

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

FOUNDED 1874





INTERNATIONAL



**BLIND TO THE SIGNS**

ONE important effect of the vast European tragedy has been a deep searching of heart on the part of many church leaders. In a new spirit of humility they are confessing their faults and failures.

In a recent address, Dr. W. Temple, archbishop of York, stated: "We recognize we had our share in bringing about the state of things which exists. We recognize that we are under a divine judgment."

Then he added: "Is it not true that our failure to read the signs of the times was due to the prevailing spirit of com-

*Urgent need for more trained pilots to man the President's "50,000 planes a year" has greatly increased activity at Randolph Field, Texas, where this training plane is soaring above the clouds.*

fort in our people? Had we not let ourselves go too far in that direction? . . . We were blind to the signs of the times. Was it because we were clinging to that form of freedom which was really self-pleasing, and we were unwilling we should be under the necessary discipline of doing our share in maintaining the world's peace? . . . I think we are all involved in a common blame."

It is all to the good when men of wide experience and world renown, like Dr. Temple, willingly make such a confession as this. Yet they should not be left to make it alone. As the archbishop said, "we are all involved in a common blame." Millions have failed to read the signs of

the flight of  
**TIME**

A SURVEY OF  
**WORLD  
EVENTS**

by the  
**EDITOR**

the times and to understand the meaning of events. They have been too concerned with their own comfort, too bent on pleasing themselves, to notice the quickening pace of the river of life or to hear the thunderous roar of the approaching falls.

All too many of us are deserving of the Master's rebuke to the Pharisees: "O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" Matthew 16:3.

But now the awakening has come. No longer has anyone the flimsiest excuse for failing to perceive where we are in the course of history. The evidence is overwhelming that we have indeed arrived at the supreme crisis. The signs of the times, clear, definite, insistent, proclaim unmistakably that the climax of all history is upon us, that the end is near, "even at the doors."

May this sudden illumination concerning the seriousness of this hour in which we are living extend to our own spiritual condition and to our need for adequate preparation for the still more solemn events just ahead.

*Crowded with 5,300 refugees, this ship, the S. S. "Lancastria," was sunk by bombs off St. Nazaire, France. Three thousand perished, the sea becoming a blazing inferno as oil from the ship's tanks was ignited.*

INTERNATIONAL





## SHEEP AND GOATS

"THE time has come," wrote Bernarr McFadden in *Liberty* of July 27, "when we should separate the sheep from the goats."

By "sheep" he had reference to those who believe in American ideals, while "the goats" represented those who do not. His purpose in calling for such a separation was to urge forward the nation-wide drive against fifth columnists and other potential traitors.

In his desire to cleanse the nation of subversive forces now openly or secretly plotting its overthrow, Mr. McFadden has our fullest sympathy. All who value the democratic way of life and treasure the freedom enjoyed in America will agree that something should be done, and done with the least possible delay, through due process of law, to eliminate such unworthy elements from the body politic, and prevent them from carrying out their destructive plans.

We are somewhat dubious, however, about the method suggested by Mr. McFadden for the cleansing of the national sanctuary. He wrote:

"We should have a button or some other insigne that every patriotic American in this country will proudly wear, indicating his adherence to our principles of government. Those who believe in America should wear this button as a pledge of loyalty. Let those who advocate foreign isms stand out distinctly in a separate group. They should be known. Their principles should be loudly proclaimed by their failure to wear this patriotic insigne."

Such an outward marking of individuals, however, is not without its drawbacks. Certainly it has some rather unsavory precedents; for has it not been practiced to the limit in all dictator nations?

Moreover, the wearing of a badge is no sure indication of an individual's true beliefs and loyalties. The most efficient spy or saboteur would be sure to display the most conspicuous patriotic emblem.

It is a very difficult matter actually to separate individuals into "sheep" or "goats" on any political or religious issue; and perhaps this is why, in God's plan, we find the matter is to be left until the day of final judgment. See Matthew 25:32.

Impatient and unscrupulous leaders have often attempted such an arbitrary separation, and prophecy suggests that it will happen again. At some time in the not-far-distant future a power is to arise which will cause "all both small and

## OUR COVER PICTURE

America's first bombproof air-raid shelter, just completed in connection with the Castle Village apartment house development on Riverside Drive, New York. Built in the 100-foot-high rock cliffs, it is complete with cots, first-aid kits, benches, and table.

great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads; and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:16, 17.

To such lengths do all such large-scale public markings usually descend, including boycott, personal violence, imprisonment, and death.

We have seen enough of this already in other lands. Certainly none desire its repetition here. However, Justice Murphy, speaking before the alumni association of the New York University law school not long ago, expressed a fear that some such persecuting spirit is already abroad in the land. He referred to "the danger that lies dormant in the belief, so often sincere, that our national troubles are attributable to one group or another of the population; the danger born of the tendency to seek a scapegoat

in a religious or racial or political or economic group. Of such tendencies and beliefs dictatorships are born. On such attitudes demagogues rely for power."

However much, therefore, we may favor the curbing of the activities of those who may seem to be working against the ideals in which we believe, we must be careful not to employ methods of suppression which will encourage the development of a still more regrettable situation.



## WAY OF SALVATION

THE sudden overthrow of so many Old-World nations during the past few months has mightily stirred America. People of every shade of political belief have united in an imperative demand for more and better armaments. The government has responded by authorizing the expenditure of astronomical sums for ships, planes, tanks, guns, and all the impedimenta of war. So desperately anxious have many become concerning the immediate peril from

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The famous Burma Road, 1,400 miles long, stretching from British Burma to China, winding through great mountain chains, is China's last link with the rest of the world. The road has been temporarily closed to munitions traffic under pressure from Japan.

INTERNATIONAL



# WHY DOESN'T GOD ANSWER?

*Should Pleasure-Seeking  
Peoples Expect Divine  
Miracles in Time of  
National Calamity?*

by

MURL VANCE



UNDERWOOD-LAMBERT

*"Whoso hearkeneth unto Me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."*

THERE have probably been more unanswered prayers ascending to God during the past year than there ever were during a similar period in the earth's history. From Finland, from Poland, from Holland, from Belgium, from Norway, from France, a constant stream of petitions for divine guidance and protection have been directed heavenward. As war and famine have struck at these nations, men, women, and children, many of whom never prayed before, have dropped to their knees and pleaded for deliverance.

But with what results? All six nations have been overrun. None of them, so far as we can judge, was an "aggressor." Justice must surely have been on the side of them all. Yet in spite of justice, in spite of the multitudinous prayers of the people, these nations are no more. Their prayers were unheeded by the only Being able to give them deliverance. Why?

The answer is not hard to find for anyone who searches the Scriptures. God has plainly set forth in His word the conditions upon which He will answer prayer. The nation or the individual who does not meet these conditions cannot expect God's favor in the day of trouble. He has definitely declared that He will not manifest it.

Says God: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all My counsel, and would none of My reproof: I also will

laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me: for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: they would none of My counsel: they despised all My reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto Me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Proverbs 1:24-33.

This does not mean that these nations are any worse than other nations that have so far escaped calamity. They were nominally Christian nations. But it takes more than nominal Christianity to establish a living connection with Omnipotence. The Jews were nominally God's chosen people for hundreds of years before Christ, and were still devoutly His *nominal* children at the time they rejected their Saviour; yet during these years they were repeatedly afflicted with the sword and captivity because of their sins, and finally the day came when they were rejected as God's chosen, and were placed on an equal footing with the Gentiles, many of whom were also nominal servants of the Most High. Their nominal godliness, their sanctimonious

prayers, did not save them in their day of trouble; nor will similar superficial Christianity save us.

There is a vast difference between having one's conduct tempered or modified by Christianity, and being a genuine Christian. The entire world shows the tempering effect of the teachings of the Man of Nazareth, or at least shows it during times of peace. But which of the nations can hold itself up during the years as an example of a truly Christian nation?

To be Christian is to be like Christ, to follow His teachings. Christ "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed." He ever made the interests of others His first business; He worked for others, not for Himself. In all His contacts with human beings He did unto each of them as He would that they should do unto Him. Which nation today can lift up its head and claim to have been Christlike all through the years?

Christ gave us definite criteria by which we might know whether or not we are His children. We read: "Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him. He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." 1 John 2:3-6. He has promised to hear and to answer our prayers

if we are obedient unto Him: "Whatever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight." 1 John 3:22.

These commandments require two definite things of every individual: supreme love for God, as specified in the first four of the Ten Commandments—the making of God first in the life, the honoring of His name, and the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath, the day He set apart as the memorial of creation (Exodus 20:3-11); and completely unselfish love for His creatures, as set forth in the last six of these commandments—respect for one's parents and respect for the life, person, property, and name of one's fellow beings (Exodus 20:12-17). *The true keeping of these commandments would completely revolutionize the world overnight.* It would stop all war, destroy all animosity, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bring in a flood of happiness such as the world has never known since the fall of man. Few indeed are the individuals who make these commandments the rule of their thinking and acting. Where is the nation that does it?

Thus it is that nations give their years of prosperity to giddy pleasure or self-seeking, and their moment of tribulation to God. While the ship is sailing in safety, they dance to the rhythm of a jazz band; when it strikes an iceberg they drop to their knees and pray—a sort of deathbed confession. They are like the infidel who gives his life to the devil and tries at the end to give his dead body to the Lord. We know that the merciful God hears every sincere prayer—those inspired by trusting devotion to Him, whether it be on the deathbed or wherever it is; but nowhere in the Scriptures do we find any consolation for those who pray only because they are frightened or because they fear punishment for their misconduct.

Encouraging indeed are the promises to those who make the serving of God their chief business in life. "If ye love Me," said the Master, "keep My commandments." "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." John 14:15; 15:10. Those who have this vital connection with God need have no fear from the hand of the destroyer. To them the promise has been given: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and

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# Youth's PROBLEMS



SENDRAU

## 6. The Problem of Education

by  
D. E. REINER

IT IS not what a man *has* that counts with God, but what he *is*. Neither does his value lie so much in what he knows as in what he can do honestly and uprightly before God and man. Character stands above career, wealth, or fame. We need right living as well as logical, clear thinking. Scholarship and degree are good in their proper place; but right actions, good behavior, and clean living are far better.

Facts, dates, and formulas fill too large a place in the program of education today, and that to the exclusion of balanced judgment, proper reasoning, and honest doing.

True education and redemption are bound up together. Christian education is Christianity applied and exemplified. "It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers."

Education that does not build character is worthless. Scholarship and diplomas alone afford no guarantee against wrongdoing. The Jewish scholars crucified Christ. Saul, the proud, arrogant, self-centered *honor student* of Gamaliel's school, condemned innocent men, women, and children to prison. What a revelation of the hollow falseness of the educational system of his day! James would call such wisdom "earthly, sensual, devilish." James 3:15.

Of Jesus we read that He "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52. Education that does not take this fourfold growth into account and provide for man's all-round development which, when completed, leaves him a perfect man with the image of God restored in his soul, is insufficient and misleading.

The chief purpose of education should be character building. It is the duty and the privilege of a teacher to sow the seeds of truth, honesty, uprightness, and obedience into the heart of youth, which, when rightly cultivated, will yield a rich harvest of noble thought and deed.

Youth today need a clearer vision of life, of its meaning and its solemn responsibilities. There are too many who think that the world owes them a living

and should give it, when they should say: "I owe the world a life, and I am going to live it." It is not what men can get out of this world that makes them great, but what they can put into it. How true it is that "the greatest want of the world is the want of men,—men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."

There is a cry in the land today, a cry to return to the old paths, to teach the old truth, and to live the better life. Wrote S. D. Gordon: "When God would move the world, He first moves one man. Through this one God-moved man, He moves men for God. Through these men who have been moved of God, He moves the world. Then follow the swing and the sweep of a great spiritual movement, . . . a mighty movement of men. Thus was the beginning of every great movement which has ever blessed the world."





*Jesus was rejected by the learned men of Israel, but the common people heard Him gladly.*

## The ONE TRUE CHURCH

*How It May  
Be Identified  
Clear Specifications  
Simplify the Search*

by  
**F. C. CARRIER**

INTERNATIONAL

“NOT everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21.

A great many people are saying “Lord, Lord,” today, and together they make up the many hundreds of religious denominations,—each one claiming to be the one true church.

Obviously all cannot be right. Then how can one discern the true among the false?

First I want you to think of the choosing of the disciples—Peter, James, John, and the rest. Jesus passed by the great theologians of His day, the Pharisees and the Sadducees; He ignored the great institutions of learning; He turned from the rich, the philosophers, the stoics, the ascetics, and the Herodians. The state church, the dissenting sects, and the schools of thought were devoid of light, and could not be used as vehicles of truth. So Jesus passed them by, and found His way to the fishermen at the seaside. To these humble, unlearned, uncultured men He said, “Follow Me.” The same command was repeated to the hated publican, Levi-Matthew. Jesus never despised institutions of learning; but when the learned of those institutions rejected Him, then He turned to others, and placed upon them the burden of educating the world in the simple truths of the gospel.

In Matthew 15:1-9 we read of the experience that Jesus had with the religious leaders of His day. They came to Him with this question: “Why do Thy disciples transgress the tradition of the eld-

ers?” In other words, they wanted to know who gave the followers of Jesus authority to ignore the traditions of the church. In the answer that Jesus gave He made clear the fact that when church traditions oppose the law of God, they are worthless. Here is His answer: “Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your *tradition*?” Then He added: “In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

### *What Is Truth?*

There is no real difficulty about discovering what is truth. Jesus says in John 7:17: “If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.” What is God’s will? We read in Psalm 40:8: “I delight to do Thy will, O my God; yea, Thy law is within My heart.” God’s law, the Ten Commandments, is the expression of His divine will. And under the new-covenant relationship, according to Hebrews 10:16, the law is written upon the heart. The Christian is to take great delight in being obedient to all its precepts. That is why Jesus said: “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15. It is evident from the word of God that the true church will be made up of people who will love Christ enough to give up the traditions of men, and be obedient to *all* God’s commandments.

You have often heard it said that the

Roman Church was the first church. This is pure supposition. In Acts 7:38 we read of Stephen’s noted apology. Speaking of Christ, he said: “This is He, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the Mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us.” Yes, the church existed before the cross. Christ was in that church, as He was in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. He was the central theme of every form of worship; every service pointed to Him.

Now upon what is the true church built? Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” In other words, *every doctrine* must be based upon the word of God, to the total exclusion of untruthful traditions. If you believe in infant baptism, or “christening,” you must be able to point to the text that authorizes it. If you believe in the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, you must be able to substantiate it by God’s word.

If you believe in keeping the first day, you must produce the text that says that the first day of the week is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. And so with every doctrine you believe; every belief and practice must be based upon the Bible.

Then, too, we read in Ephesians 1:22, 23 that Christ is the “head” of the church. And as the law was written in the heart of Christ, so should the law also be inscribed in the very heart of the church that is likened unto His glorious body.

And again we read: “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” Ephesians 4:4, 5.

And now I wish to call to your attention a most remarkable prophecy that indicates beyond the possibility of doubt the true church, the remnant church, in “the last days.” Turn to Revelation 12, and read the first five verses: “There appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.” Now, in prophecy, a pure woman denotes a pure church and a corrupt woman symbolizes a corrupt church.

“And she being with child cried, traveling in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten

horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. . . . And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne."

Thus the curtain of the future is drawn aside, and John sees the church, under the symbol of a woman, anxiously longing for the promise to be fulfilled when the Seed of the woman should appear among them. Here the dragon is represented as standing ready to devour her child as soon as it was born. This dragon in his real person is declared to be the old serpent and Satan. Verse 9. But Satan in this world works through human instrumentalities. His instrumentalities are men, and chiefly combinations of men in *world powers*. What power was it that was Satan's instrument in his endeavors to destroy Christ as soon as He was born? Herod. But who was Herod? He was more than simply a person; he was king of the Jews and of Judea; yet, he was more than that—he became king only by the decree of the Roman senate, upon the special advocacy of Marcus Antonius, and he could not have been king one day in Judea unless supported by the mighty power of Rome. Therefore it was the Roman power that Satan used as the instrument to destroy Christ as soon as He was born. However, he failed; yet he never rested until he had crucified Him upon the cross and buried Him in a tomb sealed with the Roman seal. But even in this he failed, because from death and the sealed Roman tomb the Man Child was caught up unto God and unto His throne.

"And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." Verse 6. In prophecy, a day represents a year, according to Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6. Thus we have a period of 1260 literal years, when the church, clinging to the truth of God, would be persecuted and driven into the wilderness by Satan, working through the religionists of Rome. The 14th and 15th verses picture to us the terrible persecution endured by the church during that 1260-year period, dating from the full establishment of the papacy in 538 to its overthrow by the French army under General Berthier in 1798. Various historians declare that from sixty million to one hundred fifty million perished as a result of the persecution during those Dark Ages.

Now I want you to notice in particular the last verse of this remarkable chapter: "The dragon [the devil] was wroth with the woman [the church], and went

to make war with the *remnant* of her seed, which *keep the commandments of God*, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Everybody knows what a remnant is. It is the last piece of the bolt. It is the

same fabric, the same color, the same strength, as the rest of the bolt, only it is the last piece. Thus we have a picture of the *remnant* church, the last church, in the last days; and notice the outstand-

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# MOMENTS for GOD

Second in the Series, "My Gift to God"  
by MARTHA E. WARNER

"Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in endless praise."

A MOMENT is about the last thing I would think of giving to the Lord; yet, in a way, I realize that I must give the moments else I cannot give the days. As for having them all "flow in endless praise"—well, that may be all right to sing, but living it is quite another matter.

I heard a good Christian woman once say that she did not believe the Lord expected any woman with a family to go through a day without getting impatient. Such a thing, she averred, would be impossible; and it was not like the Lord to ask of His children impossible things.

I do not believe He would. Not *my* Lord, anyway. In the life of the homemaker there will be many upsetting experiences; but I am very sure none of them should be used as an excuse for being impatient. The word says: "With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26. The whole crux of the matter rests on our staying *with* God.

Where we have made our mistake is in trying to live for an entire day, when it is a moment-by-moment job. Moments are freighted with eternal issues.

Death comes in a moment, eternal life comes in a moment. God says, "In a moment shall they die." Job 34:20. And "in a moment . . . we shall be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:52. And, even as I write, the entire world is anxiously waiting to hear what crisis the next moment will hold.

Let us not think that a moment is too small or too unimportant to be entrusted

to God for His keeping, for danger lurks in the unguarded moment. It is then that the tempter comes, and we do or say something that blights our life and the life of another.

If we look back through the years, we may be surprised to find how many times a moment has played an important part in our lives. In a moment, decisions have been made, hearts comforted, burdens made lighter. Somebody took a moment of his time to say a helpful word to us.

It takes only a moment to smile, to say, "I love you," or, "I am sorry;" but oh, moments spent in this way do so much toward making a happy day.

Moments—to whom do they belong? To the Lord, or to the devil? It must be to one or to the other, for it is impossible to divide a moment. Shall we not give them to the Lord, that they may "flow in endless praise"?

Now some may make objection to the words, "endless praise." I do myself if it means going around shouting "Glory!" or "Hallelujah!" from morning till night. But I think it has a vastly different meaning. "Endless praise" to me means that when we consecrate our all to the Master, the spirit of praise will permeate the entire life.

We will be thankful, truly thankful, not only for great things, but thankful for the little common everyday things of life, which we have heretofore taken for granted.

We will be thankful for a good husband, even though he is late to meals more than we think necessary. We will be thankful for children, who are so full of wholesome mischief that they bubble over. We will be thankful for the over-and-over tasks that fall to our lot, even the washing of dishes.

"Endless praise" can be experienced only when we stop grumbling and complaining, and start counting our blessings. Then we may be sure it will come. It surely will.

"Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in endless praise."



The

## BIBLE AHEAD of

# ASTRONOMY

by

TAYLOR G. BUNCH

**A**STRONOMY is known as the most ancient of all the sciences. It had its origin in Asia, perhaps in China. It is a study of the stars and of other heavenly bodies, and of the laws that govern their movements. Very early observations of the heavenly bodies were made by the Egyptians and the Babylonians. Astronomy was preceded by astrology, in which the stars and their movements were used to determine the will of the gods, and were therefore connected with idolatry. Astronomy was partially reduced to a science by the Greeks, although they borrowed their ideas from the Babylonians. While speculative astronomy is about three thousand years old, scientific astronomy is comparatively new.

There are two classes of celestial spheres—"incandescent bodies" and "dark bodies." The former include the fixed stars, or suns, and the comets, which produce their own light and do not depend upon other sources for illumination. The second class are the non-light-producing bodies, such as the planets and satellites, which revolve around the incandescent bodies and receive their light from them. The dark bodies are mere reflectors of light.

The creation and purpose of the heavenly bodies are described in Genesis 1:14-16. They mark the divisions of time into days, night, months, seasons, and years.

That the Creator of the universe speaks to all mankind of His power and glory through the heavenly bodies is evident from Psalm 19:1-7: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath He set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat

thereof. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."

Here we are clearly told that the celestial bodies declare, make known, or proclaim the glory, or character, of God. Glory means character, for when Moses asked God to show him His glory, the Lord gave His servant a vision of His character. The purpose of the Scriptures is to reveal God and His character to man; and that is also the purpose of the book of nature. It reveals His invisible perfections, and His eternal power and divine glory. See Romans 1:18-20. The book of nature has been appropriately called "God's illustrated edition of the Bible." Both books are brought to view in the nineteenth psalm. Verses 1-6 present the illustrated edition of God's word and law, and verses 7-14, the written edition. It is really one book in two volumes.

### *The Universal Language*

"There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard" indicates that the heavenly bodies speak a universal language that is "read and known of all men." It is estimated that there are 2,796 languages and 6,760 dialects of human speech. The Bible has been translated into a little more than one thousand of the leading tongues, which places the written word within reach of fifteen

sixteenths of the human race. However, only a small proportion of the human family read and know and appreciate the Scriptures. On the other hand, "there is no speech nor language" into which the book of nature has not been made available to God's creatures. The apostle Paul declared that all have heard the word of God through the things of nature because "their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world." Romans 10:17, 18. It is for this reason that all will be without excuse in the day of final reckoning.

In 1852, Edwin Arnold obtained the Newdigate prize at Oxford University College for the best English poem. His subject was "The Feast of Belshazzar." The poem begins with the following beautiful description of God's messages through the book of nature:

"Not by one portal, or one path alone,  
God's holy messages to men are known;  
Waiting the glances of His awful eyes,  
Silver-winged seraphs do Him embassies;  
And stars, interpreting His high behest,  
Guide the lone feet and glad the falling  
breast;  
The rolling thunder and the raging sea  
Speak the stern purpose of the Deity,  
And storms beneath and rainbow hues  
above  
Herald His anger or proclaim His love;  
The still small voices of the summer day,  
The red sirocco, and the breath of May,  
The lingering harmony in ocean shells,  
The fairy music of the meadow bells,  
Earth and void air, water and wasting  
flame,  
Have words to whisper, tongues to tell, His  
name."

The statement, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul," applies with equal force to all God's laws, whether they be designated natural or moral. The law that controls the universe of nature and guides the heavenly bodies in their movements through limitless space is just as verily the law of God as is the Decalogue given on Mount Sinai, and it is just as eternal and unchangeable. The precision of the movements of the stars under the dominion of the law of nature illustrates the immuta-





★ *The Bible Said Earth Was Round When All Believed It Flat*

★ *Job's Knowledge of Gravitation*

★ *Oldest Science and the Oldest Book*

bility of the moral law, and emphasizes how carefully and exactly the Creator expects His creatures to observe its precepts. The earth makes a yearly journey around the sun of almost 600,000,000 miles, and it comes back to its starting place without the loss of one ten thousandth of a second of time. The unnumbered hosts of the suns and worlds in the vast universe were not only created but are held in place and guided by the word and law of God. See Hebrews 1:1-3.

Since the psalmist had just been speaking in Psalm 19:1-6 of the movements of the stars, the law referred to in verse 7 may in a special sense be the law that governs them. Does this mean that the law of nature leads to the conversion of the soul as does the moral law? Yes, the works of God reveal Him to man, and illustrate His power to save from sin. A knowledge of the illustrated edition of the law of God writes the printed edition on the tables of the heart, even among peoples who have never heard of the written word and law. See Romans 2:14-16. Many will be saved in God's everlasting kingdom who have never heard of the Bible in its written form. They will be saved through the name, or character, of the Creator and Lawgiver, revealed to them through His works and written in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. Through one or both of God's books, salvation is brought within reach of every judgment-bound creature; otherwise God would be a respecter of persons. Christ is declared to be "the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:9. Paul declared that the gospel had been "preached to every creature which is under heaven," and that "the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." Colossians 1:23; Titus 2:11. A well-known religious writer truthfully said that "heaven's plan of salvation is broad enough to embrace the whole world."

### *The Heavens Reveal God*

Professor Olmsted declared that "no one can be a lover of astronomy and an atheist at the same time," and Sir John Herschel, noted British astronomer, said that "all human discoveries seem to be made for the purpose of confirming more and more strongly the truths contained in the Sacred Scriptures." The Bible contains revelations regarding the science of astronomy that scientists have never been able to comprehend until in recent years since the invention and perfection of the telescope. Others are still beyond



their comprehension, and will remain so until astronomical science catches up with divine revelation. Herschel doubtless had in mind some of the texts we shall now briefly study.

Three and a half millennia ago the patriarch Job declared that the Lord "stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Job 26:7. "Suspended the earth upon space," is Fenton's translation. The Greeks were the wisest of the ancients, and produced the greatest philosophers, and yet they never knew that the earth was suspended in space, with nothing to uphold it except the power of God operating through His law, which man has designated "the law of gravitation." The Greeks taught that the earth rested upon the shoulders of the giant, Atlas. Others taught that it was upheld by great pillars. The Hindu wise men believed that the earth rested upon the backs of four great elephants, the elephants on the back of a great tortoise, and the tortoise on a coiled snake. Earthquakes were the result of the elephants' shaking themselves. The truth was never known or even guessed until the days of Galileo and Newton, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries of the Christian Era.

Yet three millennia before Newton discovered the law of gravitation, Job declared, through divine inspiration, that the earth was held in space by an invisible law or power. Science is just now catching up with the Bible.

Another Bible prophet declared that the Lord "sitteth upon the circle of the earth" ("above the circle of the earth," R. V.). Isaiah 40:22. "He sits over the round earth" is Moffatt's translation. This scientific truth was stated twenty-six hundred years ago. Until about four centuries ago, all men believed that the earth was flat instead of round. The Chinese taught that the earth was flat and floated on a great ocean. The chief reason the crew of Columbus threatened mutiny if he did not turn back was their fear of reaching the jumping-off place and falling over the edge of the world. Great men scoffed at the belief of Columbus that the earth was a globe and that India could be reached by sailing west. Later, Galileo came to the same conclusion through the study of the heavenly bodies. Not even Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe in the early part of the sixteenth century convinced many people of a truth that was contrary to their

*(Continued on page 14)*

# Do MISSIONS "SPOIL" the NATIVES?

*Critics  
Effectually Silenced*



by GEORGE A. CAMPBELL

*Secretary, Far Eastern Division,  
General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists*

IT WAS my first trip across the Straits of Malacca, that body of water that lies between the Malay Peninsula and the island of Sumatra. My destination was Battakland, in North Sumatra, and I had for a passenger companion an American planter who had spent many years in North Sumatra as manager of a large rubber plantation.

Seeking information from my informed companion traveler, I inquired about the Battak tribes that inhabit the highlands of North Sumatra. I was soon given the planter's viewpoint, and my informer was not in the least charitable in his denunciation of this people. "They are no good!" he said in his gruff, positive way. "The trouble is they have been spoiled by the missionary."

"Why?" I inquired. My question was followed by another broadside of denunciations, intermingled with curses. "The missionaries," he said, "made them lazy, gave them education, and they are spoiled." His chief point seemed to center in the fact that these people refused to do coolie labor on the rubber, oil, palm, and other plantations of which there are so many in North Sumatra.

I was not armed with argument to challenge him, for I was a newcomer, while he was an old-timer, so I had to remain silent on the point; but his critical denunciations caused me to make some personal investigations right on the ground; and here is what I have discovered.

I have made several trips to Battakland since my encounter with the prejudiced planter, and have traveled over that beautiful country surrounding charming Lake Toba, and have learned many things about the history and character of the Battak people.

One hundred years ago these Battak tribes were fierce cannibals. Terrible stories are related of fiendish cruelties practiced by them. The first missionaries who attempted to Christianize them were killed and eaten. A few years later another attempt was made by Christian missionaries to civilize them. This second venture, however, proved successful, but only after some very remarkable escapes from death. It was bravery of the very highest type to venture among

these Battak tribes at that time to carry the message of the cross; and, indeed, these brave and intrepid pioneer missionaries lived constantly in the shadow of death. But they persevered, and today Battakland is as safe a place as the most civilized country in the world.

Protestant Christianity has truly brought about a great change among these people. They are industrious, as one must admit when their terraced rice fields are observed everywhere, rising higher and higher in the mountains and watered by ingenious irrigation systems. They are proving to be good business people, for they are operating stores in many places over Battakland, and are becoming a serious rival of the Chinese businessman.

These people will sacrifice to obtain an education for their children. Today, all over the Netherlands East Indies, these Battak converts are to be found holding positions in offices or teaching schools. They are employed on the estates as operators of trucks and tractors, while many are foremen; but you will see none of them doing coolie labor. The common coolie laborers are the non-Christian peoples brought in from Java; and it is this fact that causes some to conclude that the Christianized Battaks are lazy and spoiled. It is true the Battaks are an independent race, and before doing coolie labor on the plantation, they will grow rice on their own lands, and make a living. From personal observation I am convinced that Christianity and education have implanted a desire in the hearts of these interesting people to attain to a higher standard of living; and surely they are to be commended for having such ambitions.

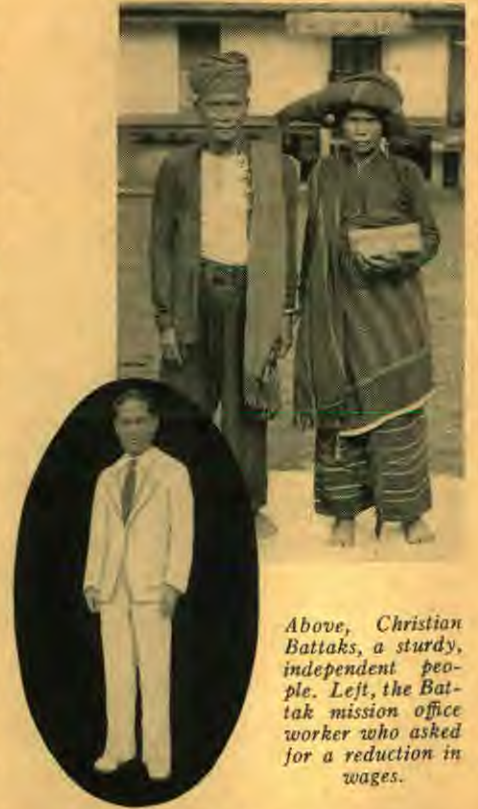
It is said by some authorities that the people of North Sumatra are too proud to work, while the tribes of South Sumatra are too lazy to work. This assertion includes the unchristianized tribes of North Sumatra as well as the Christian Battaks, for the Atche tribes, who are neighbors of the Battaks and who are non-Christians, have the same aversion to common coolie labor. So the charge cannot be maintained that Christian missions have spoiled the Battaks. The tribes of South Sumatra are non-Christians,

and of these it is said that they are too lazy to work. The critic's argument does not hold water.

To my critical American traveling companion, these people have been spoiled by the missionary; but has it ever occurred to him that if the missionary had not braved death to Christianize these people, they would still be practicing their devilish customs and it would be unsafe for anyone to venture among them?

I am unable to understand the logic of the critics of foreign missionary endeavor, unless it is that the dollar obscures their sight. I am even now on a steamer traveling in the Netherlands East Indies, having boarded this boat at Ternate, or Spice Island. On board is a plantation manager, also critical of foreign missionary endeavor. And why? A few questions bring out the real reason. He is developing a large plantation in northern New Guinea, and he can get the uncivilized, not yet Christianized Papuans to work for eight cents (U.S.) a day.

The Papuans of New Guinea are a



*Above, Christian Battaks, a sturdy, independent people. Left, the Battak mission office worker who asked for a reduction in wages.*

harmless race of people as far as their relationship to the white man is concerned. A white man is safe anywhere in their midst; but among themselves they practice head-hunting, and some are cannibals. Now these simple people, wearing nothing more than a loincloth, will, with certain inducements, work for little or nothing. This critic was very emphatic in telling me that these natives should be taught to work, but not educated; that they should never be taught to adopt the white man's customs. Well, it is self-evident that if these natives were lifted to a higher standard of living, as the missionary would lift them, their wage rate would of necessity rise, and that would cut profits. These people, therefore, must be kept in ignorance and simply be faithful slaves. Surely this is a very narrow and inhuman position to champion; but I have discovered that this is the critical plantation manager's viewpoint and the reason for his opposition to missions.

The critic of missionary endeavor emphasized the spoiling of the natives by educating them. True education will spoil no one; on the contrary, it will lift men up to be better citizens, better Christians, and help them attain a higher standard of living. Some missionary societies have made mistakes in educating these people in mind only, omitting the physical or manual arts training, thus causing them to look upon work as beneath them. This is unfortunate indeed, and such are spoiled. When true education, however, is given, it incorporates with mental development the training of the hands in manual labor, thus teaching that labor is honorable. It develops industrious, cheerful, law-abiding citizens, with a desire for the better things of life; and this certainly creates greater markets for business.

The educational program of the foreign missionary endeavor of Seventh-day Adventists is to give the threefold education—mental, spiritual, and physical. In their mission schools physical training, or working with the hands, is emphasized, and the graduates are a credit to any community.

Another point often made by critics of foreign missions is that these native peoples are bought, that they are "rice Christians." One critic said to me a few days ago, in speaking of a certain class of natives: "Why, they will be anything, depending on who will pay the most. They will be Protestants today and Catholics tomorrow." This seems to be a stock criticism cherished by the antagonist of foreign missions.

I am very sorry that to a certain degree some foreign missionary societies, in their zeal to Christianize, have resorted to this unfortunate method. This, however, is the exception, and not the rule,

as our critics would have us believe. In the years I have been in the mission field, I have had opportunity to observe at close range the methods and results of mission endeavor. My work is of such a nature that I have an advantage over the resident missionary and over the foreign plantation manager or the tourist in observing methods and results of Seventh-day Adventist mission work. I travel most of the time, visiting mission work in nearly all the countries of the Far East, from Korea on the north to Sumatra, Java, Celebes, and other islands on the south. I relate to you but a few experiences of many that I am sure will answer this charge about "rice Christians."

Only a few weeks ago I was at the headquarters of the North Sumatra Mission. The financial situation made it necessary to cut the salaries of the mission workers; so it was decided to make a 10 per cent wage cut of all mission employees receiving pay above a certain rate. The young man working in the mission office, a native Battak and a devout Christian, who had given up a teaching position to work in the mission office at a lower salary, came in the wage class of workers who were not to receive a wage cut. He informed the mission di-

rector, however, that he wanted his wages cut 10 per cent just the same as the workers who were in the upper bracket receiving the cut. If he had been a "rice Christian," would he of his own volition have done this?

I met a native young man in Java who had had a good position working on the government railroad. He learned of the seventh-day Sabbath truth, and stepped out in faith to keep the Sabbath. He lost his position as a result. Though it meant hardship and privation for him, he obeyed his conscience. If he were a "rice Christian," would he have done it?

I met a native young man who had been a Mohammedan. He accepted Christ, and as a result was nearly killed by his enraged relatives in their endeavor to make him recant. They broke his arm in several places, resulting in the loss of his arm at the shoulder. Would a "rice Christian" have endured that?

Another young man in Java, a Mohammedan, accepted Christianity. He was terribly persecuted by his parents, but he remained faithful. He was driven out of his home, to be forgotten, disowned, and never to share in the division of the property upon his parents' death. He told me that he went days

(Continued on page 18)

## Flashlines

**RUSSIA'S REVIVAL** Jaroslavski, head of the Soviet Godless League, declares that there are 30,000,000 Christians in the Soviet Union, including 400,000 in Moscow.

**THOUGHTS AND THE MAN** "A man's thoughts make him what he is," recently declared Dr. Samuel Trexler. "Teachers and preachers must, therefore, first change and elevate the thoughts of individuals before social or national or international advances can follow."

**SCIENTIFIC BARBARISM** "Barbarism is not any the less barbarism because it employs weapons of precision," says F. S. Oliver; "because it avails itself of the discoveries of science and the mechanism of finance. Barbarism is not any the less barbarism because its methods are up to date."

**SEEDS OF DESTRUCTION** "Time and again the forces of tyranny have demonstrated that they carry the seeds of their own destruction. So it will be in these times," declared Catholic Archbishop Downey recently.

**ITALY SEEKS IRON** An experimental plant is exploiting the iron-bearing sands of the Latium coast of Italy. It is estimated that they contain not less than a million tons of iron; and, as the sea is constantly bringing up more ferrous sand on this coast, the supplies are regarded as almost inexhaustible.

**UNITED STATES OF THE DANUBE** While some schools of thought in the democratic West are contemplating a United States of Western Europe, Archduke Otto of Austria is working out a scheme for a United States of the Danube, to include parts of Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, and Austria, along democratic lines.

**THE ONLY LIGHT** "We are living in a world as dark as the world into which Jesus came," asserted the Reverend Ernest R. Palen in a recent sermon. "Corporate sins and individual sins of today are the same as they were in Jesus' day. The same sins predominate, threaten all that we hold dear with the same lengthening shadow of destruction and total darkness, and the church of Christ holds out the only light."

# Eternal Misery—or Eternal Death?

*What Will Be the Fate of the Wicked?*

by CARLYLE B. HAYNES

**I**F IT is only a worm that is dropped into the flames of a raging fire, the man who is most unmerciful and has the hardest heart will shudder as he sees it writhing and twisting in pain.

Our blood curdles when we hear the tales of savage cruelty which come to us from some of the war-swept countries of Europe and Asia.

What must we think, then, of those terrible, untrue, and horrible libels upon the God of mercy which represent Him as a being who is even now preserving myriads of souls in the flames of an eternal hell of fire and brimstone?

Such a theory is utterly untrue. There is no such place of torment. God does not employ imps of the devil as stokers of hell to torture His enemies. This is merely a fiction of diseased brains, adopted from paganism by the medieval, apostate church, and thus brought into some of the great branches of Protestantism. It has no foundation at all in the teachings of the Bible.

In writing this, however, I have no thought of conveying the idea that there never will be any punishment for sin; for no one can read the Bible without being impressed by its teachings that there will be a future retribution for iniquity.

That punishment is not at death, however. It is not going on at the present time anywhere.

It is to take place in the future, and it will be temporary in its duration.

Each one will be punished in exact accord with the works he has done while in this life.

We have already studied the Bible teaching that man goes neither to heaven nor to hell at death, but into the grave, there to await the day of the resurrection.

In harmony with this are the words of 2 Peter 2:9. Turn and read them.

Notice these expressions—"reserve," "the day of judgment," "to be punished." They prove that there is no punishment of the wicked taking place now in some place of torment.

Instead of being punished now, "the unjust" are being reserved, that is, kept, until "the day of judgment." At that time they will "be punished."

This same truth is taught in Job 21:26-32.

The agency that will be used by God to punish the wicked will be fire.



*Fire, which is now often the enemy of man, will be used to purify this world of all the marks of sin.*

This fire is employed not for the purpose of torture, but for the purpose of punishment.

The fire will completely destroy the wicked from the earth, and they will never recover from this destruction.

This fire will not perpetuate their lives, but will bring them to an eternal end.

That the Lord will destroy the wicked by fire will be seen by reading Matthew 13:40-42.

Another verse bearing on the same point will be found in Matthew 25:41.

From these verses it is plain that the punishment for sin will be by fire, and that this fire will take place, not at death, but "in the end of this world." Matthew 13:40.

It is plain also that members of the human race were never intended to be cast into this fire. It was prepared "for the devil and his angels."

Therefore those of this earth who are so unfortunate as to be cast into this fire will suffer this terrible fate only because they have chosen to ally themselves with the devil.

This punishment and this fire will be on this earth.

God has no special place of punishment which He will keep in perpetual operation to torture the wicked. They will be punished where they have sinned, on the earth.

Two verses from the Bible will be sufficient to fix the location of the fires of the last day: Revelation 20:9; Proverbs 11:31.

The time at which this final destruction of the wicked will take place is at the end of the thousand years, or the millennium.

The millennium will begin with the second coming of Christ. At that time all the righteous, both living and resurrected, will be caught up to meet Christ in the air, and will be taken to heaven with Him, there to live and reign with Him during the thousand years. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Revelation 20:4.

At the second coming of Christ, too, all the wicked who are alive at that time will be put to death by the brightness of the glory of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

They will remain unburied on the face of the earth. Jeremiah 25:31-33.

At the end of the thousand years of the millennium all the wicked dead will be raised again to life. Revelation 20:5.

It is at that time that they will endeavor to capture the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, and fire will come down from heaven and devour them. Revelation 20:7-9.

The effect of this fire will be seen from a reading of Malachi 4:1. It will "burn them up, . . . that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

When a thing is burned up, there is nothing left of it but ashes; and so of the wicked it is said: "They shall be ashes . . . in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 4:3.

Thus it is plain that the wicked are not perpetuated in this fire in which they meet their fate. They are entirely consumed.

And this does not have reference to the body alone, as some strive to teach, for Ezekiel declares: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4, 20.

It is because of this certainty of the complete destruction of the wicked that the Bible uses such terms in describing their fate as "eternal," "everlasting," and "forever and ever."

The thing which these expressions are designed to show is that the overthrow of the wicked is a complete overthrow, so complete that there will never be any hope of a recovery from their fate, for it is eternal.

It is not their torment that is eternal, mark you. It is not their grief and anguish that are eternal.

It is their destruction that is eternal. They are destroyed, devoured, obliterated, annihilated, forever.

Bearing out this thought of the complete destruction of the wicked is 2 Thessalonians 1:9: "Who shall be punished with *everlasting destruction* from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power."

Again, in Matthew 25:46 is this statement about the wicked: "These shall go away into *everlasting punishment*."

Notice the force of these expressions. They have been used by many to teach the doctrine of eternal torment. They do not teach any such thing.

The "destruction" of the wicked will be "everlasting."

The "punishment" of the wicked will be "everlasting."

That is, there will never be any recovery from it.

It is not the torment that is said to be "everlasting." It is the "destruction" and the "punishment."

The terminology is not "everlasting punishing." It is "everlasting punishing." There is a wide difference.

No one will dispute the fact that the Bible teaches that "the wages of sin is death," not eternal life in misery. Romans 6:23.

It is likely to be urged by some, however, that the Bible not only speaks of "everlasting destruction," and "everlasting punishment," but also of "everlasting fire." Matthew 25:41.

Why, if the torment is not continued, should there be everlasting fire?

Take your Bible and turn to the seventh verse of Jude. Notice there that Sodom and Gomorrah suffered "the vengeance of eternal fire."

But Sodom and Gomorrah are not burning now. It was eternal fire, however, that burned them. From that example it is plain that "eternal fire" is not necessarily fire which perpetuates that which it burns, and never ceases to burn.

Look at 2 Peter 2:6 in this connection. This makes it plain that eternal fire completely consumes that which it attacks.

And it may take eternal fire only a very short time to bring that which it attacks to ashes, for Lamentations 4:6 declares that in this very case, Sodom was "overthrown as in a moment."

From this short study it will be seen that the effect of everlasting, or eternal, fire is not to perpetuate the existence of

that upon which it feeds, but to consume it, to bring it to ashes, and it may accomplish this "as in a moment."

It will be urged that our Lord, in speaking of the fire which will punish the wicked, declares that it "never shall be quenched." Mark 9:43-45. True. But a fire that "never shall be quenched" is not a fire that never shall go out. It is not a fire that will not finish its work, and expire. It is a fire which no one can ever put out.

Jerusalem was burned with a fire that could not be quenched. Jeremiah 17:19-27; 2 Chronicles 36:19-21. But Jerusalem is not burning yet. By this unquenchable fire Jerusalem was brought to destruction and ashes, just as the fires of the last days will bring the wicked to destruction and ashes.

The fire which is to destroy the wicked must of necessity be unquenchable. If it were not, the wicked would put it out.

Let me close with a word of admonition: Every soul must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. There is no escape from it.

You will be there. I will be there. We shall see the Judge. By His decision we must abide.

There will be no place to hide. There will be no shelter in that day. We cannot bribe God. Acquittal cannot be bought for money.

Our sins cannot be concealed by any special and skillful pleader. Exceptions to the verdict cannot be made. No appeal can be taken to a higher court. There is no higher court.

Our doom cannot be prevented by an injunction.

The Judge will not be blinded by excuses. A lie cannot avail. Perjury will not stand.

Are you ready for that day? Has

Christ covered your sins with His own life? Are you safe? Can you face the Judge with confidence?

Have you been obedient to the commandments of God? Have you repented of all your sins?

There is time now. There will be no time then. Now, while mercy still lingers,—while the door is still open, and the Master of the house has not yet risen to shut it,—make your peace with God, that it may be well with you in that day.

## Missions "Spoil" Natives?

(Continued from page 11)

with scarcely anything to eat or a place to sleep. He would not beg, so he kept his sufferings to himself, not once telling the missionary, who would have given him some help. That was years ago, and all these years he has remained a faithful Christian. If he had been a "rice Christian," would he have done it?

Many of these Seventh-day Adventist Battak young men and young women are now doing pioneer missionary work among savage and semisavage tribes, such as the Dyaks in Borneo, and other tribes inhabiting islands south of Sumatra, such as Nias. These native pioneer missionaries endure hardships and privations, and in turn carry the gospel of Christ, which has meant so much to them, to the savage peoples of these places.

Scores of such experiences have come under my own personal observation. The true situation is quite different from what the critic would have us believe. In no case, as far as I have been able to ascertain, can it be said that the native peoples have been induced to accept Christianity, as taught by Seventh-day



## Coming NEXT WEEK

in addition to the regular features:

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS!	Mary J. Vine
WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES	W. B. Ochs
FORGIVENESS	George W. Wells
YOUTH AND VOCATION	D. E. Reiner
THE STARS CONFIRM THE BIBLE	Taylor G. Bunch
CHRIST'S SECOND COMING	Allen Walker
MY HANDS FOR GOD	Martha E. Warner
HEAVEN ON EARTH!	Carlyle B. Haynes
YOKED WITH HIM	Inez Brasier

Adventists, through some mercenary inducement held out to them by the missionary. Seventh-day Adventists are very cautious of what might be termed "mass movements" into the church. Such are not encouraged. To come into the church means an individual experience. Should there be in any community the possibility of a mass movement into the church for the sake of popularity or profit, barriers are immediately raised. If, for instance, some influential individual or raja has accepted Christianity, and then many others declare their intention to unite with the church, such prospects are given a period of probation, during which they must demonstrate their desire by an individual spiritual experience and by works.

To become a Seventh-day Adventist anywhere in the world means the acceptance and the practice of paying a faithful tithe, or 10 per cent of the income, and, in addition, to give freewill offerings. True, the income of some of these people in mission lands is indeed small; but even so, they are expected to follow the Bible plan. Surely this is quite contrary to some critics' opinion that the mission pays the convert a certain remuneration for entering the church. In reality, the process is reversed, for the convert is expected to share the responsibility of supporting the church with his tithes and offerings instead of his receiving any monetary or personal advantage by becoming a Christian.

Then in many places it means real sacrifice to accept Christianity as it is taught by the Seventh-day Adventists. To practice the principles of health reform, which includes total abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and other narcotics, together with social reform, in face of general disapproval of one's village and family, takes an experience of real conversion. Such is the case, as can be reported by our missionaries everywhere in the mission fields; and I can testify to it from personal observation.

Some American and European businessmen or plantation managers who live in lands where foreign mission endeavor is carried on, and who are critical of the missionary, exert an influence in the homeland against the missionary, for their observations are accepted as correct and final by the credulous. Then journalists or authors who come to these lands looking for color and thrills to write about, contact these critical "supposed-to-know" foreigners, and imbibe their viewpoint; then there follows a critical broadside against foreign missions. This criticism is very unfair, and does not give a true picture.

I have had the privilege of meeting many of our members in the Far East, and, on the average, they will measure up to Christian membership in the home-

land, spiritually and otherwise. They will sacrifice; they will do missionary work; they will endure persecution. They are not spoiled, and they are not "rice Christians." Yes, foreign mission endeavor is a great civilizing agency that brings benefits not only when computed in spiritual values, but in material values also, for it creates a demand on the part of savages for the better things of life; and this means more business for the sometimes critical businessman. It is a noble enterprise worthy of most earnest and liberal support.

## The One True Church

(Continued from page 7)

ing characteristics of the people belonging to the remnant church: They "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Well then, is the remnant church, the true church, so difficult to find? What are you to look for? A commandment-keeping church!

Now a commandment-keeping church would have to be a Sabbath-keeping church. And I want you to know that any church which teaches that God's Sabbath has been changed, or need not be kept, is not a commandment-keeping church, but a commandment-breaking church! In these last days of earth's history, therefore, we are to look for a people who have discarded church tradition, who accept the whole Bible, and who keep all God's commandments, including the fourth commandment, which says: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," and who believe in the testimony of Jesus, which is "the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10.

Speaking of this people, Jesus says in Revelation 14:12: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Let us therefore put aside old traditions and preconceived opinions and ideas, and abide by the precious word of God. Join the commandment-keeping people of God, by accepting Jesus as your

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personal Saviour and heeding His words, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments."

## Doesn't God Answer?

(Continued from page 5)

under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." Psalm 91:1-8.

Sustaining, hope-giving promise! But it is given only to those who dwell "in the secret place of the Most High," those who are so intimately connected with God in times of prosperity that they have no trouble in communing with Him in times of adversity. Since no nation on the face of the earth can claim such an intimate contact with God, the question resolves itself down to each individual. We are facing "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation" (Daniel 12:1),—we do not even need the prophetic word to tell us that,—and surely the time has come for every individual to be sure that he has heeded God's call to genuine Christian living, so that God will heed his call amid the thunder of exploding bombs, the roar of tanks and dive bombers, and the curses of the dying. Would He hear you today?

## Bible Ahead

(Continued from page 9)

former ideas. In Proverbs 8:27 we are also told of the Lord's setting "a compass upon the face of the depth;" margin, "circle."

That the days are determined by the revolving of the earth on its axis, making possible the clothing of the earth with verdure, is clearly set forth in Job 38:12-

14. It is the unfailing law of God that causes "the dayspring to know his place," and the earth "is turned as clay to the seal" and therefore stands "forth in rich apparel" (Noyes's translation), or "in all its colors like a robe" (Moffatt). Many of the ancient clay tablets were in cylindrical form, which were turned to receive the impress of the seal or stylus of the scribe, as well as of the sun when they were hardened for preservation. In the

same manner the earth is turned each day to receive the impress of the sun's rays upon its entire surface, so that it might be clothed with vegetation as a garment. Without these daily revolutions the earth's surface would be dark and barren. The earth turns with such regularity that the "dayspring," or "morning," returns to "its place" with a clocklike punctuality that is amazing. Before this great truth was discovered

by man, there were all sorts of absurd theories as to how the sun got back to the eastern horizon during the night, so that it could issue forth and give birth to a new day. One was that during the night one of the gods put the sun in a great boat and rowed back with it behind a high range of mountains. Another was that the sun wandered back among the pillars that upheld the earth. None of the heathen ancients even guessed the truth, and yet it has stood recorded in the Book of God for thirty-five hundred years. Such scientific facts could not possibly have been written so long ago, and in an age when they were wholly unknown by man, except by divine inspiration. There is no other way of explaining their presence in such an ancient Book, which alone proclaimed these great truths amid the absurdities of the philosophers of the ancient pagan world.



# IF-

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## The Flight of Time

(Continued from page 3)

abroad that they have even been willing to yield the principle of voluntary enlistment.

In all this agitation, however, one important fact has been forgotten. It is contained in a long-forgotten passage found in the book of Jeremiah.

Through this prophet of ancient times God said: "At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; *if that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.*" Jeremiah 18:7, 8.

This is an unusually important message at such a time as this, in this vast, seething crisis of the nations. It is no less than a promise of special divine protection for the country that will wholeheartedly turn to the Lord, and resolutely set itself to purge evil from its midst.

As to the general level of goodness that God expects of a nation before this promise can come into operation we have no conception; but we might well question how far it would apply where there is an unrestricted liquor traffic, corruption in politics, extensive racketeering, and universal pleasure-seeking.

Surely the time has come for a mighty revival of true godliness throughout the land, accompanied by a thorough cleansing of political and social life. God has promised that if we will turn from our evil, then He will "repent of the evil" that otherwise might come to us. Let us take Him at His word.

If only we would do so, how greatly would all be blessed, and what a vast and needless expenditure would be saved!



*The nebula in Orion is more than five billion miles across.*

“YEA, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.” Psalm 78:41.

How often do we make that sin of Israel our own! How often do we tempt God, and limit the Holy One of Israel!

Every material thing known to man has a limit, a boundary, a place of beginning and of ending. So nearly universally true is this fact that it is not difficult for the mind of man to accept it as true of all things. There is a limit to the length of a board, to the height of a mountain, to the breadth of the ocean; and so there must be a limit to everything—yes, even including the Holy One of Israel. How often we take this attitude! and with what disaster to our spiritual lives!

Limiting God! Many are the ways and the times we fail in this respect! Every fear, every doubt, every discouragement, every lowering of our eyes from Him to ourselves, every attempt to discern the way with our own eyes and to carry the burden with our own strength—ininitely endless and varied are the ways in which we may set limits to the fullness of God.

What losses these failures inflict upon us! The hosts of Israel, because of their unbelief, could not enter into the Promised Land. All the joys and

blessings of the earthly Canaan were lost to them for one reason—unbelief.

Today the same truth is in force. Unbelief, limiting God, brings separation from the promises of God, and loss of the promised inheritance. The fearful and the unbelieving have a part in the day of final

reckoning; but their portion is not in the heavenly Canaan. It is in the lake of fire, which overwhelms all that is evil. Only they who “endure to the end” shall be saved. Matthew 24:13. And the great supporting pillar of endurance is unshakable belief.

As infinite as time and space is the Holy One—the God of Israel. “From everlasting to everlasting” He is God. He is before all things. He is above and beyond all things. What error, what loss, to disbelieve, to limit by whatever means, the power, the wisdom, the perfect greatness of Israel’s God!

Do not limit God. Look up into the unmeasured vaults of heaven. Focus your eyes on the unnumbered hosts of the starry heavens. As you behold, remember that far above this vastness is God. And do not forget that matching this physical, material, greatness, and no less vast or enduring, are the attributes of infinite loving-kindness and mercy.

“Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.” Isaiah 26:4.

## LIMITING GOD

by SANFORD T. WHITMAN