

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

FOUNDED 1874

THE WORLD'S PROPHETIC WEEKLY



ROBERTS



OFFICIAL U. S. NAVY, INTERNATIONAL

Mud flies in all directions as a Catalina flying boat makes a landing on a soggy field at Amchitka in the Aleutians.

the flight of TIME

A
SURVEY OF
**WORLD
EVENTS**

by the
EDITOR



BORN, NOT MADE

FROM statesmen, churchmen, and newspapermen ideas are flowing fast and furiously concerning the sort of world we are going to live in when this war is over. Science and invention, they say, will bring us into an age of progress such as men have never imagined, while swift means of transportation and communication, together with the elimination of old trade barriers and empire frontiers, will bring the diverse peoples of mankind into such intimate understanding of each other's problems that war need never occur again.

There are some, however, who perceive that lasting peace and prosperity cannot

be brought about merely by the multiplication of mechanical devices or by the most careful planning on the part of conferences or committees. In a recent speech, W. L. Mackenzie King, prime minister of Canada, laid emphasis upon a most important fact that should be born in mind by all who look hopefully toward the future.

"Much is being said today," he stated, "about a new world order to take the place of the old world order when the war is at an end. If that new order is not already on its way before the war is over, we may look for it in vain. A new world order cannot be worked out, at some given moment, and reduced to writing at a conference table. It is not a matter of parchments and of seals. That was a

part of the mistaken belief at the end of the last war. It is born, not made. It is something that lives and breathes; something much closer to the soul of man; something that needs to be worked out and prepared in the minds and hearts of men. It expresses itself in brotherhood, in good will, and in mutual aid. It is the application, in all human relations, of the principle of service."

This statement parallels, and was perhaps inspired by, the familiar words of Jesus: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. Certainly here is a profound truth that is all too frequently forgotten in postwar planning. Plans to build some fine new social order will never succeed if they are superimposed on masses of self-seeking men and women. If hearts are not changed, the most elaborate schemes must fail.

The kingdom of God—God's new world order—is for those who have been born again. Only the righteous may dwell there. 2 Peter 3:14, 15. It is the saints—not the sinners—who take this kingdom and possess it for ever and ever. Daniel 7:18, 27.

Lookout men on a U. S. destroyer wear protective face masks as they keep watch over an Atlantic convoy in heavy weather.

OFFICIAL U. S. NAVY, INTERNATIONAL





HIS LAST ACT

A SINCERE Christian, greatly respected by his companions in service, Private Toll was also an enthusiastic believer in the *Signs of the Times*. Only a few weeks ago, while attending church in Columbus, Indiana, he pledged \$54 to pay for 40 subscriptions to be sent to friends and relatives, the money to be provided out of his \$50 a month.

Two weeks later Private Toll was ordered to take part in ranger practice, where live ammunition is used to give realistic effects. By some regrettable error he was struck in the back and mortally wounded.

Regaining consciousness for a little while before he passed away, he remembered his pledge for the *Signs* and dictated a message to his lieutenant giving instructions that \$20 be sent to the church in Columbus to complete the payment.

We would take this opportunity to express our appreciation of this inspiring act of fidelity and extend to all sorrowing relatives our heartfelt sympathy and respect.



THE FIRST REQUIREMENT

WHEN Martinique and other islands of the French West Indies renounced their connection with Vichy and threw in their lot with the United Nations, there was considerable rejoicing throughout the allied camp. Commentators elaborated upon the advantages that would accrue through the release of naval and merchant shipping which had been tied up in French ports since the fall of France. They referred also to benefits that might follow from access to the stocks of French gold stored in these islands. But we do not recall that anyone mentioned that with the ships and the gold there came a first-class test of our sincerity as champions of the Four Freedoms.

The fact is that in some of these French islands religious liberty such as we understand it in the United States is an unknown term. People exercise freedom of conscience only at grievous peril to their lives and property.

These shocking conditions were brought to light in a report published in the *Review and Herald* of June 3, 1943, written by one who has access to unimpeachable sources of information.

According to this writer, the bishop who was appointed to head the affairs of the Roman Catholic Church in Martin-

for AUGUST 31, 1943

OUR COVER

In harmony with the request of the Office of War Information to feature "women at work" on the cover of all periodicals to be circulated during the first week of September, we print this unusual photo taken inside an airplane under construction at Douglas Aircraft. The two ladies are busy riveting the fuselage.



ique and Guadeloupe following the fall of France "has again and again publicly stated that all Protestant heretics should be eliminated" from these islands.

"The Bibles of our believers, together with all religious books and papers, have been taken from them and burned, and it is a most touching sight to see in our churches on a Sabbath afternoon, the minister or the local elder, oftentimes from memory, writing verses of Scripture on the blackboard, endeavoring to develop a study; the people copying down the texts and taking them home with them, that they may study them during the week and return the following Sabbath to recite on the lesson which the worker has given to them in this way."

Then follows this amazing story of persecution, reminiscent of the Dark Ages:

"A very prominent woman in one of the cities in the French West Indies purchased a book from one of our colporteurs. Through the reading of the book she became interested in the advent message. She purchased other books, and finally through reading, as well as through the personal influence of the colporteur, she reached the point where she was ready to accept the message.

"Her husband had been studying with her, and he took his stand by her side, as did also a few of her intimate friends. This woman was prominent not only in the social life of the city, but in the activities of the state church as well. Other members of the state church, particularly the women, tried in every way possible to dissuade her from becoming an Adventist. Ridicule and insult were heaped upon her in an effort to turn her from her new-found Protestant faith; but she determinedly went forward.

"At last the time came when she and her husband and some few others were ready for baptism. On a Sabbath afternoon they, together with members of the little church, met at a chosen place at a near-by river. A large number of the women of the state church followed the little company as they wended their way to the riverside, crying, 'Down with the heretics!' and throwing stones at them, thus endeavoring to turn them, at the last moment, from their determination to be baptized.

"As the candidates went down into the

(Continued on page 15)

Trainees at the Atlantic City basic training center of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command practice methods of evacuating troops from ships. These men are scrambling down cargo nets into rubber rafts in the swimming pool of a famous hotel.

USAAF TECH. TRAINING COM-ANDU. INTERNATIONAL



GOD'S FOUR FREEDOMS

by MERLIN L. NEFF



WE SHALL never have peace in our hearts until we have settled the problem of death. When the grim shadow hovers near, every explanation of death seems inadequate and futile. We may listen to the facts of science and the theories of philosophy; we may read the beautiful elegies of the poets; but the full meaning of death is never known until we suffer personal loss.

Death comes as a perpetual stranger, and we know not how to meet him, for no matter how often we may have seen the veil of grief fall upon others, we are never prepared to accept tragedy when it engulfs us. Can man ever be free from the clutches of death?

"Who can take death's portrait true?" Scientists have been able to analyze the human body and its constituent parts, they can explain to a great degree the processes of life; but they have no facts concerning immortality. As one writer succinctly declares, "Whether these good-bys are final, or whether they are the prelude to another day, who is there wise enough to answer?"

Only God, the giver of life, is able to give man freedom from death, and He had made such a promise to the human race through Jesus Christ. The key to the mystery of death is found in the three triumphant words, "He is risen." The resurrection of Jesus is the triumph of Christianity, for He not only defeated death on that memorable morning when He came forth from the tomb, but He is alive forever—our resurrection and life.

The fathers of America pioneered the way for civil and religious freedom in a new country. Toil and sacrifice were required that the generations who came after them might have liberty. Our Saviour pioneered the pathway through death, "even the death of the cross," and came forth victorious.

Therefore we can say with confidence:

Christ leads me through no
darker rooms
Than He went through before.

We can see light in the valley of death, for the Son of God has passed through it. Jesus proclaimed this truth: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25.

Paul grasped the significance of the promised freedom from death when he wrote, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." But death is not the final goal of those who know Jesus as their Saviour, for the apostle continues, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." 1 Corinthians 15:19, 20.

The glorious day of freedom from death will be ushered in at the second advent of Christ, for at that time there will be an awakening of those who sleep. Paul describes the event in these words: "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

For those who have been sleeping, it will seem but a moment from the hour

of their death until they hear the voice of their Saviour. They are unconscious of the passing of time. But suddenly the silence of death is broken by a shout of triumph. They will hear His voice! His ringing words tell of victory over death. "The hour is coming," said Jesus, "and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." John 5:25. Is it not fitting that those who have listened to the voice of Jesus and followed His commandments in this life shall hear Him in the day of their resurrection? It is the mighty voice of death's Conqueror.

The promise of our Lord will be kept. Jesus will call His children from the prison of the grave and give them the glorious freedom of eternal life. "Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15:54.

In this life the door closes in our face, and we cannot open it again. The companionship and love that we have counted most precious is shut off from us by death. But, thank God, there is One who possesses the key to that door. Jesus speaks these words: "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:18. The keys are in His hands. No spirit medium can tamper with the lives of the dead. No earthly hand can desecrate the life or character of those who now lie sleeping. Only when the Son of God takes the keys and opens the door shall the dead come forth. He shall bring complete victory over death, and give eternal life to His children.

Until we have claimed God's four freedoms—freedom from sin, freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom from death—we do not know the power of the gospel. Shall we dwell in slavery when Jesus has bought us with His life blood? "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." Galatians 5:1.



Only the keys in the hand of Jesus Christ can unlock the door that death closes in front of us.



To the Christian the promise of Christ's return is both sound and satisfying.

One Sure HOPE

Skeptics may ridicule the divine remedy for human ills, but faith in Christ's second advent abides in the hearts of millions the world around.

by MARENUS H. JENSEN

SKEPTICS, like Bob Ingersoll, Thomas Paine, Voltaire, and many others, have taken delight in ridiculing God and His plan of salvation. They have raised questions that may be hard for some to answer. But to raise questions is a simple matter. A simple-minded person may raise questions that even the sages cannot answer. The babbler on the street may be sarcastic about great truths of which he knows nothing. To tear down, to criticize, to question, is easy. It requires no skill and but little intellect. It is not an evidence of intelligence, as some seem to think. To find the answer, to understand the deep mysteries about us, taxes the intelligence of the mighty.

The critics may scoff at the idea of a God, His power to create and to redeem, yet when this scoffing dies away, the fact remains that there is still a universe, there is still a sun in the heavens, there is still a world inhabited by living, thinking, reasoning beings. Their existence demands an explanation. Not being willing to accept God's simple record of the origin of the earth and man, the critics must invent one of their own, and their story isn't a pleasant one. They start

man out in a slimy frog pond and end him in a grave. It is a hopeless view. It leaves life without a plan, and the future dark, gloomy, without hope. Perhaps the most hopeless words ever uttered fell from the lips of the noted skeptic Ingersoll as he stood beside the lifeless form of his brother. We are told that he bowed himself on the coffin and gave vent to his grief. When he was able to speak, he uttered these pathetic words: "Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the heights. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry." His next words were even more pathetic. He spoke of hope's trying to see a star and listening to love's hearing the rustle of a wing. Such words reflect the gloom and darkness of the soul which has no faith and no hope.

Not so with the Christian. By faith he sees that guiding star; he hears the rustling wings of ten thousand times ten thousand angels coming to release him from the grip of death. The Christian sees a divine plan. His course has been plainly mapped. He is not bewildered or confused; his path is not dark. He be-

lieves in creation by an all-powerful God. He accepts the Bible record of the fall of man. For him the tomb does not end all. He clasps the hand of a Saviour and accepts God's plan for his salvation. He looks beyond the dark portals of the grave to a brighter day, a future life. The skeptic may scoff at this hope, and cry, "Impossible!" but what does he have to offer? What of certainty can he give us?

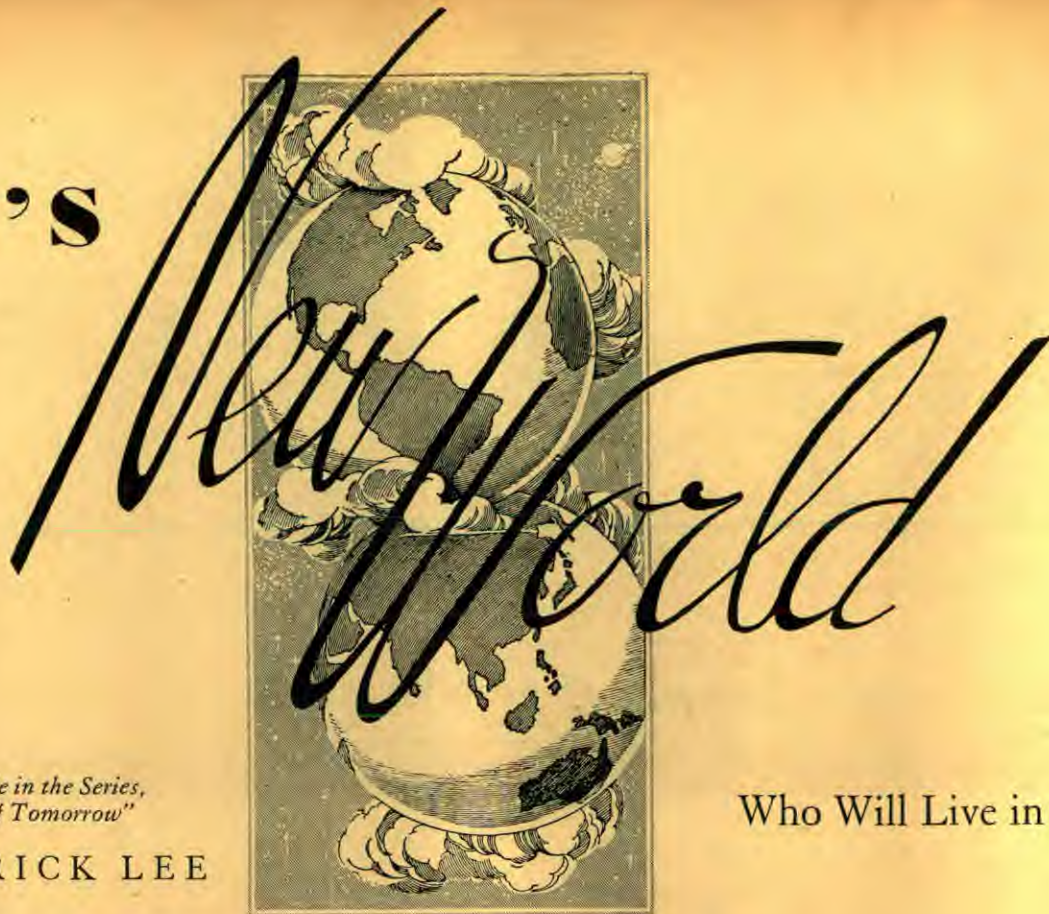
The Christian's hope is both sound and satisfying. Indeed the return of Christ, the Life-giver, has been the hope of the children of God from the gates of Eden to the present day. In that dark hour God promised the fallen race that the serpent's head would be bruised, that a Saviour would come. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, expressed his hope in these words: "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints." Jude 14. The patriarch Job, in his affliction, cried out: "O that Thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that Thou wouldest keep me secret, until Thy wrath be past, that Thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me! . . . Thou shalt call, and I will answer Thee: Thou wilt have a desire to the work of Thine hands." Job 14:13-15. Again he expressed his hope and confidence in these words: "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me." Job 19:25-27.

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob embraced this same hope of life beyond the grave. "The father of us all" looked "for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Romans 4:16; Hebrews 11:10. Christ, while on this earth, gave emphasis to this hope. He said, "I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3. Said the angels, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:11.

The apostle Paul stated his belief in the return of the Lord in these words: "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in

(Continued on page 13)

GOD'S



*Concluding Article in the Series,
"The Making of Tomorrow"*

by FREDERICK LEE

Who Will Live in It?

WE ARE hearing a great deal about a new world order. Men are now seeking the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth. In the plans and specifications of this new order much is said concerning material abundance, freedom from want, and unemployment. We do hear something about the need of moral principles to guide the world, but little is said concerning the people who are to make up this new world. However, this is the crux of the whole matter.

Unless men are different from what they have been in the past, the new order will soon become old. There is grave danger that when peace comes, and men can again pursue the ways of commerce and pleasure, their fear of judgment will be lessened; they will again be dominated by greed. Upon this rock any plan will surely be wrecked.

God is much concerned about the kind of people who will have part in His new world. He wants to be sure that the people who inhabit the kingdom which He will set up will be a righteous and holy people. God is no doubt more concerned about the kind of people who possess the new earth than He is that the earth be filled with an abundance of good things.

The Bible speaks of those who shall be "heirs of the kingdom." In Daniel we read: "The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting king-

dom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." Daniel 7:27.

Who are these people to whom the kingdom is to be given? What are their characteristics? How may we qualify for a place in that kingdom? These are most important questions, more so than any other, for the time has come when that kingdom is truly "nigh at hand."

Ever since sin entered the earth, man has been hoping and longing for a better world. After the Flood destroyed the old world, Abraham was one of the earliest who sought "a better country" and "a city . . . whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:16, 10. To him God made many promises. One was "that he should be the heir of the world." Romans 4:13. The possession of the land of Canaan, which was called a land flowing with milk and honey, was to be a symbol of that abundant and peaceful world which was to be given to a righteous people. This land was promised to the seed of faithful Abraham.

The promises made to Abraham referred to nothing less than the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth, which Christ so clearly elucidated in His day. Those promises now apply to the seed of Abraham in a spiritual sense, and not to Israel after the flesh. The promised land no longer refers to Canaan but to the new earth which is to be inhabited by a righteous people. The Scriptures are clear on this. Thus we read:

"For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abra-

ham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." Romans 4:13.

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Galatians 3:16.

"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Verse 29.

"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." Romans 2:28, 29.

Race, nation, social position, or worldly culture will not be the criterion by which the inhabitants of the kingdom of God are selected. They will be chosen on the basis of a spiritual experience. Those who become children of God through the new birth are to be citizens of the kingdom of God. John 3:1-3. They are the ones who are heirs and joint heirs with Christ. Romans 8:16. Our inheritance is based upon our relationship to Christ.

When Christ said, "The kingdom of God is within you," He was referring to this spiritual regeneration which is prerequisite to an entrance into the real kingdom which He is to set up at His second coming. We now are to dwell in the kingdom of grace in order that we may later have part in the kingdom of

glory, a kingdom which will be as real as that which men now are hoping to set up.

Thus Peter bids us: "Brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things [enumerated earlier in the chapter], ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:10, 11.

No halfhearted measures will suffice to make one ready to have a part in that kingdom. It will require most diligent and earnest efforts. The wicked and unrepentant will have no part in it. Even many of those who profess to know God and His Son Jesus will be left out because their lives have not been conformed to God's will. Said Christ:

"Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:21-23.

At one time Christ, in speaking to His disciples, who were the nucleus of those who would be gathered out of this world to inherit the kingdom, said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32.

Who are members of this little flock to whom the Father gives the kingdom? What are their characteristics? How are they living when Christ comes? What are they doing? As we read the Bible we see that God is as particular concerning the characteristics of those who are to inhabit His kingdom as He is regarding the specifications by which that kingdom is to be set up.

Here are the steps that must be taken by everyone who is to inherit this earth after it has been renewed by the hand of God.

1. **Belief.** When the jailer of Philippi asked, "What must I do to be saved?" the disciples answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 16:30, 31. Belief is not mere assent. It is a deep faith that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He died for our sins. It likewise includes a deep longing for the ways of righteousness and truth.

2. **Confession.** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. Sorrow for the sin, and not fear of the judgment, must be the incentive to confession. This is true repentance. Confession involves a determination to sin no more. In such

confession there are no reservations. That is why repentance is called surrender to Christ. It is a turning away from the old life and accepting a new life in Christ Jesus.

3. **Obedience.** True confession and repentance bring one the experience of the new birth. One then becomes a son of God. Thereafter he is to follow the will of God, not his own will nor the will of men. The life of the true Christian is one of perfect obedience to the will of God.



In the NEWS

by W. L. EMMERSON, Our London Correspondent

MISSIONARY PROSPECTS

"American Protestantism intends to follow the close of the war," according to *The Christian Century*, "with the opening of a new period of large-scale missionary expansion. . . . The prospect is for the greatest extension of American Protestant missions immediately after the war," for "only Christian missions have a sufficiently disinterested history to be in a position to undertake this reconciling mission without delay. . . . Christian statesmanship of the highest order is, therefore, exhibited by the plans to train now a 'missionary expeditionary force' for service at the war's end."

PLAYING INTO CATHOLIC HANDS

Said Michael de la Bedoyere in a speech in Dublin recently: "Catholics of this generation have been brought into the world at a time when everything—absolutely everything—is playing into their hands. Never in Christianity's long history was it more patent that the world cannot do without Christianity. . . . But the time is short—desperately short; and if [Catholic] Christianity is to have beneficent effect in the near future, it must race against time."

"TOWARD MONARCHY?"

"Greater interest today is taken in the French royalists than at any time since the fall of the monarchy," asserts the *Catholic Herald*. Recently also, according to the *Universe*, General Franco declared that "the ancient grandeur of Spain was achieved in the past when spiritual and national unity existed under a Catholic king and queen."

THE VAST UNIVERSE

In a broadcast address on "Man's Place in Nature," Sir James Jeans explained that the Milky Way is but one of probably 100,000,000,000 star galaxies. He said: "There must be more stars in the sky than there are blades of grass on the whole surface of the earth."

THE BIBLE IN MEXICO

The Salvation Army, reports the *International Christian Press* is securing the help of all the Protestant churches in Mexico in order to place seven million Gospels in Mexican homes. One hundred thousand have already been distributed by house-to-house visitation.

RESULT OF FEAR-LESS TESTIMONY

The Rt. Rev. Frank Houghton, writing in *World Dominion*, gives chief credit for the present unprecedented Christian opportunity in China to the "Christian testimony of the Generalissimo and Madame Chiang. . . . It means much that these two are known to be Christians who begin each day with prayer and the reading of the Scriptures. All over Free China we hear of officials, civil and military, school teachers and others, who are so far impressed by the Generalissimo's testimony that they too are beginning to study the Bible."

TIMES HAVE CHANGED

Commenting on the increasingly close contact between the Vatican and the United States, the *Universe* expresses satisfaction that times have changed greatly since the first United States diplomat at the Vatican, Mr. Jacob Martin, received these instructions: "There is one consideration which you ought always to keep in view of your intercourse with the papal authorities. Most, if not all, the governments which have diplomatic representatives at Rome are connected with the pope as head of the Catholic Church. In this respect the Government of the United States occupies an entirely different position. It possesses no power whatever over the question of religion. . . . Your efforts will, therefore, be devoted exclusively to the cultivation of the most friendly civil relations with the papal government and to the extension of commerce between the two countries. You will carefully avoid even the appearance of interfering in ecclesiastical questions."

The MAN Whom God

*He Will Forget Sin or the Sinner—
Which Shall It Be With You?*

*Another Stirring Message Broadcast
Over the Mutual System by the*

VOICE OF PROPHECY

OUR subject this week is, "The Man Whom God Forgot." At once someone says, "Why, does God ever forget anyone?"

Well, now, if you have your Bible handy, read a few passages and see what the Scriptures say about it. Let us read first of all Hosea 4:6:

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to Me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

People reject the word of God, they do not live for Christ, they have no regard for the church, and then they wonder why their children so often drift out into a life of sin. One reason for the tide of crime on earth today is the lack of religious and moral training in the homes. A true, consistent, Christian life of the parents in the home will do more to hold John and Mary for God than all the preaching they are likely to hear. The power of example is a mighty power, and when father or mother, or both, disregard the Ten Commandments in life and word, and forget Christ in the home life, it is a sad day for the children.

In how many homes—I mean Christian homes—is family worship a regular thing? Millions of children have never heard father or mother pray. You say that you are too busy, that you have no time for family prayer—no time for training the young. You have time to feed the body, but no time to feed the soul. No wonder the home is broken down when God is not honored. If we reject,

ignore, or forget the divine law, we must receive the consequences. As men sow, they shall reap—always. It is the law of life.

What a responsibility we have! Think what some people will have to pay when they meet the great Judge! God said, "Seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." That is why so many youthful minds today are following the ways of the world. Some persons forget God; they live as though there were no God. Let us read another Scripture passage:

"Ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the Lord of hosts our God." "Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you." Jeremiah 23:36, 39.

It is a dangerous thing to pervert the word of God, for in Psalm 138:2 we read:

"I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy name for Thy loving-kindness and for Thy truth: for Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name."

God has magnified His word above all His name. God's name is holy, and so also is His word, and man has no right to tamper with it, or pervert it. If he does, and refuses to repent, God will forsake him and forget him.

Another interesting Bible passage is Exodus 17:14, where we read these words of the Lord against the wicked nation of Amalekites: "I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." And this is literally true today,



"Go, and sin no more," said Jesus to the woman truly repented of and forsaken.

for there is not an Amalekite on the face of the earth. They were highhanded fighters against God's people, they smote the weak and the sick who brought up the rear as the Israelites marched through the wilderness. God said He would blot out their remembrance from under heaven, and He has done it. They simply faded out of history. God forgot them, and the world forgot them, too.

It is quite clear from all these Scripture passages that God forgets those who forget His word and refuse to walk in the right way. Turn next to Luke 13:24-26:

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and He shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in Thy presence, and Thou hast taught in our streets."

You see these people professed the name of Christ. They evidently belonged to the church and claimed to be follow-

Forgot



by the Pharisees of adultery. When sins are forgotten by God.

ers of Him; but they are rejected as workers of iniquity. And Jesus will say to all such:

"I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out." Verses 27, 28.

Many are snug in self-righteousness and will stay outside because of unforgiven sins. They will knock, and it will not be opened to them. Their sins have shut them out of the glory land. The day of opportunity will soon be over; Jesus will complete His work. The names of the elect will be made up. Soon the book of life will have the last name entered, the last sermon will have been preached, the last hymn will have been sung, the last appeal will have been made to the hearts of men, and then Jesus will pronounce the decree:

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: . . . he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly." Revelation 22:11, 12.

Every account will have been settled for all eternity. It is a dangerous thing to forget God's commandments.

But remember, there are first which shall be last, and last which shall be first. No matter how backslidden you are, He will forgive you if you repent. You may think you are lost, but I want you to know that God is calling today. He wants you to come to Him.

We see that God is not only a God of remembrance but also a God of forgetfulness, because He will forget either sin or the sinner. The time will come when our sins will be blotted out of the books of record, or our names will be blotted out of the book of life. See Exodus 32:32, 33, and Psalm 69:28. God says:

"Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book." Exodus 32:33.

In Ezekiel 33 God says He will not remember our sins if we ask forgiveness. How much better it is to let God forget our sins and to blot them out of His remembrance than to have Him blot our names from the Lamb's book of life! Let us see what God says in verses 11-13:

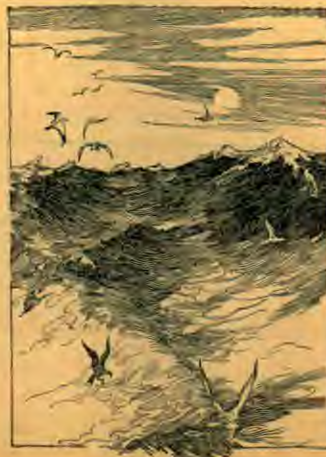
"As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

"Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth.

"When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, *he shall die for it.*"

What a solemn thought that is! Even if a man *is* righteous, but at the last falls

God has promised that He will cast our sins into the depths of the sea, if we will but give Him the opportunity.



into sin and does not keep the commandments, and if he refuses to repent of his ways, God will not remember his former righteousness. It will not save him if sin is on his record. He must have God's forgiveness and a pure, clean record, by faith in Christ. God will forgive if we sincerely repent, and all our sins will be blotted out and forgiven.

And this brings us right face to face with *the man God forgot!* Who is he? He is *the man I used to be*—the old life, the old man of sin. When we turn to Christ for salvation God forgives our sin, we are born again, and God will forget our sins. He never remembers them again, for when God forgives He forgets. We will have a new heart, and divine power in our lives. This is called the new covenant. We read in Hebrews 8:10-12:

"This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people. . . . For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

Now you can see who it is that God forgets—the man I once was, the old, lost man of sin. We become new creatures in Christ Jesus.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

In Ephesians 4:22 we are told by the apostle Paul to "put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts." When we begin the new life in Christ, the old man, or life, is reckoned as dead.

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:11.

Then the believer is baptized to symbolize the death and burial of the old life and the resurrection to a new life, as we read in verses 4-6:

"Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

In the Bible there are four wonderful promises that God will not only forgive our sins but that He will separate them from us forever.

1. The first we will read is Isaiah 44:22:

"I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee."

God blots out our sins—the charges that were against us—by the blood of Christ, and the terrible record is gone. It is forever obliterated. The debt is paid, and we are free!

If you come to Jesus, repenting of your sins, and say, "Just as I am, I come to Thee; take me, Lord, and forgive me," the blessed Lord will forgive your every sin.

It is said that Napoleon once found a man implicated in a plot against the empire. The letter which he had written was brought to Napoleon by his secretary, and the death sentence was pronounced upon the man. The condemned man's wife came and pleaded with Napoleon to save her husband. Napoleon had his secretary bring the letter to him, and said, "Is that your husband's handwriting?" The wife admitted that it was. "Is that the only evidence there is against him?" he asked the secretary. "That is all," was the reply.

Then Napoleon took the letter and, before the eyes of the weeping woman and the secretary, threw it into the fire. And turning to the woman, he said, "There is no evidence that your husband is a traitor; go in peace!"

So, friends, if we come to Jesus, and ask forgiveness in His name, God will destroy all evidence and blot out our sins: "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions . . . and will not remember thy sins." Isaiah 43:25.

One day a famous doctor died. His widow, in looking over his books, found that thousands of dollars were owed to him. She took it to court and demanded that the debts be paid. "Is this your husband's handwriting?" asked the judge. She replied that it was. Across the top of every account was written in red ink the words, "Forgiven; too poor to pay!" "Then it is settled," said the judge. "Your husband has written across the account in red ink the words that cancel the debt."

And so it will be with every repenting soul. God will forgive the man you are, the man of failure and sin. That man will be the man God forgets.

2. The second promise is in Isaiah 38:17:

"Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back."

God casts all our sins behind *His* back, not behind our backs. The devil can never find them there. They are gone forever. They are cast behind God's back—forgotten! Why should we re-



Morning
Manna

Making a Difference

by
ADLAI A. ESTEB

"That ye may put difference between holy and unholy." Leviticus 10:10.

WINE had benumbed the spiritual sensibilities of Nadab and Abihu, so that they put no difference between holy and unholy, and offered strange fire before the Lord, and were immediately destroyed. Therefore the Lord condemned the use of wine so "that ye may," He said, "put difference between holy and unholy." However, are there not many things besides wine that will numb the spiritual senses so that we put no difference between holy and unholy? Let us eliminate them. Remember God's scathing denunciation: "Priests have violated My law, and have profaned Mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned." Ezekiel 22:26.

"They have put no difference." A strange intermingling of sacred and common. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness!" Isaiah 5:20. What lowered standards!

"Teach My people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean." Ezekiel 44:23. "Teach . . . the difference." What is the difference between the holy and profane? Take the Sabbath, for instance. Many see no difference between it and the working days of the week. They see them all as only twenty-four-hour days. But there is a difference, for God calls the Sabbath "My holy day." It is therefore decidedly different from the other six days, for it is holy, yet many have "put no difference between the holy and profane, . . . and have hid their eyes from My Sabbaths." How many flippantly remark, "What's the difference?" As a result, they lose many spiritual blessings. Let us eliminate indifference toward God's holy things.

member them? They are behind His back—not our backs.

You recall the story of Christian, in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, with the great burden on his back, and how he lost it at the Wicket Gate. When we come to Christ we are not to continue to carry our load of sin. But some persons try to do it.

An old man carrying a large bundle on his back along a country road was given a lift by a man with a wagon. He climbed in and rode quite a while with the bundle still tied on his back. The driver finally said, "Why don't you put the bundle down in the wagon box and take it easy?" "Oh," the old fellow said, "you have been so kind to give me a ride, I wouldn't think of making you carry my bundle too!"

That is like many Christians who come to Christ for salvation, and then try to carry on through life the burden of their sins. They need to read Romans 8:1:

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

3. The third promise is in Psalm 103:12:

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us."

Do you know how far the east is from the west? It's so far that our sins will never come back to face us again. There are some stars in the eastern sky which are said by astronomers to be one hundred thousand light-years away from us. That is, a ray of light, traveling at the inconceivable speed of 186,300 miles a second, would have to travel one hundred thousand years to span that distance. And there are others in the west as far; but that is merely the first step toward the east and the west of the infinite universe. "As far as the east is from the west, . . . hath He removed our transgressions from us."

4. The fourth and last promise is in Micah 7:18, 19:

"Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

Isn't that wonderful? "Into the depths of the sea."

A skeptic who was tired of hearing a certain elderly Christian praise God, gave him a book of scientific exploration to read, saying, "I'd like to see you find something in that to praise God about!" Not ten minutes later he was surprised to hear the old man shout, "Praise the

(Continued on page 13)

SIGNS BIBLE SCHOOL

Conducted by DALLAS YOUNGS

STUDY PARAGRAPHS

Lesson Thirty-Two

THE TIME OF THE JUDGMENT

• • •

1. What promise of a coming judgment does the Bible give?

"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10. Compare Romans 14:10.

NOTE.—The work of judgment includes the whole human family. It is a work of the deepest significance. When a man comes to this place in his experience, earthly matters have no importance; the supreme question is, Am I saved, or am I lost?

2. Will both the righteous and the wicked be judged?

"I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked." Eccl. 3:17.

3. How is the judgment brought to view by Daniel the prophet?

"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened." Daniel 7:10. Compare Revelation 20:11, 12.

4. What is recorded in these books?

"I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:36, 37.

NOTE.—God is keeping an exact record of our words, deeds, and acts. He knows far more about us than we do of ourselves. Everything is inscribed in the books, and in the judgment these books are opened.

5. What is this judgment, which involves an examination of the books? Answer: The investigative judgment.

6. There is another book in which the names of only the righteous appear. What is it called?

"I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:12. Compare Revelation 17:8; 13:8.

NOTE.—Those who accept Christ have their names recorded in the book of life of the Lamb. The record is kept to see if they remain faithful. Those who do so have their names retained in the book of life. Their names are not blotted out. Revelation 3:5; Exodus 32:30-33.

7. Will the investigative judgment take place before or after Jesus' second coming?

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be

righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:11, 12. Compare Daniel 12:1.

NOTE.—Before Christ comes the second time to this earth the decree has gone forth that probation has closed. No more can be lost, and no more saved. Those in an unjust and filthy condition remain so, and those in a righteous, holy state remain so. The investigative judgment is past.

8. Does God announce the opening of the investigative judgment to the world?

"I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." Revelation 14:6, 7.

NOTE.—This angel flying in the midst of heaven represents a movement by which warning is given to all the world of the opening of God's judgment hour, and the second coming of our Lord. Revelation 14:6, 7 shows that the judgment sits in heaven while the people of the earth are going about their accustomed duties in the last days. During the time the judgment is in progress in heaven, Christ's servants on earth are warning the entire world that "the hour of His judgment is come." It is certain, also, that Christ's servants know when the judgment is to begin, or they would be unable to warn the world when it did begin.

9. What prophetic message extends to the time of the cleansing of the sanctuary, or the investigative judgment?

"He said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14.

NOTE.—When did this long period expire? In A. D. 1844. See next lesson. Our Lord based His preaching of the gospel on the fulfillment of the first part of the 2300 days, or years (Mark 1:14, 15), a prophecy which determined the time of the first advent. The whole period extends to the time of the judgment, preceding the second advent, and at its expiration a special gospel message is sent to all the world proclaiming that the judgment hour is at hand, and calling upon all to worship the Creator. The facts of history answer to this interpretation of the prophecy, for at that very time (1844) such a message was being proclaimed in various parts of the world. This was the beginning of the great second advent message which is now being proclaimed throughout the world.

10. What is the standard by which men will be judged in the judgment?

"Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." James 2:10-12.

NOTE.—The law which forbids killing and adultery is the law of the Ten Commandments. Exodus 20:3-17. Every man will be measured according to this divine standard of conduct. How important, then, that we should obey it all now! To break one commandment is, in the judgment, to be guilty of them all.

11. In view of the coming judgment, what exhortation does God make?

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14.

Now turn to page 13 and answer the questions on the lesson.



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The Editor

SIGNS OF THE TIMES
Mountain View, California

Law and LIFE

The Greatest Good There Is

by CHESTER ALLEN HOLT

THE commonest things teach us the necessity of law. There is displayed in their make-up a great wisdom and a great goodness.

To the Christians at Rome the apostle Paul wrote: "That which may be known of God is manifest. . . . For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead." Romans 1:19, 20. That is to say, though none can look upon the face of the invisible God, enough truth about Him is projected upon the screen of nature so that in these things He may be known. And this revelation is made through nature's laws.

From these laws we have evidence of God's existence. The only power we know capable of producing rational form and function is the power of mind. The fingerprints of this power are everywhere in nature. The evidence of the existence and functioning of a great Mind is overwhelming, and is in harmony with the Bible teaching that God

Laws governing the forces of this world indicate that the Creator brought into being something more than a mechanical toy.

is, and that He made the world and now upholds it.

From these laws, too, we learn that there is one God. A non-Christian youth once said to a group of his fellow students, "Why do you Christians believe in one God instead of many?" For a moment they fumbled for an answer. He continued: "One of the wisest of the old Greek teachers said that even the gods could not be so united as to produce the harmony there is in nature. Only one maker and ruler could do that, therefore we must believe that there is but one."

Concerning the purpose of the Creator, we learn from the laws that govern His works that the wonderful universe

was brought into being as something more than a precise mechanical and mathematical toy with which the infinite Mind might amuse itself. It is made suitable for life. It could so easily be otherwise. But here again the laws of His works and the words of His mouth tell the same truth. The Holy Scriptures say, "God . . . formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited." Isaiah 45:18.

Notice the language. He produced its form and structure. He fixed its relationships and behavior. He brought its laws into being and imparted the power with which they operate and control. He established all this in its character so that it would be steadfast and predictable. And every law that exists serves one great end and purpose; namely, that life might be here.

How true this is, is manifest everywhere, and even in the simplest things. We depend completely upon the fact that water runs downward. But suppose that we could never be certain that it would. Suppose that it might flow upward, sideways, downward, or not at all, with its behavior utterly unpredictable. Air-breathing creatures simply could not live on this world under those conditions. The oceans would climb their shores and stand upon the land long enough to destroy every breathing thing.



KEYSTONE



COMING NEXT WEEK

Special Temperance Education Number

WHEN JOHNNY COMES MARCHING HOME	F. C. Carrier
TO DRINK OR NOT TO DRINK	H. O. Swartout
THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ABSENTEES	A Shipyard Worker
YOU CAN LICK THAT BAD HABIT	Arthur N. Donaldson
HE COULDN'T STAND THE STRAIN	Sanford T. Whitman
WHY CONTROL THE LIQUOR BUSINESS?	Roy L. Smith
DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT!	John C. Almack
BOOZE—WIN OR LOSE	Marenus H. Jensen

Or take such an ordinary substance as salt. The presence of salt in the blood and tissues of the body is necessary to life. If the saline solution of the blood becomes depleted or diluted in high temperatures, "sunstroke" or prostration may result. Salt is a compound of two elements, sodium, a very active metal, and chlorine, a poison gas. These hold together with great tenacity. But suppose that they should suddenly lose this character and might at any moment separate. What would happen? Someone, taking the accustomed salt into the mouth, would be strangled by searing chlorine gas, and the skin and flesh would be burned by the violent reaction of sodium with the mouth fluid.

How impossible any kind of work, or even life itself, would be if no more than these two commonest of substances, salt and water, should cease to be law-abiding! The value and meaning of nature's laws may be lost to us because we take them for granted. But if they are not lost, the fact grows large before us that *law is the greatest good there is*. The higher we ascend in the scale of life the greater is the good of law seen to be, the more dependent is life upon its benefits. And the truth goes beyond that. Not only does law serve best the higher manifestations of the mysterious thing called life, but it is a necessity to mind itself.

Upon the vast structure of law depends our ability to think. Sanity could not exist without it. The composition and the behavior of things make the very substance of thought, and the fact that their character may be known and counted upon is what makes thought possible. If all, or any considerable number, of the familiar things about us should lose character, and we could never be certain how they would behave, we would all have nervous breakdowns within forty-eight hours, and be insane within a week.

But the world is not that kind of place. The natural order is a thoroughly rational one, in which sane intelligence finds itself at home. It is established. It is the greatest of precision mechanisms. In any direction that thought explores, it can lay out its rational sequences, yet never reach a boundary. Recognizing this, the greatest and most learned minds have been the most humble and reverent. They have sensed that they but felt their way along paths that had been traversed by a vastly greater Mind before them. One such searcher exclaimed, "Oh God, I think Thy thoughts after Thee."

And here we return to our starting place, and come upon the greatest benefit of all. Incalculable as is the good of law to life and intelligence, it serves a higher function. Body and mind are blessed by

it; but, beyond that, there are in the great laws of the universe an introduction of the soul to God. "The invisible things of Him," "His eternal power and Godhead," "are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made." Through the form and ways of His works, that is to say, through His laws, God projects His character in a manner that reaches everywhere that eyes exist to see, ears to hear, and hearts to feel His presence.

Chaos, confusion, and futility would be the existing state without law, and in these there is no message of God, no knowledge nor revelation of Him. Without law, God could not be known through nature, even though He did bring its substance into being. But sustained, surrounded, and blessed by His laws, the soul is everywhere taught concerning Him.

The heavens above are a Shekinah declaring the presence of God and showing forth His glory. The earth beneath resembles tables of stone on which God has written with His finger the revelations of His character and His will, as He once inscribed the law at Sinai. Through these He is made known.

"Ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this? in whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind." Job 12: 7-10.

The Man God Forgot

(Continued from page 10)

Lord!" He hurried over to him and asked: "Well, what's the matter now? What is it, anyway?"

And the Christian replied, with tears running down his face: "It says in this book that they have discovered a place in the Pacific Ocean called the Tuscara Deep where the depth is more than five miles. The Scripture says that He has cast all my sins 'into the depths of the sea.' Five miles of water over them—praise the Lord!"

And well he might praise Him. But there is something more than all the oceans of the world over them—it is the blood of Christ.

God forgets our sins, but He does not forget *us*, when we turn to Him in faith. In an age of profound skepticism the greatest need of each one of us is a return to faith in God. This is an hour of decision.

It is Christ's promise that "him that cometh to Me I will in nowise cast out." John 6:37. However far you have wandered away, Christ will welcome you back. Will you come now?

One Sure Hope

(Continued from page 5)

the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

Again: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the



Test Your Bible Knowledge



Check Your Answers by Referring Back to the Study Paragraphs on Page Eleven

1. a. In what words does the Bible declare a coming judgment?
- b. What two classes will be judged?
- c. Who is the judge upon the throne in the judgment?
- d. How many minister unto Him?
- e. How many stand before Him?
- f. Out of what are the people judged?
2. a. How may one have his name retained in the book of life?
- b. Why are some names blotted out of the book?
- c. Prove that when Christ comes the investigative judgment has already taken place.
3. a. How does the Bible announce the opening of the investigative judgment?
- b. What does this flying angel represent?
- c. What are the Lord's servants doing while the judgment is in progress in heaven?
- d. At what time did the investigative judgment begin?
- e. What prophetic period shows when the investigative judgment begins?
4. a. What is the standard of the judgment?
- b. What law forbids adultery and killing?
- c. How can one break all the Ten Commandments at once?
- d. What appeal does God make in behalf of obedience?
- e. What is said to be man's whole duty?

first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Cor. 15:22, 23, 51-55.

It was this hope that gave the aged apostle courage in his dying hours. Note his confidence, as expressed to Timothy and Titus: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:6-8. He refers to Christ's second advent as "that blessed hope," "the glorious appearing." Titus 2:13.

The beloved John closed the sacred word with an expression of the same hope. He cried out, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Revelation 22:20.

The second advent of Christ has been the hope of God's people through the ages. It has withstood all the criticism and ridicule of the skeptics. It abides today in millions of hearts the world around. It is indeed, as Paul said, a "blessed hope."

Jesus is coming again, and may each of us with firm faith look forward to that "glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." May we be numbered among that glorious throng who shall cry out with unspeakable joy, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Isaiah 25:9.

God's New World

(Continued from page 7)

The trouble with most Christians is that they do not go on from victory to victory. Looking back to their conversion they remain stable in their experience, thinking that conversion is enough. Rather than search for new light, they are satisfied with the dim light that is theirs. The Bible is a mine of truth, and the Christian should be searching it for precious treasure.

God will never accept a profession of faith in the place of obedience to His will. To Saul He declared, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." 1 Samuel 15:22. A continual experience of obedience to the will of God as it is revealed is the very essence of the Christian life.

The little flock to whom Christ referred will be having such an experience. That more do not follow in the way of Christ, or that so many fall by the way, is because of the obligations of the Christian life. If Christian experience required no giving up, no sacrifice, no high standards of purity and faith, no discipline, how much different would the Christian be from the man or woman of the world? To every promise there is a condition. The kingdom of God is not without its laws and regulations. Only those who conform to the will of God may have an entrance into that kingdom. That is why Christ declared, "Many are called, but few are chosen." There are but few who are willing to follow the Lord to the end of the road.

The last book of the Bible, which portrays the last events of human history, gives us a picture of a people who shall endure unto the end and have a part in the kingdom of God that shall be set up after Christ has come the second time and the earth has been cleansed of sin and sinners.

Let us note the characteristics of this people as they are given in the book of Revelation:

1. *They are overcomers.* All the promises to the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 are offers to overcomers. This refers to the overcoming of every known sin, including such temptations as re-

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ferred to by John when he wrote of "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." 1 John 2:16. Not by their own power do they overcome, but "by the blood of the Lamb." Revelation 12:11.

2. *They are the remnant.* The climax of the book of Revelation centers in the triumph of the remnant people. They are living in the very last days. They are "the remnant of her seed" (referring to the church) with whom the dragon is wroth. Verse 17. They are on the earth when Christ comes again. After John had seen this people in vision, whom he called "the saints," he says, "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud One sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle." Revelation 14:12, 14.

3. *They are without fault.* John sees this people standing before the throne of God after they have been redeemed from the earth, and he says, "In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." Verse 5.

4. *They are commandment keepers.* Rejoicing in the deliverance from sin which the gospel of Christ has brought them, they walk in all the way of God's commandments. The dragon is stirred up against them because they "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17. They are designated as saints who "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12.

The Ten Commandments comprise the standard by which all who seek an entrance into the kingdom of God will be judged. Thus we are admonished: "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." James 2:12.

It is well for us to consider the world of tomorrow, and seek to learn what it will be like. The most important thing, however, is to be sure that we are prepared to have a part in it. An inheritance in that new world will be worth far more

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of joy, or wealth, or glory, than this present world can give, for in veriest truth it will be a world without want or fear, a world of peace and security for evermore. God grant, dear reader, that you may be willing to make the necessary spiritual preparation that will fit you for a place in that new world which is soon to come.

The Flight of Time

(Continued from page 8)

water, the noise and confusion continued. The one conducting the baptism asked the woman whether she preferred to wait until some other time to be baptized; but she, speaking for the others as well as for herself, replied, 'If we now turn back, the people will surely think that we were afraid and were cowards. Jesus died for us. We are ready to die for Him if necessary.' So the service continued.

"When the mob of enraged women saw that the candidates would not be deterred, a signal was given to a group of men who were standing on a high cliff immediately at the side of the place where the baptism was being held. The cliff rose almost perpendicularly from the river and was well over a hundred feet in height. These men on the cliff had gathered large stones in abundance, and as the signal was given by the women, they began rolling the stones over the edge of the cliff.

"Our missionary stated that the stones fell like hail all about the little company down in the river. They could feel the swish of the air as the stones came close to them. Yet that group of believers, and the new converts being baptized, never quailed, but calmly and steadfastly and confidently went through with the ceremony. If one of those large stones had struck anyone, it would have crushed him into the bottom of the river; but not one was struck by a single stone.

"After the ceremony was over, the enraged crowd was greatly sobered, and on every side was heard the statement: 'What a miraculous thing that those Adventists were not struck by those stones!'"

It may be hard for some to believe that such incidents as this could occur in 1943 within three hours' flying time of Florida. Yet they are happening, and they should be not only obnoxious to us but intolerable. After all, it would be folly to go to war against one tyranny in Europe and then permit another to exist upon our very doorstep.

Surely the first requirement that should be made of those who would throw in their lot with the United Nations is not that they lend their ships and their gold, but that they accept and practice the basic principles for which we contend.

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Religious Freedom

WHAT IT MEANS

by WILLIAM C. KERNAN

THE four freedoms must be more than slogans if they are to be secure among men. We must know specifically what they mean, and we must do, practically, what they require. Tyranny itself can wear the guise of freedom.

Freedom of religion can be secured only if men are clear about the practical requirements for making that freedom a fact. The Federal Council of Churches took a vital step in this direction when it issued a statement listing eight specific rights which must be guarded for the sake of religious freedom. The council asserts, for example, that religious freedom includes the right "to believe as reason and conscience dictate, to express religious belief in speech," and the right to express religious belief for the purpose of persuading, convincing, and converting others.

The council's list implies, but does not expressly state, one right essential for religious freedom which we believe should be emphasized. This is the right to speak against religion and against any form of it. To some this may appear obvious, to others shocking, but it is of first importance.

For the sake of religion itself, free criticism of religion is essential. Consider how many of the true religious prophets of mankind have appeared as critics of established forms of religion and have been condemned as blasphemers and heretics. From Amos to Jeremiah, the Old Testament prophets were critics of the religious beliefs and practices of their times. The Pilgrims came to America in order to free themselves from a religious institution which they believed prevented them from worshiping God according to their own consciences.

Both society and the church then have a stake in preserving the freedom of the dissenter to dissent. He may have valuable truth to give, and freedom of religion means that men shall be left free to speak the truth as they see it.

Of course, democratic society must protect itself from indecent and insincere abuses of the privilege of freedom of speech. It must protect itself from organized powers which would overthrow all freedom. It is not difficult, however, to distinguish the



Freedom of religion is a precious heritage—one we must be alert to guard and preserve.

enemies of democracy from the sincere and responsible critics of existing society.

We must be alert to guard against the denial of real freedom which may come under the attractive guise of seeking to preserve religion by silencing all its opponents. It may take the form of alliances between state and church, or the form of forcing religious teaching in the public schools upon some who may not desire it, or the form of a censorship which seeks to silence the critics of religion. Such practices deny religious freedom itself. If our religious beliefs are true, we have nothing to fear in a free discussion.