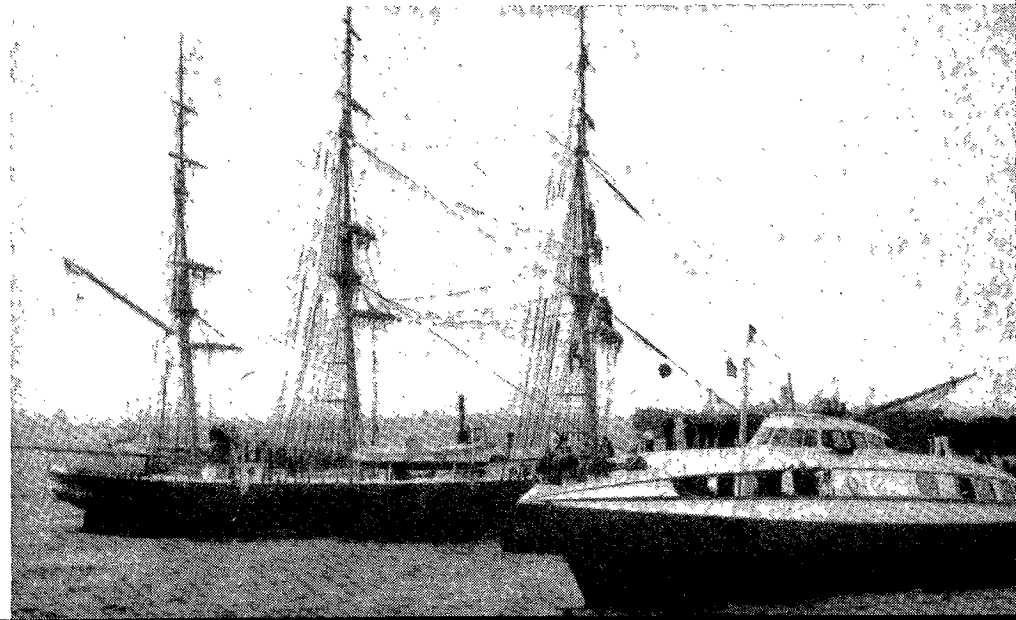
AT THE recent world council of the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, held at Battle Creek, Michigan, the statistical secretary presented a report of further expansion and progress.

From the founding of this remarkable movement nearly a century ago, down to the present day, its record has shown only continual growth. While other missionary societies have been compelled to withdraw their workers and close their missions, the Seventh-day Adventists have gone on from strength to strength, reaching out into the most distant re-

for NOVEMBER 29, 1938

Ancient and modern meet in New York Harbor. This motor launch is said to be the fastest of its kind ever built.

INTERNATIONAL



The CURSE of DIVORCE

*A Tragedy of Broken
Homes and
Broken Hearts*

by
ROBERT LEO
ODOM



A marriage ceremony being performed on the scenic railway at the Palisades Amusement Park, New York. The lightness with which many treat this sacred ordinance accounts in no small measure for the mounting divorce figures.

THE surging floods of several rivers rushing to empty their burdens into the mighty Father of Waters left hundreds of thousands of Americans homeless not so many months ago. Many persons returned to find that what was once "Home, Sweet Home" to them had gone with the turgid tide.

One of the saddest sights I have ever beheld was a city that had just been struck by a Texas tornado. The reeling, staggering, swirling column of cloud and wind had cut out an enormous swath right through the heart of the town; and homes, wrenched from their foundations, went whirling away into splinters and debris as the raging twister tore its way through. The bodies of many men, women, and children were crushed and tangled with tin and timber in the horrible death mill. Homes, hundreds of them, lay piled in confused heaps, as if a mighty giant, insane for gore, had suddenly swooped down with terrific blows to devour the people.

Yet flood and tornado, earthquake and fire, war and bloodshed, devastating though they be, destroy fewer homes than does divorce.

"At the present pace in America," said an editorial in the *Forum* of June, 1936, "divorce may become an institution more popular than marriage itself. According to the latest statistics of the Marital Relations Institute of New York, a married couple in the United States has only 65 chances in 100 of remaining married more than a year. Divorce, of course, does not occur in all the unhappy cases.

The Institute finds that a divorce is granted every three minutes, while a marriage is performed every thirty seconds. More than 100,000 children are affected yearly through the divorce of their parents. Wives are granted 73.5 per cent of all divorces, and husbands are awarded the remaining 26.5 per cent."

The *New York Times* (Nov. 28, 1937) says: "New York City public school children who come from homes shattered by divorce, separation, or death, possess many inferior character and personality traits, and do less competent schoolwork than pupils from normal homes, according to a survey made public yesterday.

Evil Effects on Children

"Not only is school adjustment much more difficult for children from broken homes, but they show neurotic tendencies that adversely influence their classroom behavior, the study disclosed. These pupils tend to be less truthful and less courteous, and were found to lack the qualities commonly associated with leadership.

"More than 17 per cent of the school population comes from broken homes. For the entire city this would mean that nearly 150,000 young boys and girls fall in this category. In this investigation, 3,131 children, selected from the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades of four elementary schools in Manhattan and Brooklyn and one in Jersey City, were studied."

The same periodical in another column published a report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington, D. C., in which we are told that "out of 400,000 arrests in the first nine months of the year [1937] throughout the country, the largest number of prisoners of any age group were aged twenty-two. . . . More than half the total arrests were of persons under thirty years of age. Youths predominated in arrests for offenses against property, such as robbery, larceny, automobile theft, and burglary. . . . Many had been convicted previously of one or more offenses."

Much of this state of society is due to the influence of modernistic philosophy and psychology taught in the pulpits and schools of the day. The acceptance of evolutionary philosophy and the consequent attitude toward God and morals undoubtedly explain much of this condition. The *New York Times* of December 5, 1937, says:

"A poll of 1,485 commercial students at New York University on whether the Ten Commandments were 'antiquated' showed last week that only twelve considered it old-fashioned to 'honor thy father and thy mother.' There was similar near-unanimous approval of the injunctions against killing, stealing, and false witness. But 219 votes challenged the appropriateness of 'Thou shalt not commit adultery,' and 201 questioned the present-day validity of 'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.'"

Of course, we must remember that in public or in writing the pupils would not

state what they might do in secret if temptations and circumstances were favorable to the violation of moral injunctions.

Divorce has become fashionable. In 1890 there was one divorce to every 16 marriages. In 1916 the situation changed to one divorce to 9.5 marriages. In 1930 the figure stood at one divorce to every five marriages. It is common now to find men and women who have had as many as five or six legal spouses, and some instances are reported of those who have had seven or eight. The retention of rigid antidivorce laws on the statute books of religious bodies has not helped the situation generally. In some lands where I have been, the state laws limit or wholly ban divorce, due chiefly to the pressure of the church that has been predominant in the country. Nevertheless, this has in nowise helped matters. The practice of separation without divorce is carried on just the same, and cohabitation with another, an illegal spouse, follows. In fact, this condition is so common, and the number of children born out of wedlock is so great, that the governments would not dare to disgrace themselves by publishing statistics on the matter. On the other hand, the granting of divorces by such mills as that of Reno in no way improves the situation.

Sins of Noah's Day Repeated

This social condition is only one of the outstanding signs of the moral decay of present-day society. The disintegration of civilization goes on at a rapid pace. Christ Himself, the One who understands human nature better than we ourselves know it, said of the last days: "As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the Flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:37-39.

It is not sinful to eat and drink. It is the abuse, excess, and intemperance in these things that is offensive to God and harmful to man. So also the marriage institution is good, and was ordained by God Himself in the paradise home of Eden. Yet the very blessings of God, when abused, are turned into curses by man. In the days of Noah, the antediluvian world disregarded the law of God, and even the professed "sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose." Genesis 6:2.

The people of God, when true to His word, are "the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing." Matthew 5:13. Salt is a

preservative as long as it retains its saving properties; but when these are gone, it is useless. So it is with religion. Of Noah's day we read: "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." Genesis 6:11.

The same condition of society has actually come to these times in which we live. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, dis-

obedient 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; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts." 2 Tim-

(Continued on page 12)



RESTITUTION

A. C. ANDERSON

JESUS CHRIST came to this world to pay the penalty of the broken law and to recover the one lost world from eternal destruction. But there is a Divine Restitution Act spoken of in the Bible, the apostle Peter telling us that God "shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the *times of restitution of all things.*" And he added that God has spoken of this "restitution" "by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:20, 21.

The promise is first spoken of in Genesis 3:15 after the fall of Adam and Eve. It was renewed to Abraham and to his seed, many of whom "died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off." Hebrews 11:13.

After the resurrection the disciples asked Christ, "Wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6. They had imbibed the erroneous idea that Palestine was again to be restored to the Jews. But the promise to Abraham was wider and more far-reaching than that, embracing the whole world. Romans 4:13.

The Jews had become narrow-minded, thinking that salvation was for them only, but Paul says: "Is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also." Romans 3:29. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:28, 29.

In the Divine Restitution Act the Jews have no more part than the Gentiles, for Paul declares that "circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, *but the keeping of the commandments of God.*" 1 Corinthians 7:19. The keeping of the commandments, by the grace of God, is

very important, for it gives both Jew and Gentile a passport to heaven. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14.

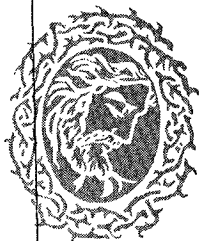
The Divine Restitution Act includes men of "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people," for "the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea." Revelation 14:6; Isaiah 11:11.

John saw such a work proceeding in the world, and of those who respond he writes: "Here are they that keep the *commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*" Revelation 14:12. They believe in Jesus and keep His law.

Daniel, speaking of the restitution, said that "the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall *serve and obey Him.*" Thus we see that the kingdom of God is entered by submission to Christ and His holy law.

When the invitation has been given to all nations, the opportunity to secure a place in the restored kingdom will close forever. Then, "in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants the prophets." Revelation 10:7.

Then shall follow, in God's good time, the creation of "new heavens and a new earth" in which only righteousness shall be found. Then will God's purpose for the "restitution of all things" be completed.



The Three SCAPEGOATS

by
MURL VANCE

It is the Day of Atonement. All Israel is gathered together around the sanctuary on this, the most solemn day of the sacred calendar. For ten days the people have searched their souls and have done all in their power to make everything right between them and their fellow men and between them and their God. It has been a time of judgment for them, for they have been told that any man who passes the Day of Atonement with unconfessed sins is to be cut off forever from the children of Israel; consequently, it is a solemn, hushed multitude that stands before the sanctuary waiting to see an enactment of the redemptive work of Christ.

The high priest, attired in his pure linen robes, comes to the door of the sanctuary to receive the two goats that have been led forth from among the people. Throughout the year, whenever a man sinned, he brought a lamb to the sanctuary, confessed over it his sin, and then slew it with his own hands. The priest then took a part of the blood of the lamb into the first apartment of the sanctuary and sprinkled it upon the altar, in effect leaving a record of the person's sins written thereon. If the sinner saw in the lamb of his flock a type of "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," understanding that the lamb was receiving the treatment that the sinner deserved,—if he saw this and by faith accepted the redemptive work of Christ,—then his sins were forgiven. But the record of these sins, the blood upon the altar, still remained. The Day of Atonement is the time when this record is to be removed.

The high priest chooses by lot one of these goats "for the Lord" to be a sin offering, the other to be the scapegoat, or Azazel. He then slays the Lord's goat and takes some of its blood into the sanctuary, going on through the first apartment into the second, or most holy. There he sprinkles a part of the blood upon the ark itself, on the mercy seat that covers the Ten Commandments. It is above this mercy seat that the presence of God shines forth. In type, then,

the blood of the propitiation has been presented before the Lord. Since "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4), and since "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), the penalty of the law has, in type, been met. The blood testifies that the transgression of the law has produced death.

The priest now goes into the outer apartment and cleanses it of sin in like manner. Then the record of Leviticus 16:20-22 declares: "When he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: and Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: and the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness."



As a part of the annual cleansing of the ancient sanctuary, Israel's sins of the year were in figure put upon the scapegoat, and it was sent away to the wilderness.

This goat, in type bearing the sins of Israel upon his head, is removed from the camp and taken forth to "a land not inhabited," there without doubt to wander aimlessly up and down until slain and devoured by some predatory animal. Among the later Jews it was the custom to push the goat over a high cliff, thus insuring still further against the possibility of his returning to the camp.

The scene shifts. Another solemn mo-

ment has arrived. Two men are led forth from among the people. One is to be chosen as a sin offering: the other is to be released to continue his wanderings up and down in the earth, possibly later to be slain by some man in the defense of his home. But first the lot must be cast. "Whom will ye that I release unto you?" asks the white-faced governor. The people, led by the apostate chief priests, shout back the answer, "Barabbas!"

"What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" asks the governor. With one accord the people shout, "Let Him be crucified." "Away with this Man." The Lord's offering has been chosen. He is led forth to Calvary and slain. Barabbas, a murderer and a revolutionist (Mark 15:7), a seditionist (Luke 23:19), and a robber (John 18:40)—a perfect type of the evil spirit—is released.

But, while the perfect sacrifice has been made, and the price of redemption fully paid, the work of "atonement" is not yet complete. The Lamb has been slain, but the sanctuary has not as yet been cleansed. Sin still exists in the earth, and the record of these sins remains in heaven. The being who is responsible for all sin has not yet been punished.

Upon His resurrection Christ assumes a new role. The Lamb now becomes the High Priest, "who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." Hebrews 8:1, 2. Paul further explains, in verses 4 and 5 of this same chapter, that the earthly priests were but serving "unto the example and shadow of heavenly things," and in chapter 9, verse 24, "Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."

From these texts, therefore, it appears clear that Christ has been doing in heaven the work that was represented by the work of the priests in the original sanctuary.

Furthermore, just as the ancient Day of Atonement was considered by the Jews to be a day of judgment, and was commonly referred to as such by them, so our day of judgment has come. "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:14. Just as the Israelites searched their hearts in order to be sure that there was no unconfessed sin standing against them, so must we be sure that we have made all wrongs right if we are to go from our day of judgment uncondemned.

When the final work of judgment has been completed, when our High Priest has finished His work of cleansing the heavenly sanctuary, He has still another work to do. The real scapegoat is to play his part in the great drama of sin. Upon his head are to be confessed the sins of

the people, and he is to be led away into the wilderness. We can best understand the part he plays by recalling what was done to the scapegoat in the earthly sanctuary service.

We notice in the record of Leviticus 16 that the cleansing of the sanctuary preceded the confession of sins upon the head of the scapegoat. Before the scapegoat played any part in the drama, the Lord's goat was slain, and his blood was offered in the sanctuary. *The scapegoat played no part in the propitiation. His work began after the sanctuary had been cleansed.*

So must it be in the heavenly service, of which the earthly service was but a type. After the death of Christ for the sins of mankind, and after the completion of His work in the sanctuary "which the Lord pitched, and not man," the scapegoat enters the picture. The work

of redemption is completed, and the status of the redeemed is in nowise affected by what now occurs. They would still be redeemed, even if there were no scapegoat. But the confessing of the sins of Israel—sins that had already been forgiven—upon the head of the scapegoat was no meaningless gesture. The being typified by the scapegoat, Lucifer, or Satan, must be punished, for justice demands that the instigator of a crime must be punished along with the actual agent of the crime.

Satan in a Place of Desolation

Lucifer, the being typified by the scapegoat, is led forth. "I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." Revelation 20:1-3.

The word here translated "bottomless pit" is from the Greek word *ἄβυσσος*, which is also translated "hell," "the grave," or "the place of the dead." A little investigation soon shows us that this place of the dead is the earth itself. The righteous are "caught up, . . . to meet the Lord in the air" at the second coming of Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:17. The wicked are slain by "the brightness of His coming." 2 Thessalonians 2:8. Jeremiah presents the picture thus: "The slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." Jeremiah 25:33.

It is in this lazar house of death that Lucifer is imprisoned in solitary confinement for a thousand years, during which time he will have ample opportunity to think over the results of his anarchy.

After he has wandered in this wilderness of destruction for a thousand years, as we have already read, "he must be loosed a little season." Revelation 20:3. This loosing takes place when the wicked dead are raised. Verses 5, 8.

With his kingdom restored to him by the resurrection of his subjects, he immediately begins again his work of deception. The New Jerusalem, with those who were taken to heaven, comes "down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Revelation 21:2. The great deceiver then goes forth "to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, . . . to gather them together to battle. . . .

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NEWS FLASHES

POINTED PARAGRAPHS
OF WORLD INTEREST

by W. L. Emerson



✧ **AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE** Next year Australia will spend nearly \$85,000,000 on defense out of a total expenditure of some \$465,000,000.

✧ **FILM PROGRESS** A visual record of film history, compiled by Mr. C. B. Cochran, reveals that the first "magic lantern" slides were made in 1838; the first motion picture, in 1885; and the first actual film program was shown in 1896.

✧ **POLITICAL RELIGION** "There is a modern tendency," warns Dr. A. J. Macdonald in his new book "With Jesus in Palestine," "to repeat the old mistake of the Jews and turn religion into political propaganda, to test Christianity by its applicability to this party or that party."

✧ **LOST METEORITE** A meteorite that fell in Siberia thirty years ago—in June, 1908—has just been found by two Soviet airmen co-operating with the Russian Academy of Sciences. It weighs several hundred tons, and threw down trees as far as fifteen miles from the point of impact.

✧ **NO LESSON LEARNED** "Twenty years of exhaustion and penury, and the uncertainty of the present hour," declared Mr. De Valera before the League of Nations assembly, "proclaim how little the sufferings and sacrifices of the World War have availed in providing a solution of the fundamental problems of human society." Pleading for the League, he continued, "Let us cling to it, and seek to make it effective by using it as an instrument for the righting of international wrong, wherever it exists."

✧ **STATE-DICTATED RELIGION** In certain parts of the world, declared Mr. Kennedy, the American ambassador to Britain, speaking in Aberdeen Cathedral, "the church, in order to be allowed to exist, is forced to take its place as part of the political, or worldly, organization of the state. It must be subordinate to the state in matters spiritual as well as temporal. It cannot teach what it believes to be the word of God, but rather what the authorities of the state decide it should impart in the interest of national discipline, national psychology, racial solidarity, or other political aims."

✧ **THAMES TUNNEL** The piercing of the twelve-foot pilot tunnel in preparation for the projected \$17,500,000 Thames Tunnel in London, England, is now completed. The main tunnel will be twenty-eight feet in diameter, and will provide a twenty-foot roadway with footpaths on either side.

✧ **MANCHUKUO IMMIGRATION** Japan is seeking to settle one million Japanese, during a period of twenty years, in Manchukuo. They are to go mainly to fertile regions of northeast Manchukuo to strengthen this troubled border. "Bride schools are being established to train wives for the young emigrants."

✧ **JUPITER'S NEW SATELLITES** From Mount Wilson Observatory comes news of the discovery of two new satellites of Jupiter, raising the number to eleven. The ninth was discovered at Lick, in 1914; the eighth at Greenwich, in 1908; and numbers six and seven at Lick, in 1905.

What Is the UNPARDONABLE SIN?

Have You Committed It?

Facts You Should Know.

by JOHN FORD

“**W**HEREFORE I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.” Matthew 12:31.

The Bible tells us exactly how we may obtain the Holy Spirit, and on what conditions He is given. “If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” John 14:15-17. First, a man must love God and keep His commandments; then Christ prays the Father, and the Holy Spirit is sent into the individual’s life. But the whole transaction is based on a condition. God says that if you want *His* Spirit, you must keep *His* commandments.

“Oh,” you say, “I believe in keeping the *spirit* of the commandments, but I don’t believe in keeping the *letter* of the commandments.” If this is so, you are not a commandment keeper at all, for it is impossible to keep the spirit of the commandments and disregard the letter. The spirit of the commandments is love. You cannot love God and man and at the same time curse and swear, worship images, break the Sabbath, commit adultery, lie, steal, and kill.

Suppose my little boy should come into the room some evening, climb up in my lap, and, putting his arms around my

neck, say, “Daddy, I love you.” “Well, son, I am glad that you do,” I reply. After he has told me very profusely of his great love for me, I suggest that he go out and get a bucket of coal for the fire, for the room is getting chilly. But all he does is to continue telling how much he loves me; he makes no move to obey. I insist that if he loves me so much he will gladly mind me and bring in the coal, and that real love is manifest not in words but in actions.

But he protests, “Daddy, I love you away up high in the spirit of love and not away down in actions and the coal-bin.” Do you think that he really loves me if he does not obey me? No, you do not think so; and neither does any man really love God unless he keeps the divine commandments, no matter how vociferously or how continually he proclaims that he does. “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them,—these are the Master’s own words,—“he it is that loveth Me.” John 14:21. There is absolutely no love in a person’s heart for God unless he keeps the commandments, for “this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.” 1 John 5:3.

Love Makes Obedience a Joy

But some say: “You cannot tell me such things. I know I have the Holy Spirit, and I know God; but I will not have anything to do with that Sabbath commandment. I will not keep it.” Listen to words found in 1 John 2:4: “He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the

*The one
Saviour’s*



truth is not in him.” Now please do not get upset and say that I called you a liar and said that you were not a Christian because you do not keep the commandments. *I did not say it, but God did.* You will have to argue it out with Him.

The commandments are not hard to keep if you love God; but if you do not love Him, it is impossible to keep them. Suppose the manager of a business asks a young man about three o’clock in the afternoon to deliver a package at an address on the other side of town. There is no streetcar going over there, and his car is not working, so he has to walk. His feet feel like lead as he trudges along the two miles to the address. When he gets back to the shop, he drops exhausted into a chair, and that night he goes home completely discouraged with his terribly hard work and the unreasonableness of his chief’s demands.

As he sinks down into the chair at home, the telephone rings, and he hears, at the other end of the line, the voice of his sweetheart. She invites him to come over early and spend the evening. He is up in an instant, changes his clothes, and is off on a run for the address; he can’t even wait for the streetcar.

It is *love* that makes the difference.

*liberately rejects the
ns his back on peace
'e eternal.*



The Sabbath—yes, the seventh-day Sabbath—is a day of drudgery to the man who does not like it; but to the man who loves it, it is a day filled with joy, and every minute is golden.

Some think that after they are filled with the Holy Spirit; they do not have to pay any more attention to what the Bible says. They think that their spirit is just as good and as reliable as the Spirit that wrote the Bible; and if their spirit tells them they do not have to follow some teaching of the Bible, that settles the matter. When I show them that the keeping of the Sabbath is taught in the Bible, they say, "Oh yes, I know it is taught in the Bible; but I am filled with the Holy Spirit, as the Bible writers were, and the Holy Spirit tells me I do not have to pay any attention to that old Jewish Sabbath."

Holy Spirit Leads to God's Word

The Holy Spirit was given to lead people into truth. "When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify Me: for

He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are Mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of Mine, and shall show it unto you." John 16:13-15.

So the Holy Spirit, when He comes in, will take nothing but the teachings of God the Father and of Jesus Christ, and show *them* to you. Where do you find the teachings of God and Christ? You find them in the Bible. So the work of the Holy Spirit is to bring to your mind the teachings of the Bible.

"The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26. The Holy Spirit will never give instruction as to Christian duties different from those found in the Bible, for it was the Holy Spirit that dictated the Bible. "The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21.

Do not think for a minute that the Holy Spirit will tell a man to do one thing in the Bible and then, when He talks with the man face to face, tell him to do the opposite. One thing is certain:

There will be no revelations given to man by the Holy Spirit that are contrary to the teachings of the Bible. When you want to know what the will of the Holy Spirit is concerning some Christian act, read it in the Bible, the book of the Holy Spirit.

I read the Sabbath commandment from the Bible, and folks admit that they can see it there; but then they say that they will pray about it, and if the Holy Spirit shows them that they should keep it, they will do so. The Holy Spirit, by putting the obligation in the Bible, has already shown them that they should keep the Sabbath; and if any spirit shows them that they should not keep the Sabbath, that is not the Holy Spirit, but the spirit of the devil. They do not need to pray about it or to wait for a change of God's mind regarding obligations in the Bible, for God will never change or permit them to leave undone that which the Bible requires.

Willful Rejection Cuts Channel

It is by His Holy Spirit that God leads through the Bible, and it is in no other way. If you are not willing to be led through the Book by the Holy Spirit, you cannot be a son of God. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14. Consequently, if you will not be led by the teachings of the Bible, you are not a son of God; for only the sons of God are heirs to eternal life. And as long as you will not be led by the Holy Spirit and the teachings of the Bible, you are committing a sin. "It is by the Spirit that God works upon the heart; when men willfully reject the Spirit, and declare it to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. When the Spirit is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul." "Whatever the sin, if the soul repents and believes, the guilt is washed away in the blood of Christ; but he who rejects the work of the Holy Spirit is placing himself where repentance and faith cannot come to him." This is the sin against the Holy Spirit.

But such a sin is very seldom committed hastily. It gradually creeps into the life. The Holy Spirit appeals to a man's heart through the Bible, and nearly always he will comply and take the first step that the Spirit shows, and then another and another. But finally the Spirit shows him an obligation in the Bible that he does not like and will not accept, and he drifts back to the place where the Spirit first found him. Again the Holy Spirit leads him up to the same place, and the man makes up his mind more quickly this time that he will not follow that teaching. He goes further into sin, and the Holy Spirit has a much harder time trying to appeal to him and

bring him back. With each succeeding answer of no to the Spirit's pleading, the man's attitude becomes hardened, and the voice of the Spirit is heard less distinctly. It is like an unheeded alarm from an alarm clock for a few successive mornings. The alarm may continue to ring as loudly as ever, but because the sleeper pays no heed to it, he can sleep peacefully through all the ringing and not hear it.

If one repeatedly says no to the pleadings of the Spirit to accept some truth, soon the entreaty of the Spirit is lost, and the person has no desire to follow the truth any more. Then he has committed a sin for which there is no forgiveness. Why does not God forgive? Because the individual has built up a wall of resistance in his heart through which the Spirit can make no appeal, and God will not forgive a person for a sin for which the person does not want to be forgiven; and no one will desire to ask forgiveness unless the Holy Spirit puts the desire in his heart. "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him," said Jesus. John 6:44. If God can no longer get an appeal through to the heart, the person cannot respond.

Wrong Way Seems Right

Does one feel any conviction about his wrong course after sinning against the Holy Spirit? Not in the least, for his conscience seems perfectly clear; he can go ahead and commit the sin, and it does not worry him at all. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 16:25. Those who continually reject the Sabbath soon come to the place where their consciences never trouble them any more about it. I have talked with many who have told me that very thing. "Oh," they say, "I was once all stirred up about keeping the Sabbath, but now it never bothers me any more." They have, by their own confession, committed the sin against the Holy Spirit, for which there is no forgiveness.

"But," you say, "I don't believe that God would damn a person who was good in every other way merely because he didn't happen to keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment." I want to tell you, friends, that God one time sent a great many people, the whole Jewish nation, into captivity because they did not keep the Sabbath. "Thou hast despised Mine holy things, and hast profaned My Sabbaths." "Therefore have I poured out Mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God." Ezekiel 22:8, 31.

"Surely God wouldn't keep me out of heaven for only breaking the Sabbath," you say. The rich young ruler came to

Christ, and he was perfect in every respect but one. Christ admonished him to keep the commandments. The young man actually thought he was keeping them; but Christ knew that he was offending in one point, and He told him that there was just *one* thing that he lacked. But the ruler would not remedy that, and he turned away, a lost man. Mark 10:17-23.

If you break the Sabbath commandment, you are guilty of breaking them all, for "whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10. The breaking of the law is sin. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4. "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. To break God's Sabbath, therefore, means that the same penalty will be incurred as for the breaking of any other of God's divine commands.

Some, even many, of those who have at one time been led by the Spirit to keep the Sabbath have rejected it and have transgressed it continually, until it makes no more appeal to them. They still profess to be Christians, some even becoming preachers and religious leaders after they have sinned against the Holy Spirit. What a heartbreaking day it will be when they meet Christ! "Many will say to Me in that day," said Jesus, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:22, 23. After men have sinned against the Holy Spirit, a false spirit takes possession of them, and they may appear to the world to have a genuine gift of the Holy Spirit because of their miraculous gifts of healing, tongues, and prophecy.

No matter how good a church member a person is or how big a preacher he is, no one who has known what God's commandments are and has refused to keep

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### PAUL

Bondslave to Christ, and in my bonds rejoicing,  
Earmarked to Him, I counted less than nought;  
His man henceforward, eager to be voicing  
That wondrous love which Saul the Roman sought.

Sought him and found him working bitter  
sorrow;

Found him and claimed him,  
Chose him for His own;  
Bound him in darkness, till the glorious morrow  
Unsealed his eyes to that he had not known.

—John Oxenham.

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them will ever enter heaven; for the Bible says, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." Revelation 22:14, 15. The commandment keepers are saved, and the commandment breakers are lost.

As you have read these articles, I am sure that you have been impressed by the Holy Spirit that I have been giving you the truth of the Bible. You feel a conviction that you should follow the light that has been revealed to you. I hope that you will not refuse to be led by the Spirit of God, but that you will yield yourself to His influence and walk in the light as God reveals it to you. We are not to condemn others who do not see the light that we see. God knows how much each one understands, and He will judge each one according to the knowledge that he has; but if one refuses to obey the commandments of God and continues to refuse to obey them, he will finally have committed the unpardonable sin.

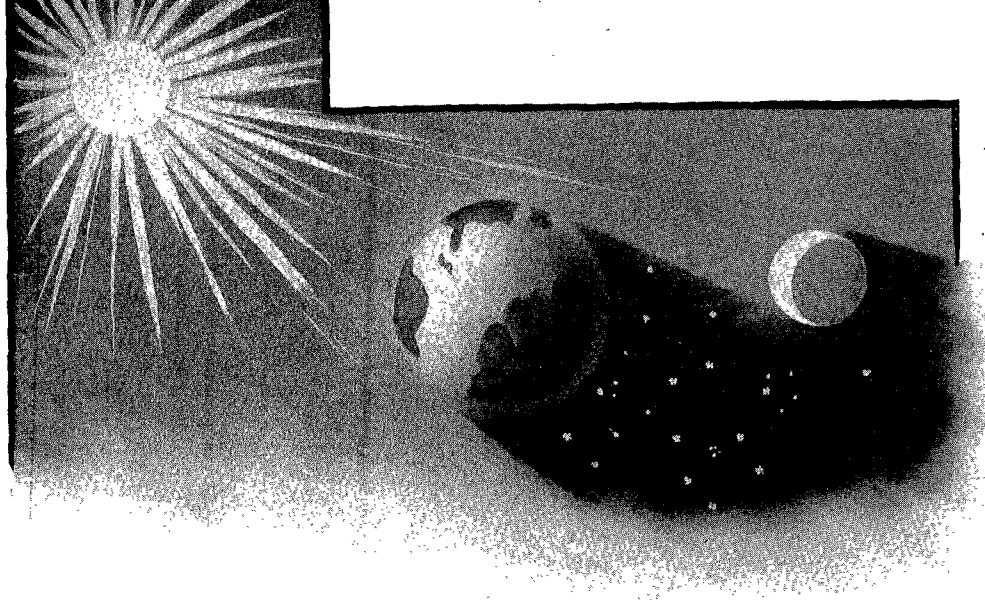
Yes Means Life

A man climbed Pikes Peak alone and was lost. In the night he got into a blizzard, and the thermometer dropped rapidly. He finally found a little sheltered spot and some wood, and he knew that he must build a fire to keep from freezing. As he felt in his pocket for a match, he found that he had just one. When he took it out to light the twigs, it was the most critical moment of his life. His life depended upon whether the match would burn. It did, and he was saved. But there was just one match between him and death.

There are persons reading this article who have just one more no between them and everlasting death. Do not say no again to Christ; make it yes. Yes to God means everlasting life.

Dear reader, if this were the last appeal that you would ever hear to follow the truth of God, what would be your decision? Would it not be worth while to step out for the truth rather than to take a chance on following the world? The Saviour is ever willing to receive back His erring children; but if man repeatedly repulses the Spirit, he himself is unable to realize his need. If you do not accept His appeal, if you do not respond to the truth of God as you know it to be, the promptings of the Spirit will pass unheeded. Accept the Spirit's pleading now, while you may.

Will you not now bow down and pray as you have never prayed before, and upon your knees surrender your heart to God to follow all the truth as it is found in His word?



The Message of the Stars—8

The BLACK SHEEP of the UNIVERSE

by
J. WALTER RICH

AS I talked with a young man some time ago about his living a better life, he stated that he was not a Christian like the other members of his family, but was the "black sheep" among his brothers and sisters. By this statement he indicated that he was rather wild and was wandering from the path of righteousness and sobriety. He was smearing himself all over with the tarnishing effects of sin. He was "black."

At first thought it might seem out of place to speak of a planet as being a "black sheep," but on maturer reflection we begin to wonder if, after all, it is not possible. Could not its people wander from righteousness and truth and become besmirched by doing wrong?

In our former studies we have learned that there are other worlds than our own that are inhabited. They are the white sheep of God's great flock. Our little world has wandered into the ways of sin. It was this planet that was visited by the deceiver in the early days of its history, and was led to transgress the laws of God. Our first parents sinned, and all the children have become contaminated by sin's blighting influence, so much so that the apostle John was led to say, "The whole world lieth in wickedness." 1 John 5:19.

Not so the other worlds. The record helps us to know that they did not fall through the deceptions of the wicked one. We are happy for the statement made by the prophet Nehemiah: "Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone; Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all

things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and Thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshipeth Thee." Nehemiah 9:6.

That statement could not be made of the peoples of this earth. This is the "black sheep" of the planets. This fact is made very clear in the teachings of Jesus. His parable of the "lost sheep" illustrates this truth in a very touching way. It was for the "lost sheep" that so much care was taken.

The Lost Is Sought For

"He spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:3-7. And Matthew makes this touching little addition to the narrative: "If so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray." Matthew 18:13.

How applicable is the teaching of this

parable to the experience of this planet! It was this world that went astray. It was this world that was sought after by the Great Shepherd of the universe—this world that Jesus came to rescue.

This sheep has surely suffered for its waywardness. It costs sorrow and suffering to do wrong. This world has endured a great deal of it. Today its cup of sorrow is filled to the very brim.

Yet the deeper the sorrow, the keener the joy. The greater the cost of the search, the more the delight in the find. The shepherd lays the lost sheep on his shoulder, and brings it home. No one can imagine the thrill that will stir all heaven when finally the Lord Jesus sees of the travail of His soul and is satisfied, when the "black sheep" has returned.

The calling in of the "neighbors" to rejoice with the shepherd in the finding of the lost sheep may well illustrate the calling together of the sons of God of the unfallen worlds, to rejoice with the Master on the final return of the lost world. And is it unreasonable to suggest in this connection that Adam, who once occupied the position of leader of this planet and who was led astray by the deceptive powers of Satan, will at last be restored to the position that was once his? How fitting that Adam, the first "black sheep" of the human family, should again be placed at its head and should lead those who shall be trophies of the grace of Christ back to the feet of Him who has paid the price of their salvation by the shedding of His own blood! Mrs. E. G. White draws this picture in "The Great Controversy," page 647:

"As the ransomed ones are welcomed to the city of God, there rings out upon the air an exultant cry of adoration. The two Adams are about to meet. The Son of God is standing with outstretched arms to receive the father of our race,—the being whom He created, who sinned against his Maker, and for whose sin the marks of the crucifixion are borne upon the Saviour's form. As Adam discerns the prints of the cruel nails, he does not fall upon the bosom of his Lord, but in humiliation casts himself at His feet, crying, 'Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain!' Tenderly the Saviour lifts him up, and bids him look once more

upon the Eden home from which he has so long been exiled.

"After his expulsion from Eden, Adam's life on earth was filled with sorrow. Every dying leaf, every victim of sacrifice, every blight upon the fair face of nature, every stain upon man's purity, was a fresh reminder of his sin. Terrible was the agony of remorse as he beheld iniquity abounding, and, in answer to his warnings, met the reproaches cast upon himself as the cause of sin. With patient humility he bore, for nearly a thousand years, the penalty of transgression. Faithfully did he repent of his sin, and trust in the merits of the promised Saviour, and he died in the hope of a resurrection. The Son of God redeemed man's failure and fall; and now, through the work of the atonement, Adam is reinstated in his first dominion.

"Transported with joy, he beholds the trees that were once his delight,—the very trees whose fruit he himself had gathered in the days of his innocence and joy. He sees the vines that his own hands have trained, the very flowers that he once loved to care for. His mind grasps the reality of the scene; he comprehends that this is indeed Eden restored, more lovely now than when he was banished from it. The Saviour leads him to the tree of life, and plucks the glorious fruit, and bids him eat. He looks about him, and beholds a multitude of his family redeemed, standing in the paradise of God. . . . He touches the golden harp, and the vaults of heaven echo the triumphant song, 'Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again!' The family of Adam take up the strain, and cast their crowns at the Saviour's feet as they bow before Him in adoration."

May it be that every reader of these lines shall have the pleasure of witnessing this awe-inspiring scene—the welcoming of the one lost sheep of the universe back into the fold again.

The Curse of Divorce

(Continued from page 5)

othy 3:1-6. Here we see that formal religion plays its part in making up this catalogue of last-day sins, in which the "disobedient to parents" and those "without natural affection" (characterizing the state of the home) are mentioned.

Truly the outlook is alarming, as we see the turgid tide of unrestrained human passions, driven by the winds of war and lust, sweeping away the home, the chief cornerstone of human society. Unless something is done speedily, and it probably will not be, the fate of modern civilization is clearly written on the wall.

"The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home," says a well-

known writer. "The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are 'the issues of life' (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation, is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."

"It is by the youth and children of today that the future of society is to be determined, and what these youth and children shall be depends upon the home. To the lack of right home training may be traced the larger share of the disease and misery and crime that curse humanity."

May God grant us parents like Noah. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of

things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house." Hebrews 11:7. Like the old patriarch and his family of ancient times, let fathers and mothers who still fear God and love His law gather their little ones around them, and tighten the bands that bind them as a family, studying God's word and preparing for that future, eternal home where separation and grief shall no more mar the happiness of man, and joy and gladness shall reign forevermore.

If spring came but once in a century, instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake, and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change.—*Longfellow.*



Giving Children Responsibility

by

MARTHA E. WARNER

IT IS mostly about parents, although peaches and children enter into it. And it begins in this way:

As they loaded the four baskets of peaches into the car, Mrs. Bailey turned to me and said, "No playing for me tomorrow with all those peaches to can!"

"With Lena to help you, it will not take long to get them out of the way," I told her.

"With Lena to help!" she exclaimed in a voice of astonishment. "Why, I wouldn't think of letting her help me! It's her vacation, and I want her to have a good time."

"But surely," I said, "she doesn't play all the time, does she? Doesn't she have some regular work to do each day?"

"No, indeed!" answered Mrs. Bailey. "She hasn't done a solitary thing this summer except to play around the beach. She just about lives in her bathing suit. See how brown she is! And she is strong too, weighs one hundred forty pounds, and is only twelve years old."

"When I was her age I had to work and work, so I made up my mind that when and if I ever had a child she should have an easier time than I had."

And that is just the attitude that many parents take today toward their children, to the children's undoing.

Tell me: Why should parents seek to make life easy and soft for a child? Why should they make the mistake of attempting to protect him from all home responsibilities? Why are they blinded to the fact that in releasing him they are not being kind to him?

Why can they not realize that it is for the good of the child that he have each day some regular duty to perform—taking care of his room, the lawn, the porch, the garden; washing dishes; learning how to cook or to sew—something or anything that he alone is responsible for? for with the responsibility of work well done comes a gain in pride.

Parents should be aroused from their lethargy. They should realize that the home is not only a place for living, but also a place for learning things not taught in schools—a place where children are trained, disciplined, and fitted for the burdens they are to bear later in life.

A plant raised under glass cannot withstand the wind, the rain, and the storms of the open. In like manner a child shielded and protected from the hard knocks of life will not measure up to the true standard of manhood and womanhood that is so much needed in the world today.

Queer, how a basket of peaches could start all this about parents and children!



The "LORD'S ACRE" PLAN

*A Successful Experiment in
Church Support*

by AVA M. COVINGTON

made \$47.25 on Lord's Acre." Share croppers and laborers who had no land

is not material gain—it is that the plan is putting church people, both young and old, to work.

gave chickens, eggs, and other foodstuffs. A local co-operative body was organized in each community to handle the yield, turning the proceeds over to the church.

It is not an uncommon sight in the Carolinas to see thirty or forty persons taking an afternoon off to work in these consecrated fields. The tiny flock of Baptists of Colley Springs, nestled in the hills of western North Carolina, contributed \$1,500 from their farms; as a result, they carried off top honors for the year. Duncan's Creek community of Rutherford County, a circuit of three churches, too poor to be self-supporting, has dispensed with the \$700 received from the Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church. One of these has decided that, through the Lord's Acre Plan, it can afford a full-time pastor.

In the Carolinas alone 400 churches of eleven different sects, whose membership numbers 70,000 persons, participate in this plan. Three hundred of these are in western North Carolina. In the scores more scattered throughout the South, the average membership runs from 100 to 150. The greatest benefit from this plan

Dr. Herman C. Weber, president of the United Stewardship Council of the United States and Canada, recently visited this country. In commenting on the Lord's Acre Plan, he said: "I welcome every technique or plan which personalizes giving. The Lord's Acre Plan does this pre-eminently. Toil goes into it. Sharing with the Lord that which is a daily care and concern goes with it. Those close to the soil are in a most liberal way collaborators with God."

The Lord's Acre Plan is the least known nationally, but it is probably the most productive of results of all the schemes originated by man for the support of the gospel. Yes, the Lord's Acre Plan provides the offerings; but where are the tithes?

When ancient Israel came out of Egypt and God ordained their plan of worship, tithe paying was recognized as the means of support for the tabernacle and its services. Israel paid tithes to the Levites; the Levites, in turn, paid a tithe on their income. And when God made a covenant with Israel,—if they would carry out His instructions and be obedient to Him.



AND so the Lord's Acre Plan, a throwback to the old English tithing system,

was born! And, to foster it, the Farmers' Federation created a special religious department. It was born of the depression that swooped down on the South. As many as five or six churches, which were served by one preacher, faced the unpleasant prospect of being boarded up. In some places there was a "larger parish," a central, jointly supported house of worship. But trails were too steep and churches were too far apart for that plan to work in the section around Asheville, North Carolina. Then the Farmers' Federation, a co-operative body, got busy with church leaders.

Study revealed that, while impoverished farmers had no money for the support of churches, they did have land. Those tiny chapels of the evangelical denominations,—Methodist, Presbyterian, Christian, Baptist,—which picturesquely adorn small eminences along the Dixie countryside, must be preserved. Out of this meeting of the Federation grew the Lord's Acre Plan, which provided that an acre a family be set aside exclusively for the church. It paid pastors' salaries, purchased new equipment, and repaired the churches that flourish in Dixie's piedmont and upcountry regions. In fact, the response far exceeded the anticipation. Church doors were reopened. Lighting plants were installed. New organs or pianos were purchased. Even back salaries were paid to the pastors.

Messages came in picturing astounding results. "Proceeds of Tweeds Chapel Lord's Acres paid off the mortgage." "Women gave eggs laid on Sunday to the amount of \$103.75." "Boys and girls

Coming Next Week

in addition to the regular features:

Good News for a Troubled World	G. W. Wells
A Christmas Message	Donald W. McKay
The Dreamers	C. Angus Reeves
A Refuge in the Storm	I. H. Evans
Man's Infinitesimal Neighbors	Howard Jennings
The Last Warning Message	John Ford
Words of Divine Comfort	W. W. Prescott
Noah's Flood	George McCready Price
"Relief From Murder"	James Paul Stauffer

—He promised them rain in due season, fruit and grain in field and orchard, and that there would be no shortage of bread. Christ Himself approved the paying of tithe even on small items, though He warned His hearers that the performing of this duty did not excuse them on other matters. "These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone," the Saviour said. Matthew 23:23.

The Giver Will Be Prospered

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, recognized the superiority of God's plan for the support of religious work when he said: "Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14.

God, who has so bountifully provided all things for man's benefit, directed that a portion of this bounty be returned to Him in gifts and offerings to sustain His worship. All is His. "The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine," He said. Haggai 2:8. Through inspiration Malachi points out that the tithe (the tenth) is the Lord's. Malachi 3:8, 10. God committed to man's trust all the things of this life, and He made him steward of His goods. He has required a tenth as the very least that man should return to Him. It is set apart as the revenue of the gospel. And Christians should heed the command, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse." Malachi 3:10.

Noticeable, too, is the promise accompanying the Lord's requirement: "I will . . . pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." God's plan of systematic benevolence was designed for the good of man. By giving systematically, man's heart was to be opened to generous deeds and was not to be closed before another gift was made. By systematically returning to the Lord that which is His, man cannot forget his Maker. And, remembering Him, he will call to mind His bounty.

Knowing God's plan for the support of the gospel, and knowing, also, the surety of His promises, the thinking Christian is caused to wonder whether even one

church would have been compelled to close its doors or even one pastor would have given up his charge had each member of those churches which so successfully carried out the Lord's Acre Plan paid an honest tithe. Would not God's treasury have been full?

Although the Lord's Acre Plan is to be highly commended by all the Christian world as one that is most satisfactory in every way, would it not be wise to add to that the system that God Himself ordained as the only satisfactory means for the support of His work, and thus be sure of an outpouring of His blessings in greater abundance than they have ever known? If these two systems were coordinated, would not the result be a program of evangelization such as the world has never known?

The Scapegoats

(Continued from page 7)

And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." Revelation 20:8, 9.

Thus ends the career of the murderer, the revolutionist, the seditionist, the robber, the scapegoat of the ages. And then begins the era for those who have been adjudged worthy, when "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4.

The Flight of Time

(Continued from page 8)

the one adequate basis of prayer against war is not that it would be distressing or destructive to man but that it would be hateful in the sight of God and the frustration of His will.

"Again, prayer falls short of what it should be if it asks no more than that strife between certain countries may be averted, or that some immediate dangers threatening peace may be removed.

"It is of little use to pray against war unless we ask that the evils, the jealousies and misunderstandings, the bitterness

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Advocating a return to the simple gospel of Christ, and a preparation for His imminent second appearing

EDITOR: ARTHUR S. MAXWELL
EDITOR EMERITUS: A. O. TAIT

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and the forgetfulness of God, which continually make war possible in every part of the world, are overcome. There is also full cause to ask that the efforts of men in every land who are working for good will may be strengthened.

"It is not for the triumph or deliverance from peril of this or another nation that we should chiefly ask, but for the guidance of the world by the Spirit of God and for man's obedience to its leading. So far from its being vague or indefinite, there is not one good thing which will not follow if this petition be fulfilled."

The Refugee Fund

GRATIFYING indeed is the generous response to the appeal made in the SIGNS of October 18 for help for those Christians driven from their homes in the present turmoils throughout the world. The following additions to the list given in the issue of November 8 are appreciated. The money received has been sent on.

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Because God Cares

HAVE you ever taken a steady, straight look at this word "because"? Do so now. You are to cast all your care upon God *because* God cares. God does care. You may be tempted at times to think that God does not care. At such times recall this word "because." Because God cares. And because God cares you can, with perfect confidence, cast all your care upon Him. Passing through sorrow, walk with hope, because God cares. Facing a hard day, tackle your job with courage, because God cares. Hated by foes, forsaken by friends, do not imagine you are alone, because God cares. Your fondest dreams unrealized, your noblest efforts of no avail, do not give up, because God cares.

That is, God is your partner. By this token He becomes a sharer with you of your joys and sorrows, your successes and failures. Partners in business share not only the income and prosperity of the business, but also the responsibilities and losses as well. Each partner carries his portion of the load, each puts his shoulder to the wheel. What is the beautiful, en-

during thing in marriage? It is the partnership of the bond. What is the loveliest thing in the relationship of a mother and her little child? It is that they are partners, they share their tears and laughter. One day, when you were a little child, you were hurt, in body and soul. You ran to your mother, and she dropped her work, because she cared; you climbed into her lap and poured out the story of your hurt. Because she cared, she listened, kissed away your tears, and all was well. And so, because God cares, we enter the glorious experience of the divine partnership.—Bruce S. Wright, D. D.

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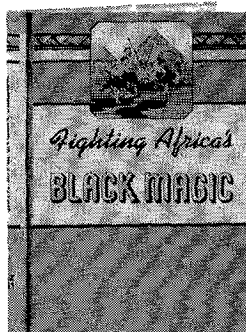
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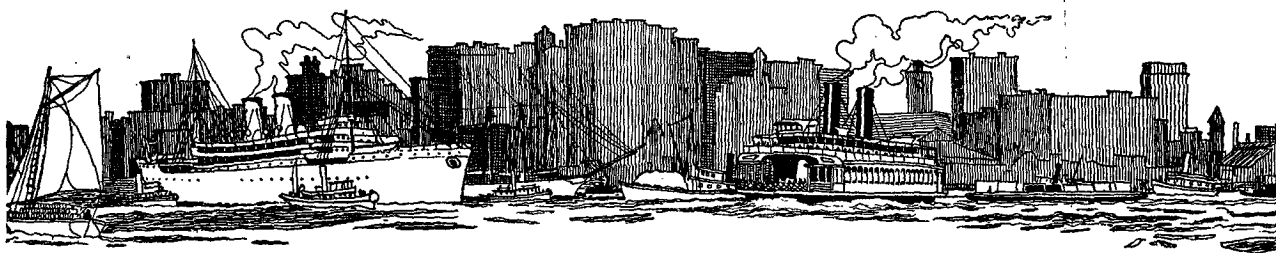
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The GOSPEL in BOTTLES

A Novel Method of Evangelism

by E. C. POWERS

Secretary, National Capital District
of the American Bible Society

PEDESTRIANS near the water front at the corner of Lombard Street and Market Place in Baltimore, Maryland, might observe a rather unpretentious lunchroom bearing the sign "Mike's Place." At first glance this rather forbidding name suggests an alliance with the underworld. However, the presiding genius of this hostelry is an Italian whose heart is aflame with evangelistic fire. This devoted Christian, Michael Coscia, has hit upon a unique method of sending the gospel to those who go down to the sea in ships.

Coscia was born over a saloon kept by his father. There was little religious influence about his childhood and early youth. Brought up to regard liquor as a necessity, he drank it at will. His associates were the type of men who loaf in barrooms and, until past thirty years of age, he found no incentive to change his manner of living or to break with his surroundings. Then came a day when, like John Wesley, his heart was strangely warmed, and life and duty took on a new significance for Mike Coscia. Like Paul, he felt an urge to preach the gospel; but, handicapped by lack of education and slowness of speech, it became necessary to discover some mode of proclaiming his message other than from the pulpit or on the corners of the streets.

About this time he opened his lunchroom in the busy downtown section opposite the People's Court, and diagonally across the street from the Candler Building. One day the thought came to him that probably not less than seven thousand people look daily from the windows of the Candler Building and the Court toward his lunchroom. Why not place a message from the Bible on his roof, where it could be seen and read by these thousands as they wait to

transact business? To think was to act. Now those who glance across Lombard Street, by day or by night, are confronted with these words (a spotlight plays upon them until midnight): "Lest you forget—God says to you again: The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Mike's next inspiration came from finding every morning scores of empty whisky, gin, and wine bottles scattered around Market Place. Of course, they were gathered by the whitewings, so that for most of the day the streets were clean. But Mike saw in these empty bottles a great opportunity. He and his family began to gather the bottles daily. Labels were removed and the bottles carefully washed; then a tract or a Gospel penny portion was placed within, after which the bottles were sealed and consigned to the sea. This is no small-town enterprise; sometimes as many as twenty-five hundred bottles go into Chesapeake Bay at a single launching.

In the lunchroom, behind the counter, Coscia keeps thousands of tracts and Scriptures ready to supply any wayfarer who may stop for lunch, and who also indicates either hunger or need for the bread of life.

Many of the Scripture bottles have been found by sailors who later reported at Mike's Place, telling the story of finding the bottle in the bay or the ocean, and sometimes the story of their conversion as a result of this strange evangel. The vessel once containing a legion of evil spirits is now filled with the Holy Spirit.

Who can tell what miracles of grace have already been accomplished, or who can prophesy what impulses toward heaven may come in the years that lie ahead from these cleaned and redeemed vessels?

