

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



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INVENTIONS SPEED THE GOSPEL

See page 4

March 5, 1940

LA TOUR



the flight of TIME

INTERNATIONAL

A typical Finnish sharpshooter, dressed in white, on the lookout for the invaders of his country.



SPREADING EVIL

FORCES of primitive savagery have been unloosed upon the world," said former President Herbert Hoover when opening his drive for the Finnish Relief Fund.

"Demoniac rain of fire and iron from the skies has killed women and children. Hundreds of thousands have been driven from their homes in the middle of a northern winter."

It is a picture fearful enough to move the hardest heart to pity; yet one that is but a repetition of similar horrors perpetrated recently in Ethiopia, in Spain, in China, in Poland.

Noting the tragic trail of terrorism around the globe, one cannot but call to mind the predictions of the great Bible prophets concerning these latter days.

Declared Jeremiah: "Evil shall go forth from nation to nation." Chapter 25:32.

Said Ezekiel: "An evil, an only evil, behold, is come. An end is come, the end is come; it watcheth for thee; behold, it is come." Chapter 7:5, 6.

"Evil men and seducers," said the apostle Paul, "shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Timothy 3:13.

A Survey of World Events

by the EDITOR

In the book of Revelation we find this striking description of our tragic times. Wrote the apostle John: "I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Chapter 16:13, 14.

Thus unanimously do the prophets of old describe our day as one when evil shall be on the ascendant; when it will spread swiftly around the world. How accurate these inspired predictions have proved to be!

No doubt most of us have hoped, at one time or another, that the powers of

goodness would somehow prevail in the world; that gradually, little by little, evil would be pushed back farther and farther beyond the frontiers of civilization and a great new era of world brotherhood and peace be ushered in. Alas, it is not to be—at least, not by human efforts. Instead, we see evil advancing, multiplying, and spreading everywhere, threatening the overthrow and extinction of every good thing that righteous men have prized, honored, and contended for through the centuries.

Writing of a certain modern political cult, whose teachings have been widely accepted of recent years, Herman Rauschnig, one-time president of the Danzig Senate, in his challenging book, "The Revolution of Nihilism," says: "Violence is their doctrine, and force is applied at all times to maintain their power—applied ruthlessly, brutally, instantaneously." Their resort to "the worst of human motives—to the extreme of brutality, to hatred, to vengeance, to envy, to licentiousness, to robbery, to lying on principle—has set in motion a ruin of . . . character on a scale hitherto unimaginable."

This system, says Dr. Rauschnig, "sets out to destroy everything that it cannot convert to its own pattern. Its destructiveness will spare nothing—

OUR COVER PICTURE

Indicative of the spirit of this great new time is our cover this week, showing modern school children entering a plane of United Air Lines. The present generation will be the first in history to be "air-minded" from childhood.

neither the institutions of property nor the elements of culture. . . . Nothing is more intolerable to it than originality, individuality, character, or true public spirit. Whatever it cannot dominate it must destroy."

How appropriately the same words could be applied to similar movements in many lands today!

Thus violence, ruthlessness, brutality, licentiousness, destructiveness—all these ugly, evil things are with us again, and on a scale so vast and terrifying that it is no wonder men's hearts are "failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21:26.

Yes, evil goes forth from nation to nation. It is spreading like a dreadful plague, infecting multitudes. Like a prairie fire it is devouring everything in its path; like a surging tidal wave it threatens to engulf all.

As the Bible tells us, the powers of darkness are at work today as never before. Long years ago the apostle John warned: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:12.

Thank God for those three words, "a short time!" A limit has been set to the devil's activities. Evil may seem to overspread the whole wide world until it may be said once more of man, as was said of him before the Flood, that "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart" is "only evil continually;" nevertheless evil shall not triumph. Despite all the



Finnish children singing in an air-raid shelter while the Russian bombers roar overhead. Such a spirit is unconquerable!

devil-inspired terrorism of these troubled times a righteous remnant will maintain their allegiance to Heaven against all temptation and opposition and will loyally observe "the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" unto the end.

Ominous as the future may seem at this moment; dark as the prophets say it will be from now till history's close; nevertheless, across the storm clouds shines this cheering message to all God's faithful children: "When these things

begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

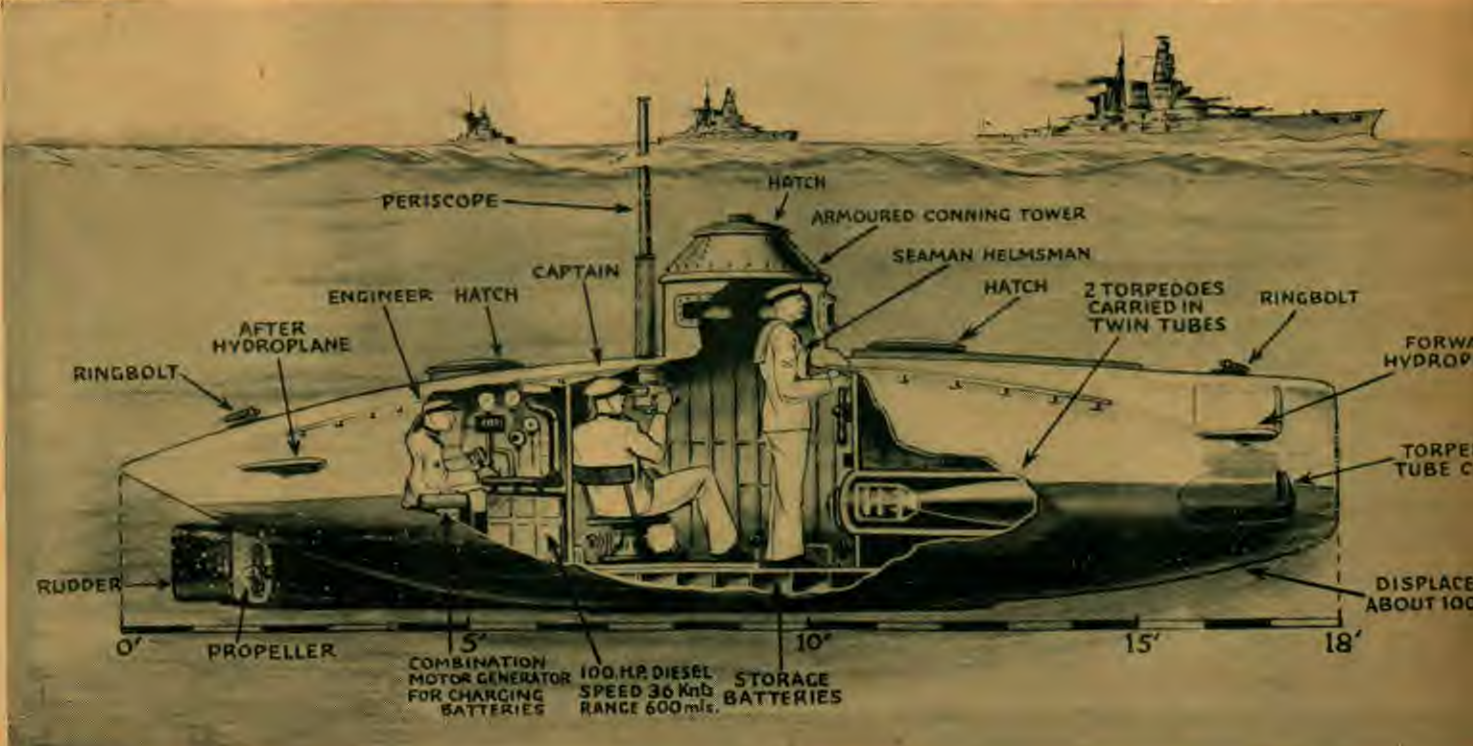
The darkest hour is always just before the dawn.



IT IS not only one type of evil that is spreading rapidly today. Everything that contributes to man's corruption and
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Reports are circulating that Japan is putting a vest-pocket submarine into mass production. The little craft measures 18 feet over all, displaces 100 tons, can submerge to 2,500 feet, and costs only \$5,500. It carries but three men.

INTERNATIONAL





COURTESY STATE OF CALIFORNIA
The ceremonies at Promontory Point, Utah, marked the completion of 1,776 miles of transcontinental railroad that opened up the West.

Certainty in an Uncertain World—10

INVENTIONS Speed *the* GOSPEL Story

by WILLIAM A. SPICER

THERE is a theology of inventions," said a Scottish writer. He meant that as the need arose of swifter agencies for spreading the gospel, Providence has led inventors to produce the things required.

It is not alone for business enterprise and material progress that these things have come—though Providence has ever overruled for that also; but the age of invention has forwarded the supreme spiritual purpose of swiftly spreading light and truth among all nations.

Some men whose inventive gifts have made them benefactors of mankind have felt, as they worked, that they were laboring under a burden laid upon them providentially. Others, without such an impression, have been the unconscious agents of Providence. It might be said of some of them as was said of the ancient king, Cyrus of Persia: "I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me," Isaiah 45:5.

The publicity literature brought out by two World's Fairs, which ran last year on the two coasts of North America,

has emphasized their exhibits showing transportation progress in these latter days. It is a striking comment on the prophecy of the time when men were to run to and fro, with spreading light and knowledge.

The angel said to the prophet, in the days of Persia: "Thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased," Daniel 12:4.

We have seen it in all the history of the last century, and particularly in our own time. Now, actually, the closing message of the gospel is to be carried "unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Revelation 14:6.

The agencies have come with the hour—swift means of transportation over land and sea and sky. Can-not all see that we must give God the glory for such a development, while at the same time recognizing and honoring men's skill and genius?

Here I can refer but to the matter of land transportation. Note three high points in the story:

1. The first gift came through sturdy George Stephenson, whose statue looks down at us in front of the great Euston Station, in London. In 1825 his first passenger locomotive puffed over the short line from Stockton to Darlington, North England, a man on horseback riding ahead to keep the way clear. The original locomotive with the date, "1825," in brass figures on its side, still stands on the Darlington station platform.

Well may it be given rest there; for the mechanical progeny that sprang from it is pulling the burdens of commerce and speeding passenger travel over great networks of steel that cover all the continents. Surely God gave Stephenson courage to persevere against all the opposition and ridicule that met his efforts. Everywhere the railway is a vehicle for carrying gospel agencies.

2. Note another high point—the date 1869—when the completion of the first transcontinental line proclaimed that the wildernesses and the solitary places of earth were to be opened up for settlement at last. May 10, 1869, at the head of Great Salt Lake, workmen from the Atlantic side met workmen from the Pacific side, and the last ties and rails were laid connecting the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railways. The gold spike from California was driven down, and the silver one from Nevada, with one of mixed gold and silver and iron, from Arizona. Then, gathered about the two locomotives that stood facing each other, the workmen saluted the first transcontinental railway, running from ocean to ocean. The poet of the old-time West, Bret Harte, told the message of the two locomotives standing there—

"Pilots touching, head to head,
Facing in a single track,
Half a world behind each back."

The one from the East spoke:

"Listen! where the Atlantic beats
Shores of snow and summer heats;
Where the Indian summer skies
Paint the woods with wampum dyes,
I have chased the flying sun."

The one from the West replied:

"I bring the East to you;
All the Orient, all Cathay,
Find through me the shortest way;
And the sun you follow here
Rises in my hemisphere."

And while the locomotives were speaking their part, a living voice was coming across the centuries from ancient Persia, repeating, "O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many

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Rebuilding *the* Foundations

It is all very well to say what is the matter with civilization. The symptoms are so outstanding that diagnosis is a very simple affair. A little observation makes even an ordinary soul cocksure enough to say how it got into such a state. But how to remedy the situation—ah, that is another thing entirely.

Early in the winter of 1932, I was in Geneva to cover the Disarmament Conference being held there at that time. One of my duties was to interview Mary Emma Woolley, that great Connecticut educator, who has been the leading spirit of two of the great colleges for women in this country—first Wellesley and then Mount Holyoke. She was in Geneva as delegate to that Conference, and I visited with her when she came in from a tea where she had been kept late by people who, she said, "had never learned that it was vicious to waste other people's time." She grumbled a good deal about the extravagance of everybody in the use of that valuable commodity—time.

I enjoyed her immensely. She was so thrifty and teacherish. She was so like any one of a half-dozen fine women teachers I had sat under in my school days. Here she was, away over in Geneva, attending a Disarmament Conference, although it was plain from her conversation that her school and the girls who attended it were her very life. But she had been willing to leave them for a bit, and come away over here to help do something about Peace. I could never remember much of what she said in that interview; probably because I did not know how to manage. But I do know that I came away from her *almost* ready to leave the bringing up of the bairns to an hireling, and cast myself into the struggle for Peace. It seemed so much the only thing to do.

At that meeting I heard a delegation of young people from all nations make their plea to the League for Peace. "We are the ones who have to fight in these wars!" cried a keen young Belgian. "You talk about them. You legislate about them. But we fight them! And we don't want them!"

It is eight years since that laddie made his brilliant, fiery appeal for Disarmament. I wonder what he is thinking now. I wonder what Mary Emma Woolley is thinking. I wonder what I would be thinking if I had given these eight years to the Peace Movement—in the face of World War II.

The cause of peace looked very much worth giving one's life to, then. The Peace Palace—home of the League—was almost completed; its library and offices were already occupied, though the meetings of the League itself were still being



Where We Must Begin

by AGNES LEWIS CAVINESS



The palace of the League of Nations at Geneva—a monument to some men's ardent hope for peace.

held in the temporary structure across the Quai de Mont Blanc, farther in the heart of the city itself.

Of course, that Disarmament Conference broke up, and its delegates and all their busy little clerks and secretaries went home, without having accomplished much of anything. For a long time now people have been talking about the League's being dead. But it need not be dead! "Weak as it was and is, [it] would be plenty strong enough, if the nations in it would keep their obligations," said Chester Rowell in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

It still makes me furious that the League was never allowed to succeed—such a fine instrument for World Progress that it was! It has always been a matter of desperation to everyone who has watched one crisis after another arise during these years, with the member states afraid to take the actions they had agreed to take.

Its failure has not been the failure of the organization; it has been the unwillingness of all the powers to throw themselves into the ocean of altruism. They remind one of a circle of small boys standing belligerently with stones in their hands.

"You put down your stone and I'll put down mine!"

"All right; only you put yours down first!"

"No! You first, and then I!"

So they stand hedging, and quibbling, and getting nowhere. The whole program is paralyzed by wholesale selfishness; meanwhile there are a dozen wrongs that that group of boys could make right, and a dozen enterprises of fun and good sport they could pursue.

On the whole, the plan of conferences for peace or for disarmament does not seem to be the solution for rebuilding foundations. Their mechanism is good—often excellent. But the spirit of selfishness clogs the wheels and cuts off the motive power.

Where can we begin? Where can we get hold? The churches, whose chief business should be to establish and maintain confidence and sanity in the world, dissipate their vitality in arguments and discussions. Men are concerned with having their own way, whoever is inconvenienced, while commerce is tied up and ships rot in their berths in the harbor. Is there no way? Is the problem like a great ball—too large for our span, that slips out of our hands and slips and slips again every time we clutch at it?

There is only one way, and that is the way Jesus used to promulgate His gospel. He didn't seem to be very strong on "organization," nor did His methods attract "the best people." He was more than likely to go about with fisherfolk and villagers. He had a liking for little children. But He took the trouble to gather about Him a dozen young men, and to live and work and walk with them—giving Himself to them.

I have been thinking of this as I work with the mothers of our community, trying to help them train for their job. It is the only seriously worth-while way of doing anything about the world's plight. My own home—my husband, the children that have been given us—here is my task, here is my nucleus to begin with. However gloomy the outlook, if I throw myself into this work, it is the most satisfactory thing I can do to help rebuild foundations.

THERE is a tremendously powerful, keenly intelligent, amazingly well-informed, brilliant, but dominantly evil personality meddling in world affairs, with the single, determined aim of wrecking civilization and destroying the human race.

It is this greatly talented personage who, by his intrigues and conspiracies, his deceptions and wiles, has brought to defeat the aspirations of men for a peaceful settlement of world problems.

He it is who, by his trickery, has precipitated the world into a war that may end civilized society on this planet.

And he has done it knowingly, purposefully, intentionally.

He is World Enemy Number One. He is the source of all the wretchedness and misery, the pain and the heartbreak, the ruin and the death, everything that is wrong, on earth.

Name him? Very well. That is easy. But, better still, let God name him.

God's Book calls him "your adversary" (1 Peter 5:8), "the accuser of our brethren" (Revelation 12:10), "the angel of the bottomless pit" (Revelation 9:11), "Apollyon" (Revelation 9:11), "Beelzebub" (Matthew 12:24), "Belial" (2 Corinthians 6:15), "the dragon" (Revelation 20:2), "the father of lies" (John 8:44), "a liar" (John 8:44), "a murderer" (John 8:44), "the power of darkness" (Colossians 1:13), "the prince of this world" (John 14:30), "the prince of the devils" (Matthew 12:24), "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), ruler "of the darkness of this world" (Ephesians 6:12), "the serpent" (2 Corinthians 11:3), "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2), "the tempter" (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5), "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4), "the unclean spirit" (Matthew 12:43), "the wicked one" (Matthew 13:19, 38), "the evil one" (Matthew 6:13, R. V.).

God's Book compares him to a "fowler," setting snares for the unwary (Psalm 91:3); to an "enemy" who, in the darkness of the night, sowed tares among the good seed of the field (Matthew 13:25, 39); to a "wolf," ravaging the flock (John 10:12); to a "lion," seeking to catch and devour its prey (1 Peter 5:8).

Against his subtlety, his treachery, and his devilish insinuations we can guard ourselves only by constant watching and prayer. 2 Corinthians 2:11. Christ has commanded His people to resist uncompromisingly all his approaches and so-



WORLD ENEMY No. ONE

His Name and Work Revealed

by

CARLYLE B. HAYNES

licitations. 1 Peter 5:9; James 4:7; Ephesians 4:27.

No intelligent reader can peruse such a description and believe anything else than that the great enemy of the human race is a powerful, evil *personality*. It is impossible to think of him as an evil *principle*.

Wrong Conceptions of Devil

Certainly these plain, explicit passages of Scripture destroy forever the conception of the devil of medieval tradition and superstition, which has made this whole subject of Satan the object of derision on the part of intelligent and cultured people—that monster of horrid form and hideous expression, with an accompaniment of hoofs, horns, pitchfork, barbed tail, and breath of flames.

This hobgoblin of the ignorant and superstitious has no reality in fact, no basis in Scripture, and is believed in only by those who are unacquainted with God's word.

This very grotesque and absurd impression regarding Satan is in itself an evidence of the craft and guile of the deceiver, who would throw men off their guard by such a ridiculous conception. Such a caricature serves only to excite

the mockery of the intelligent, disarming suspicion, preventing vigilance, and leading men to disbelieve and to deny the very existence of the devil.

When the world was finally aroused from the nightmare of papal superstition, when it emerged from the Dark Ages and came to understand that purgatory was not a place but a business by which to relieve the credulous of their money, this farcical devil, with horns and hoofs, smelling of sulphur, reeking with brimstone, and spitting fire, was no longer calculated to frighten the people.

So, discarding this absurdity, they were then prepared to go to the other extreme, and deny the existence of all unseen powers of evil; in this way they were led to become the prey and the dupes of the real devil, whose very existence they doubted.

There can be no reasonable doubt that the devilism of the Dark Ages, with all its trumpery of horns, hoofs, pitchforks, gridirons, and imps, who act as stokers of the fires of hell, was merely a device of the archdeceiver himself, its design being to deceive and to delude people into a denial of his own existence, in order that they might be thrown off guard, and thus the more easily be ensnared and deceived.

This medieval devilism is utterly unknown to the Bible and to genuine Christianity. Nevertheless, *there is a devil*. Make no mistake about that. While he is not at all the hobgoblin he has caricatured himself to be, he nevertheless exists. And he is, indeed, Public Enemy Number One.

Discarding the absurd views of a superstitious age, we turn to the explicit statements of the Bible. And here in the Scriptures of truth, the devil, Satan, is set forth before us as one who is able to appear in a character the exact opposite of what it really is. Indeed, "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11:14.

Reading this, we are at once placed on guard. Satan is not what he appears, not what he would have us believe.

Manifestations Deceiving

If we are to shield ourselves from the adversary of our souls, we must be on the lookout for manifestations of his power—not frightful, hideous, ludicrous, grotesque, but manifestations in which truth will be so insidiously interwoven with error, and grace, courtesy, purity, and wisdom so mixed with impurity, immorality, and the antics of demons, as shall lull suspicion, quiet apprehension, and prepare souls to be deceived.

In these things may be discerned the very subtlety of the serpent and the skill and cunning of the deceiver; for we may be certain that Satan will carefully guard himself in these manifestations from revealing anything that will shock the senses or awaken prejudice.

We are living in the closing days of the world's history. The end is nearly here. This era of the world's history is to be marked by the ascendancy of Satan. This is plainly taught in the word of God.

When the archrebel against the government of God knows that he has but a short time in which to work, he will work with all power and signs and lying wonders, inasmuch that, if it were possible, he will deceive the very elect. Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:22. That is, the accumulated wisdom and knowledge of six thousand years' experience in leading the human family into sin is to be brought to bear upon the last generation of the human race, and particularly upon the church of the living God.

This makes it clear that if the last generation, the present generation, is to escape from the wiles of the devil, it will need to have some knowledge of his work, his origin, his power, and his personality; it is imperative at this present time that the church should be acquainted with the work of the great adversary.

The danger of the present hour is increased by the tendency that has ap-

peared during recent years to discredit the doctrine of the personality of the devil and to make light of this whole subject when it is considered at all.

Sermons on the subject of Satan are very rare; and, when one is preached, the tendency is to receive it with incredulous, supercilious smiles, as if the subject were one fit only for children and scarcely suitable for grown people. This is a dangerous attitude to take.

That this subject is one of the most vital consequence is made plain from the fact that the character and work of the devil are constantly dwelt on in the Scriptures of truth, especially in the New Testament.

At the very beginning of the work of Christ the devil appeared as the personal tempter of our Lord. Through all the Gospels, Epistles, and the Revelation, the careful reader will be impressed with the constant references to the personality, origin, power, cruelty, malignity, and final doom of "the god of this world."

Read again the numerous titles and names that are applied to Satan in the Bible, as set forth earlier in this article,

Flashlines

by W. L. EMMERSON

DOUBTFUL PROGRESS "Progress," says the *Church Times*, "may have made peace more comfortable. It has certainly made war more horrible."

GOD IN CONTROL "I have no use," says the Reverend J. D. Jones "for the 'struggling God' of the Wells' imagination. 'I believe in God the Father Almighty.'"

INSUFFICIENT REMEDY "War is an insufficient remedy against social evils, and none at all against the hardness of the individual human heart," says Chancellor R. J. Campbell, D. D., in the *Church of England Newspaper*. "At the best, it is but the surgical operation that cuts out the cancer; it cannot heal."

STILL MUCH TO DO Commenting on the excellent report of the British and Foreign Bible Society for 1939, the Reverend John A. Patten, Literary Superintendent, concluded with a strong challenge and resolve. "The aim" of the Society, he said, "is to place the Scriptures in the hands of all men; and, in view of that aim, a circulation of even eleven million volumes is but a drop in the ocean. There are boundless opportunities of expansion, and, please God, the day will come when the annual distribution will be increased many times over."

and consider whether these do not make it plain that Satan is a personality.

Look once more at the features of his personal character, which are pointed out in the Scripture passages referred to above, and consider whether these do not most emphatically prove his personality.

It is plain from the teaching of the Scriptures that the way of the Christian, who is journeying to reach the kingdom of God, lies through the enemy's country, through the territory of "the god of this world."

While the weary pilgrim has a mighty God to defend him, and is safe in the keeping of the Good Shepherd, and will surely be guided by the Spirit of truth, yet the struggle with the enemy of his soul will be real and painful. He will find it necessary to sustain a prolonged and fiery trial, and a most severe conflict. He must realize that the accumulated subtlety and cunning of six thousand years of experience is constantly at work to draw him away from Christ; hence his need of constant watching and prayer.

In the final years of the history of this present evil world the mightiest working of Satan is to be witnessed, and those mighty works of evil are already making their appearance in the affairs of men.

The Bible most clearly reveals the fact that the time has come when the history of this world is about to close. "The kingdoms of this world" are soon to become "the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ." Revelation 11:15.

Before long Satan is to be completely destroyed (Revelation 20:9-14); soon this world will enter into the possession of the people of God (Daniel 7:27).

The whole government of this earth, as now controlled and managed by sinful men, is soon to pass away, and the history of Satan's long rebellion and his usurped dominion on earth will before long forever be ended. The unfolding of the prophecies of the Bible and the rapidly fulfilling signs of the times most plainly reveal the nearness of the end.

Satan knows where we are in the channel of human history. He knows the prophecies and their fulfillment. He sees from the maturing plans of God that his own overthrow cannot long be delayed.

A short time only remains for him. He knows that; and, knowing it, is determined that that short time shall be filled with all the accumulated hatred, rage, and destruction that he can muster from his tremendous resources of evil. His supreme malice and malignity are about to let loose upon men. He is about to make a special effort to bring all the world under his power.

We do well to learn what he is capable of, what he is about to do, and what the final outcome will be. We shall look into this next week.



CHRIST'S Greatest Prophecy FULFILLED

Gospel Commission Almost Completed

by ROY F. COTTRELL

Tenth in the Series on Bible Prophecies

WITH flaming enthusiasm the disciples of the Master went forth to win a world for Christ. Yes—

"Out from the doomed Jerusalem, in the days of long ago,
By two and two they sallied forth, to the lands of sun or snow. . . .
Beside the slim, tall temples, where the tawny rivers run,
They set their tents where shining stars look down on Babylon.
Their bare feet pressed the beaten shore beneath dark Nubia's cliffs;
They ate their corn from out their scrips by Karnak's hieroglyphs."

Just before His ascension, Christ gave to the church His parting commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations: . . . and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:19, 20. Equipped with unrivaled authority and heaven-born courage, they traversed land and sea to tell the world of "a risen Christ, a living Saviour," whose divine touch would transform the life, and bring pardon, peace, and vital power.

As the Philistine image of Dagon fell down before the sacred ark, so the gods and goddesses of Greece and Rome were vanquished before the conquering Christ. The gospel messengers were poor, unlettered men, without influence; yet they accomplished a superhuman task in one generation; and, before its close, the great missionary Paul declared that "the gospel . . . was preached to every creature which is under heaven."

In spite of untold dangers and fierce persecutions, it is estimated that before the end of the first century A. D., at least ten million had been won to Christianity.

The world still reads with admiration of the brilliant, heroic achievements of the early church, of its missionaries and martyrs. The record is a marvelous testimony to what God can accomplish through Spirit-filled men and women.

With the passing of time, the vision of the cross became dim and indistinct. But the supreme task of the church was not to be neglected forever. In our Lord's great prophecy, delivered upon the Mount of Olives just prior to His crucifixion, He gave numerous signs of His second coming. Among these is the definite promise and prophecy: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come;" or, as rendered in Weymouth's New Testament in Modern Speech: "This good news of the kingdom shall be proclaimed throughout the whole world to set the evidence before all the Gentiles; and then the end will come."

This language is neither figurative nor obscure. In reply to the question, "What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3), Christ visioned a mighty evangelistic movement, world-wide in extent, immediately to precede His glorious return.

In the last book of the Bible, the seer of Patmos also foretold a time when the

messengers of "the everlasting gospel" would hasten by land, sea, and air to proclaim to those of "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" the startling tidings, "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." Revelation 14:6, 7. When this great evangelistic task is completed, the prophet John beheld the second coming of Christ with golden crown and sharp sickle to reap earth's harvest.

World Readiness for Gospel

The world of nineteen centuries ago was providentially in readiness to receive the gospel. When the angels sang at the birth of Jesus, "On earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14), all civilized lands were at peace under one vast empire. The extended system of Roman highways made travel comparatively safe; while one universal language of education and culture—the Greek—facilitated the spread of the gospel story.

Likewise, in His divine plan, the great Leader of missions prepared the modern world for the great missionary undertaking by providing facilities for a quick work. As Carey, Judson, Morrison, Livingstone, and other pioneers went forth to service in pagan lands, the inventive genius of man, seemingly long dormant, was electrified to produce modern printing presses, steamships, railway trains, the electric telegraph; and, in more recent years, telephone, radio, automo-





biles, and airplanes. These marvelous inventions were not given the world merely to provide for the comfort, convenience, and progress of mankind. In them the Christian sees something infinitely greater—definite divine aid to speed the news of Christ's return "to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

At the beginning of the nineteenth century missionary forces were small and scattered; yet they gradually increased to an army of more than twenty-five thousand, with five times that number of native preachers and assistants. While millions have been won from paganism, statistics are but feeble indicators of the light and influence radiating from Christian homes and communities along the far-flung frontiers of civilization.

While the ambassador for Christ may promote social and physical uplift, his great task is to preach a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour. Just before the great Deluge, Noah was commissioned to warn the world and point to the way of escape. Before the final overthrow of Jerusalem, Christ and His apostles foretold its downfall and directed believers to the path of safety.

Even so, just prior to Christ's second glorious coming, the prophecy declares that the everlasting gospel is to be proclaimed with mighty power as "a witness unto all nations." The Bible does not infer that the entire world will be converted; it teaches, rather, that the gos-

Even the nomads of the Mongolian steppes have an opportunity to hear the "good news." Missionary O. Christiansen (on horseback) lives in the yurt shown.



pel will be "proclaimed throughout the whole world to set the evidence before all the Gentiles; and then the end will come."

Here is the sign of signs, unique and definite and forceful. The world must be given an opportunity to receive or to reject Christ. The Master will not return until the great commission has been fulfilled; but He will return immediately upon its accomplishment.

During recent years, modernism has chilled and quenched missionary incentive in many churches and societies. Materialism, cynicism, and doubt have taken the place of piety. Throughout Europe and America, atheism and a new paganism have arisen to destroy spiritual values. In many circles the mention of religion or missions occasions a sneer. Mankind has become supremely self-centered, and the average man in the street appears to think that if he, his family, and his country are secure and prosperous, the plight of the rest of the world is no concern of his.

But there are notable exceptions. The printing of Bibles continues to be the world's greatest publishing enterprise, while the translation and circulation of the great Book, in whole or in part, is

carried forward by an army of intrepid, self-sacrificing colporteurs. For two hundred years the Christian church has sung the missionary hymn of Isaac Watts, "Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise." At length that wish becomes a triumphant reality, for the word of God now speaks to the hearts of men in more than a thousand languages.

Likewise, the publishers of this magazine, representing a people who conscientiously accept the entire message of Holy Writ, press on to gospel triumphs in 387 countries and island fields. They operate thousands of outstations, schools, sanitariums, hospitals, clinics, and publishing houses; and, to men and women of nearly 800 languages and dialects, tell the grand old story of redeeming love.

God's program of foreign missions hastens to its completion. In multiplying facilities for this marvelous movement He has practically annihilated time and space. He has broken down barriers and opened highways. By land and sea, through the air, and over the ether waves, the message speeds onward to prepare

a people for the greatest event of the ages—the second coming of Christ.

The length of time required to complete the task is not foretold; but if Jonah could warn mighty Nineveh by one day's effort, and if Ahasuerus of Persia could publish an edict to all peoples from India to Ethiopia in nine months, we are confident that Omnipotent power can speedily bring the gospel program to a triumphant close. "He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness." Romans 9:28.

Many other Bible prophecies, fulfilled and fulfilling about us, give unmistakable witness that earth's sunset hour draws near. This unprecedented age of invention and discovery speaks; the world of wealth and industry speaks; this peace-shouting, war-weary world speaks; the shattered social world speaks, even the underworld of vice and crime; yes, look where we will, everything in this twentieth-century drama testifies to the fulfillment of Scripture prophecy, declaring that this is the time of the end, and that the grand climax of human history is near at hand.

The mission advance costs money, sacrifice, privation, toil, vigil, and some-

(Continued on page 14)



Round the World With the Gospel

The CHANGING EAST

Amazing Contribution of Christian Missions

by H. G. WOODWARD

*Superintendent, Telugu Mission
of Seventh-day Adventists*

IN AN article in the *Washington Post*, by Jerome Beatty, we find the following: "The Near East is going Western lickety-split. Hard by Nazareth steam shovels are chewing up Mount Carmel to feed cement mills for the building boom. Mecca pilgrims travel by motorbus to the strains of radio music. Flying boats alight on the Sea of Galilee. Arabs drive donkeys loaded with firewood past a Beyrouth cabaret that features 'The Arab Al Jolson.' You can drive from Egypt to Jerusalem overnight—the forty years' journey of the Israelites.

"Bagdad is going in for air-conditioning in a big way. Tractors pass camels on the ancient roads the Wise Men trod—roads new-surfaced with asphalt. Mickey Mouse is playing in Sidon tonight. The Dead Sea is now but an appanage of the chemical industry. Power lines cross the hills the crusaders wearily climbed."

The writer then comments upon the social changes, which he declares to be even more startling. He speaks of the women, who, from time immemorial, were never seen out of doors unveiled, now romping unconcerned at mixed bathing parties in the Mediterranean. He tells us that often half the audience in a theater is made up of unveiled womenfolk, and speaks of the unpaid social service, such as teaching free schools for the poor, cleaning up the water supply in the villages, and instructing young people in Western sports, by Moslems.

After residence in the East for more than a quarter of a century, I can certainly bear witness to the fact that what was once looked upon as the unchanging East is now experiencing a great renaissance. The flood of nationalism that has had such indescribable results in the West has not escaped the East. The orange, white, and green nationalist flag of India is to be seen flying in the breeze from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas.

The people of the East are in a condition of ferment, and they are beginning to assert their individuality. In no more pronounced manner has this truth been demonstrated than in the Untouchability

Movement in South India. Until very recent days the great body of people constituting those known as the depressed classes, or, in the language of the newspapers, "the untouchables," a vast community of sixty-odd million souls, were dominated by those of higher caste. Only a few years ago the low-caste man was not allowed the use of certain districts of the towns, and often I have been compelled to make a detour, because the driver of the conveyance in which I was traveling was a member of this proscribed community. But now—by royal command—they even have access to the temples. This social upheaval is but another proof of the fact that the spirit of self-assertion is manifest in the Orient and that the East is changing.

One of the causes for the changed attitude the East has assumed is doubtless the Great War and its aftermath. Men of every color and from every nation were called upon to participate in the conflict. The man from the East was thrust against the man from the West. And when he returned to his home as a hero, with stories of his triumphs over the Westerner, the prestige of the white man was forever lost. With all his faults, the European in service in the East was respected until the Oriental saw that he was no better than himself.

Unfortunately also the only West most of the Eastern peoples know is the West of the motion pictures and the pictorial magazines. The natural result is that the portrayal of loose marital relationships, gangster holdups, and the undesirable side of Western life is accepted without question.

Sadu Sundar Singh is authority for the statement that had not Gandhi and Tagore visited the West, they would have become Christians. How many a bright and promising young Indian, in many cases a graduate of one of the large and fine universities of that land, after taking further studies in the United States, returns to his home having lost far more than he has gained!

Another evidence of the spirit of change that is sweeping through the East is the fact that thousands of the outcaste population are flocking into the Christian fold. The missionary knows only

A temple in Benares—one of the fifteen hundred in that city of India.



too well that comparatively few of them conform to anything like the ideal; but they are dissatisfied with their condition of suppression, and are reaching out for something better than they have hitherto known. So widespread is this movement that in the opinion of the late Bishop Whitehead of Madras it is only a matter of time before the whole of the untouchables will be nominal Christians.

Until lately the non-Christian population has been content to have it so. But now there is another change in the East, and Christian missions are meeting with very strong opposition. The methods of the missionary are now being copied by leaders among the Moslems, the Hindus, and the Sikhs. The Baptist *Watchman-Examiner* is responsible for the following: "Dr. Stanley Jones recently declared that the Sikhs in India are levying about one eighth of a day's pay on all their members to get funds to convert the untouchables to Sikhism; the Moslems of India are organizing to raise a fund of one million rupees for the training of one thousand Moslem evangelists."

Another change that is seen all over the East is the spring cleaning that is going on in every non-Christian religion. With the spread of education, men are beginning to take notice of the undesirable elements in their religion. A greater factor still is the contact such religions have for so long made with Christianity. It was but a few days ago that the Nizam of Hyderabad made an appeal to his Mohammedan subjects to abstain from participation in the gross ceremonies of their festival days.

Stimulated by Christianity

Likewise, the Maharani of Travancore suppressed the institution of temple prostitution some time ago. Non-Christian men of education and culture are ashamed of much that is part of the religion they profess, and a purge is taking place. As a recent article expresses it, "there is no doubt that Christianity has had a wonderful effect on Hinduism itself. There is a subtle change in the whole tendency of Hindu thought."

Not only are these non-Christian religions opposing Christianity; they are competing with it. I have before me the letterhead of a Hindu missionary society. The president, secretary, and other officers have all of them a number of degrees behind their names, and are all prominent government servants. Hindu places of worship, after the pattern of the Christian mission churches, are erected, and the worship conducted is very much like that in the churches with which we are familiar. Buddhist Sunday schools, Young Men's Mohammedan Associations, and Hindu church services are quite common. In all these things we

can see the influence of Christian missions.

This truth was emphasized by the *Literary Digest* some years ago, when it stated: "For making the untouchable a human being, for beginning modification of centuries-old caste, for raising the level of women, for a reduction in illiteracy, and for bringing them to Jesus Christ, the people of India and Burma may thank Christian missions."

This state of unrest in the Orient, this mighty upheaval in non-Christian lands, this change that is taking hold of the East, are surely a challenge to those in whose hearts has been shed abroad the light of God's word.

We often speak of doors' being opened to the gospel; today doors are closing to the gospel. It can be said with truth that it will never be so easy again to preach the gospel in many Eastern lands as it is today. Here is a word from one who has given many years of service to Africa:

"There is a wave of Mohammedan proselytism sweeping down from the north of Africa, and from the east coast into the interior. Africa is now ripe for conversion; but if we do not send sufficient men to win the Dark Continent for Christ, there is a grave danger that millions of the people will turn to Mohammedanism."

The church of Christ is faced today with a situation unparalleled in the history of mankind. Never before has it been presented with so many opportunities for the preaching of the gospel. But the time is coming—and how soon none can tell—when doors now standing wide open will be forever shut.

May God give grace to those who have taken upon themselves His name, that they may consider no sacrifice too great if by some means they may be instrumental in sending the light to those who now sit in darkness. We have a changeless Christ for a changing East.



NEWSGRAMS

by BENJAMIN MAXSON

NOTES AND QUOTES FROM FAR AND NEAR

Poor Health and Poverty The long-suspected situation, that poverty and poor health go together, in the country as well as in the city, has just been confirmed by U. S. Public Health Statistician, Harold F. Dorn. In scanning death reports from Ohio's agricultural regions, he found the standardized death rate in the poor economic areas 10 per cent greater than in good economic areas.

Bibles in Russia A strange, stirring tale comes out of the frozen fastnesses of Finland—a tale to the effect that many of the captured Russian soldiers carried copies of the Bible. How accurate this information may be, it will probably take months to confirm. Nevertheless the powerful suggestion remains—that the thoughts of men can be dominated only to an extent. Spiritual values cannot be effectively controlled by a political theory or decree.

Warning Against Epidemics

"If experience is any guide, there is a very real chance that some type of epidemic will arise out of the present conflict. At no time in the past has an epidemic failed to appear during or after a major war." This is the opinion of Herbert H. Marks, statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

Reversion Toward Brute Govern-

ment "Never since 1600 has the world seen such a reversion toward authoritarianism, superstition, and every irrational and unscientific brand of emotionalism as at the present moment." This is the judgment of Dr. Robert Andrews Millikan, Nobel prize winner, as expressed in his latest book, "Cosmic Rays."

Economic Fear and the Budget

Professor O'Neill declares that "an unbalanced budget fills the business world with fear. Fear begets lack of confidence. The first step in balancing the budget is a changed philosophy on the part of the Administration and public officials toward spending. Pump-priming expenditures have failed."

No Formal Vatican Relations

President Roosevelt has intimated to callers the belief that Congress would not authorize the establishment of formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

Cultural New Deal According to Lawrence K. Frank of the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation, New York, "four great problems that men at all times have had to face need new interpretation. These are:

"1. How the universe arose or was created; how it operates; who or what makes things happen, and why.

"2. Man's origin, nature, and destiny; his relation to the world; and whether he is a part of nature, or outside it.

"3. The relation of the individual to the group; who must be sacrificed for whom; the individual's rights and obligations.

"4. What man wants and what he should have; human nature, human conduct, human motives; how he should be educated and made a part of the community.

"The task of constructing a new framework of concepts and beliefs to give order, meaning, and significance to life becomes ever more insistent," Mr. Frank declares. Maybe so, but science, despite all its new answers, cannot help very much. The solution to the entire problem is very clearly outlined in the Book our mothers read.



The COUNTERFEIT GODHEAD

▲ *Third in a Series Tracing the Rise of Many Un-Biblical Doctrines and Practices Still Held by Christian Churches*

by MURL VANCE

HAVING established himself as the god of this world, Lucifer at once began the task of destroying as far as possible all traces of divine worship. Granting him the intelligence that we know he must have possessed, we would expect him to analyze carefully every phase of worship of the true God and to produce a counterfeit of it. This he did; so successfully, in fact, that today we find the counterfeits taking precedence over the teachings of the Scriptures even in the majority of Christian churches.

It is well for us to remember that when it comes to matters of religion the majority is never a safe guide. In Christ's own words we have the warning: "Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:13, 14. The Scriptures and the Scriptures only must ever be the source of information concerning man's relation to God and to his fellow men; yet what a wide variation there is between the plain teaching of the word of God and the traditions so commonly taught in many Christian churches!

Knowledge of God Destroyed

It was a tremendous task to destroy in the minds of men the knowledge of the Being who had been so intimately associated with them since creation; but "the god of this world," as Lucifer is called in 2 Corinthians 4:4, was astonishingly successful in doing so. Like all the other counterfeit doctrines connected with Babylonian devil worship, the counterfeit godhead, consisting of a stern, demonlike father, a tenderhearted mother, and an infant son, spread over the entire world.

We have but to examine the Babylonian temple texts for a few moments to find a mother and her son being worshiped. See illustration in Kitto's "Illustrated Commentary," vol. 4, p. 31. This introduction of the mother and her infant into divine status undoubtedly had its origin in Lucifer's intimate acquaint-

ance with the prophecies dealing with the birth of Christ into this world.

Worship of the mother and her infant son, who, for some mysterious reason was doomed to remain an infant throughout the centuries since his birth into Babylonian demon worship, became almost universal, though thinly disguised by a multiplicity of names, as was also the case in sun worship. In Babylon we find them known at least part of the time as Semiramis and Nimrod; in Egypt as Isis and Horus, or Osiris; in pagan Rome as Fortuna and Jupiter, or Venus and

Cupid; in India as Isi and Iswara; in Asia as Cybele and Deolus; in Greece as Irene and Plutus, or Ceres the Great Mother with a babe at her breast; and in Tibet, China, and Japan the earliest Jesuit missionaries were astonished to find the female Buddha holding a divine son in her arms.

A study of any encyclopedia of religion reveals a surprising oneness in all these counterfeit deities. As every student of religions knows, names and genders meant little to ancient devil worshipers. The same deity often appears in a hundred different forms. In Babylon, the female sun, worshiped for its life-giving qualities, has multitudinous phases, chief of which were probably summed up in Ishtar, from which we get our English word Easter. Ishtar was described as "the fruitful goddess of the earth, teeming with fertility," the latter idea being typified by the rabbits and eggs that always accompany the Anglicized form of this Babylonian deity. Worship of the female moon, of Venus, of Diana of the Ephesians, "whom all Asia and the world worshipeth," according to Acts 19:27, or even of Mama Quilla among the American Indians, can all be traced back to its source in ancient Babylon. So also can the sacred cow of India and Egypt be shown to be but earthly representatives of the sun's life-giving powers, and so on into the almost unlimited phases of the worship of the sun's ability to fertilize or to cause the seed to spring forth.

As has already been pointed out, however, when the Babylonian worshiper prayed, "Mother goddess, . . . exalted lady whose command is mighty. . . . O my mistress, establish for me a place of rest! Absolve my sin; lift up my countenance. . . . Mother of the house supreme, may the supplication address thee" (Sayce), he was praying to more than just the female sun, for this female deity also bore the titles, "Lady of the abyss" and "Lady of the world." Her

Worship of a woman and her infant son can be found in ancient pagan religions.



temples likewise had their sacred serpents, which have, since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, represented upon earth the evil one, who appeared in this guise to our first parents. Worship of the "great mother" among the world's idolaters is but another form of devil worship—a female devil, if you please.

In the Scriptures we find complete unity as to the three Persons composing the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The Father is represented as a Being who "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. The Son is pictured as the Saviour and Redeemer—the Creator who was "made flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:1-3, 14. The Holy Ghost is revealed as the Guide (John 16:13), the Comforter (John 16:7), the indwelling Spirit of God that directs the thoughts and actions of every genuine Christian (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17). Yet what do we find today being taught in many professedly Christian churches? Not the Godhead revealed in the Scriptures, but the counterfeit godhead, having its origin in devil worship!

God the Father is pictured as a cruel, demonlike being, ever seeking to destroy, not to save, the sinner, a being who constantly seeks vengeance, who delights in torturing throughout eternity those who cross His will. The Holy Spirit has practically been replaced by the Virgin Mary, who, according to the Scriptures, has not the slightest claim to divinity; in fact, if Mary, the mother of Jesus were divine, then Christ cannot rightfully be called the Son of man, for He did not partake of humanity. And to this day the Son is worshiped as an infant in spite of the fact that He grew to maturity nearly two thousand years ago, and ascended to take His place at the right hand of God. Even Joseph, the husband of Mary, has been deified, though he had nothing whatsoever to do with the birth of Christ. In "What Every Christian Must Know and Do," a book by the Rev. J. Furniss, bearing the imprimatur of Palus Cullen, Archbishop of Dublin, we find these words:

"Heart of Jesus, I adore thee;
Heart of Mary, I implore thee;
Heart of Joseph, pure and just;
In these three hearts I put my trust."

Everyone knows the magic efficacy of the three words "Joseph, Mary, and Jesus" as taught in some churches. A friend reared in the teachings of one of these churches recently told me that he had been taught since babyhood that he would get three hundred days out of purgatory every time he pronounced those three names! He further declared that he believed he had nearly a million years to his credit, and that throughout

his youth his concern was not so much about his conduct as it was about securing remission from the fires of purgatory.

Thus has the counterfeit godhead of paganism crept into the Christian church. Sincere seekers for light, and undoubtedly in many cases sincere teachers, are accepting the traditions of the church rather than the plain "Thus saith the Lord" of the Scriptures. Because so many today have ceased to study the divine word and to learn the source of their beliefs and practices, they have accepted the doctrines of Babylonian devil worship, and have failed to heed the warning of Christ found in Matthew 15:13: "Every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." Those who trace their beliefs and practices to Babylonian devil worship should know the real meaning of the call found in Revelation 18:2-4: "Babylon the great is fallen. . . . For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. . . . Come out of her, My people."

Speed the Gospel Story

(Continued from page 4)

shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

3. And now has come the automobile, which has absolutely transformed the countryside. The world is on wheels today, of a truth. Not long ago Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., of the great tire company, spoke in a radio broadcast of transportation's advance in our time. He included all agencies; but it is the motorcar that piles up the big figures:

"In this present age we Americans every year travel five hundred thousand million miles by waterway, highway, railway, and airway. In one day alone we travel farther and more comfortably

than all the people of this earth traveled in a whole year during the broad span of time from the days of ancient Rome to the founding of our nation. Greater progress has been made in transportation during the last hundred years than during all the ages which went before. And today more progress is being made in a single year than was made in a century of old."

Time fails to tell of the marvelous change the automobile has made in the great mission fields. Where, but a few years ago, we knew only the slow-crawling ox wagon or bullock cart in vast country districts, and in parts even the more primitive wheelbarrow or sedan chair, now the motorcar rushes across velds and pampas and plains, and past rice fields, where recently only the footpath was possible. It is a providential gift for world evangelization. The time of the prophecy has come. As men in all the world are running to and fro in travel for commercial business, so the gospel messengers are running to and fro on the business of our heavenly King. Knowledge is increasing, and the message of the soon coming of Christ is being swiftly carried toward the remotest nations and kindreds and tongues.

ARE you a disciple of the Lord Jesus? If so, He says to you, "I am with you always." That overflows all the regrets of the past and all the possibilities of the future, and, most certainly, includes the present. Therefore, at this very moment, as surely as your eyes rest on this page, so surely is the Lord Jesus with you. "I am" is neither "I was" nor "I will be." It is always abreast of our lives, always encompassing us with salvation. It is a splendid, perpetual "now."—*Frances Ridley Havergal.*



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in addition to the regular features:

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India's Untouchables	H. G. Woodward
The Counterfeit Creation	Murl Vance
The Promises of God	Ernest Lloyd

Prophecy Fulfilled

(Continued from page 8)

times life itself. But it also pays a rich dividend. The true missionary who has left the comforts of home and native land that he may turn the pagan from idolatry to the living God will assure you that no other calling yields such joy and satisfaction. The self-sacrificing men and women who generously support the gospel program witness the fruitage in lands afar, and are repaid manyfold in the blood-bought triumph of the cross. The heathen who has forsaken his superstitious fears to become a new creature in Christ Jesus speaks from an overflowing heart of God's transcendent love.

And when at length redeemer and redeemed,—when missionary and native Christian, together with those who have financed the mission enterprise,—meet their Lord in the homeland above, it will then be clearly seen that the priceless Gift of Calvary and all the sacrifices of earth were none too great for the redemption of the lost; for, "as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9.

The Flight of Time

(Continued from page 3)

degradation is being assiduously disseminated.

The great archenemy of human happiness is attacking on all fronts, openly and secretly, plotting the ruin of the race by every possible means.

One successful method is mind poisoning, whereby mental and physical powers are sapped, conscience is silenced, truth and falsehood are confused, and the desire to do right is eliminated.

This mind poison is being distributed today on a nation-wide scale, with deadly effect particularly among the young.

Every month, says Courtney R. Cooper in the February *Forum*, 8,000,000 people—most of them under 21—purchase copies of 150 nationally distributed periodicals "reeking with frankly objectionable material," publications that are

"deliberate commercial exploitations of filth."

"In the past decade," says Mr. Cooper, "the growth of salacious literature has been the most rapid in history. During this period sex crimes have more than doubled, with one out of every four committed by youths under 20. . . . Rape cases have shot up 50 per cent in the past six years. Sanford Bates, formerly Director of Federal Prisons, attributes this increase largely 'to the lurid accounts of sex crimes which appear in public print, sex stories in magazines, movies, etc.,' and K. P. Aldrich, Chief Inspector of the Post Office Department, asserts: 'The present flood of filthy publications is greatly responsible for the increase in sex crimes, and furnishes an important motivation to youthful offenders.'"

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover has stated that "the publication and distribution of salacious material is a peculiarly vicious evil; the destruction of moral character caused by it among young people cannot be overestimated. The circulation of periodicals containing such material plays an important part in the development of crime among the youth of our country."

No wonder Mr. Cooper exclaims, "This trash must go!"

Certainly it should go. It is worse than trash. It is poison—mind poison, benumbing reason and polluting the whole life stream. It is an abuse of the freedom of the press, a cancer eating at the heart of the nation.

Nevertheless the tragic fact remains that 8,000,000 want it, feast upon it, lust after it.

And herein it constitutes yet another sign of our times. For as it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, said Christ, "even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:28-30.



AS THE world moves on into its final crisis, the real battle lines are becoming more clearly visible.

The closing struggle is not to be be-

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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

EDITOR . . . ARTHUR S. MAXWELL

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tween rival political factions but between Christ and antichrist.

Men of vision and experience are beginning to note the trend of events.

Writing in *Liberty* for February 10, Mr. Martin Dies, Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, stated that the only answer to the spread of Marxism "lies in the restoration of Christian influence in America. The teachings of Karl Marx and those of Christ stand at opposite poles. Marx represents the lowest forms of materialism; Christ symbolizes the highest and noblest conceptions of the spiritual. To Marx, man at his best was merely an intelligent animal of no more importance than the beasts of the field. To Christ, man is the noblest handiwork of God. *This irreconcilable conflict between the teachings of Christ and Marx is the issue upon which the future of Western civilization is staked.*"

"The real aim of Marxism," adds Martin Dies, "is the destruction of the Christian religion. As the influence of Christianity declines, the influence of Marxism increases. Worship of the state becomes the pagan religion of the nation."

There can be no doubt that a period of great trial and struggle lies before the Christian church. It has to pass through "the swelling of Jordan," a time of trouble such as never was. The faith of every member will be tested to the limit of endurance.

Yes, the battle lines are being drawn; the conflict has already begun. Precious indeed becomes the promise: "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world." Revelation 3:10.

Most of us are too strong for God to use; we are too full of our own schemes and plans and ways of doing things. He must empty us and humble us, and bring us down to the dust of death, so low that we need every straw of encouragement, every leaf of help; and then He will raise us up and make us as the rod of His strength.—Dr. F. B. Meyer.

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The MASTER'S GIFTS

by
INEZ BRASIER

THE cold winds of winter have ceased. Trickle of water hurry across the sloping fields where drifted snow lay deep such a short while ago. The first birds of spring call in the woodlands, and the early flowers greet each new day. Truly, as the world's wisest man wrote centuries ago, "the winter is past; . . . the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come."

How joyous the songs of the birds that greet the sunrise! What beauty in the unfolding flowers! How they appeal to us, these birds and flowers, as we go about our daily tasks, which seem to demand more and more of us until we are heartsore and weary!

"Come ye yourselves apart, . . . and rest a while," is the invitation.

"Behold the birds!" "Consider the lilies."

"He who, from zone to zone, guides through the boundless sky" the flight of the birds as they return each spring will guide our steps if only we allow Him to do so. The Master Artist, who paints the chalices of the flowers to delight the burden-wearied, loves us with the sure love that is beyond all human understanding.

"Consider the lilies." Every flower that opens its petals to the sunshine

obeys the same great laws that guide the stars, and how simple and beautiful and how sweet its life! Through the flowers, God would call our attention to the loveliness of Christlike character. . . . God's law is the law of love. He has surrounded you with beauty to teach you that you are not placed on earth merely to delve for self, to dig and build, to toil and spin, but to make life bright and joyous and beautiful with the love of Christ—like the flowers, to gladden other lives by the ministry of love."

In every bird song and in the bloom of every flower our heavenly Father has written His message of love for you and for me. "Why has He given you the singing birds and the gentle

blossoms, but from the overflowing love of a Father's heart, that would brighten and gladden your path of life? All that was needed for existence would have been yours without the flowers and birds, but God was not content to provide what would suffice for mere existence. He has filled earth and air and sky with glimpses of beauty to tell you of His loving thought for you. The beauty of all created things is but a gleam from the shining of His glory. If He has lavished such infinite skill upon the things of nature, for your happiness and joy, can you doubt that He will give you every needed blessing?"

With Him we may safely leave the heavy burdens and the grief, the very cares that press us so. We may open our lives to the sunshine of His care for us and its multiplied manifestations in bird song and flower petal. Let us joy in this loving care that will shower upon us, in His good time, every blessing.

"God would not flood me with blessings, meaning me only to pine
Amid all the bounties and beauties He pours upon me and mine.
Therefore will I be grateful, and therefore will I rejoice!
My heart is singing within me! Sing on, O heart and voice!"