

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

FOUNDED 1874

THE WORLD'S PROPHETIC WEEKLY



Season's Greetings

"Unto us a child is
born. . . . His name
shall be called . . .
The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6.

ROBERTS

The Flight of Time

A Survey of World Events
by the Editor



"WE HAVE lived and we are living in a rotten world," said Sumner Welles in a recent national broadcast. "We now are paying the penalty for the lack of courage and of intelligence of which we and all other nations have been guilty."

Few men are better qualified to pass judgment on the present status of world affairs than the ex-Undersecretary of State whose long experience in this capacity afforded him unique opportunity to view the international scene in the most intimate way. Consequently when he says that the world is "rotten," the statement carries a weight of meaning far beyond its usual significance.

Uppermost in his mind at the moment, of course, was the rottenness of the world political situation. On this point he went so far as to say that unless America takes the lead in organizing a "free world under law" the prospect for the next ten years will be "either widespread, sporadic, and interminable chaos and anarchy, or a precarious and temporary system of balance of power, with resultant

armament expansion, and a policy of rank imperialism, on the part of all major powers, including the United States, which will pave the way, as surely as night follows day, for new and still more devastating wars."

However, it is not only in the realm of international affairs that rottenness is discernible. Mr. Welles might have pointed to a similar condition in many other phases of life today. How often do we hear the word "rotten" applied to politics, to the liquor traffic, the motion-picture industry, the divorce evil, the morals of youth, and other evidences of a decaying social order!

"Mr. Welles is right," commented Dr. Morrison of *The Christian Century*. "This is a rotten world. It has been grow-

ing more and more rotten for a long time now. After the war, if we try to continue to live in it, we will find that it will become more rotten still, until the stench of its putrefaction overwhelms civilization."

These are strong words, but by no means exaggerated. They are strangely reminiscent of the charge made by the prophet Isaiah against Israel of old: "The whole head is sick and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." Isaiah 1:5, 6.

What a picture is this of our world today! A world wounded times without number and dying of its untended sores! A world decaying, disintegrating even as it dies!

Is there a remedy? The Lord offered it to Israel: "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land; but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Verses 16-20.

SIGNS of the TIMES



U. S. NAVY, INTERNATIONAL
Fighter planes with folded wings aboard one of the great new aircraft carriers of the U. S. Navy. By the end of 1943 the Navy will have twice as many carriers as in 1941, and 18,000 planes instead of 1,800.

A new day comes to Italy with civilians making a bonfire of Fascist literature as soon as their freedom was restored by the armies of the United Nations.



These are the alternatives—and they are as applicable to the modern world as to God's ancient people. Either men must turn back to God and permit Him to cleanse their lives of evil or they will be "devoured with the sword."

The world will not be saved by a new international alliance, as Mr. Welles suggests, or by a cessation of "power politics" as Dr. Morrison advocates. "Salvation is of the Lord" and we must seek it where He placed it. We must take His word and His way—or take the consequences.

And let us remember that God will not tolerate a rotten world forever. He tolerated the antediluvians until they went beyond all bounds, "and God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. . . . And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth." Genesis 6:5-7.

Today a similar catastrophe approaches, for which man, in his rebellion against God, will be alone responsible. As the apostle Peter wrote: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:9, 10.

The choice is ours. The alternatives are clear. We may accept divine deliverance as God has promised and provided, or perish in the ultimate destruction of this rotten world. In the final analysis it is a very personal question. What will your answer be?



BEYOND THE DESERT

TYPICAL of many recent utterances concerning the present tragic world situation is this dramatic word picture drawn by Arthur Koestler in the *New York Times*: "The next decades will be a time of distress and of gnashing of teeth. We shall live in the hollow of the historical wave . . . [but] the day is not far when the present interregnum will end and a new horizontal ferment will arise. . . . It will probably mark the end of our historical era, the period which began with Galileo, Newton, and Columbus. . . . As the frequency of the convulsions increases, the amplitude of their violence grows; the point of exhaustion has come within almost measurable range."

for DECEMBER 21, 1943



OUR COVER

Winter has come again. Much of the war-torn earth is blanketed with snow. Millions are celebrating Christmas, the annual festival of peace, an evidence of the yearning for peace and good will which burns forever in the human heart. It reveals the hidden hope that the Child of Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, shall one day fulfill His promise to return and bring earth's sorrows to an end. Then shall the long winter of sin and suffering give place to heaven's eternal spring.



His remedy for these fearful conditions is to "plant oases" of religion and education in the midst of the desert of this new dark age, and no doubt men of good will will strive to follow it. But will such oases be enough? Dare we trust our hopes to them? We prefer to hold fast to the promises of Christ that deliverance will come down from God, not from men. "When these things begin to come to pass," He said, "look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

When we enter the last awful desert of history, when distress and perplexity are on every hand, when men's hearts are "failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth"—we are to know that the day of divine intervention is near, that it is indeed "within almost measurable range." "Then," said the Lord, "shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Verses 26, 27.

As the Russians recapture their lost cities and villages, civilians who have taken refuge in cellars and dugouts return to what is left of their homes.

INTERNATIONAL



WHY DICTATORS FALL

IN HIS famous novel *Les Misérables*, Victor Hugo comments on the battle of Waterloo in these forceful terms: "Was it possible that Napoleon should win this battle? We answer No. Why? Because of Wellington? Because of Blücher? No. Because of God. . . . Napoleon had been impeached before the Infinite, and his fall was decreed. He vexed God."

Today, it would seem, another Waterloo is approaching. Just when or how it will be fought is not for us to suggest, but its imminence is sensed by all who are watching carefully the course of events.

All down the ages dictators have come to their doom with a regularity and a certainty which, one would think, would discourage others from seeking such transient glory. Each one of these proud, domineering, ruthless men, sooner or later "met his Waterloo." And why? Because, as in Victor Hugo's picturesque phrase, they "vexed God." They got in God's way. They tried to set aside God's laws, God's plans, God's prophecies, God's eternal purpose.

Today history is repeating itself. One more dictator is on the way out. One more Waterloo is about to be added to the role of history's battles.

Once again new luster is added to the ancient counsel: "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom is no help. . . . Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God." Psalm 146:3-5.

THE SOURCE OF *Peace*

Can It Be Found?

SANFORD T. WHITMAN

IT HAS come to pass that peace is one of the great paradoxes of this our day. The universal cry is for peace. Virtually everyone wants it, yet comparatively few possess it in their lives. In every land men seek after it, yet seemingly it is nowhere to be found. Never was there greater need of it, yet never has it been so far away.

Statesmen grow weary struggling to resuscitate it. Rich men would pay millions for it. And all men, high and low, seek after it with earnest striving and longing. All this is by a race of men who may know the way of peace, who may possess peace in its perfect form without payment.

What is peace? The definition reads: a state of rest; calm; freedom from war or disturbance.

Who does not want it? Who among the nations? Who among communities? Who among families? Who among individuals? Nevertheless, peace is one of the scarcest things on earth.

How can this be? With such universal desire, with such latent abundance, why is there such pitiable want? Phrase the answer as you will, the fact remains that it is because man has refused to follow the road map of divine guidance in this matter. Man has ignored the source of peace. Man has wandered from the way of peace. And today he is toiling through a barren wilderness, seeking the waters of peace at strange fountains, questing them along paths that lead nowhere.

Such conduct is needless and inexcusable. Man may know the source of



GRAMSTORFF

peace. He may know the way of peace. Peace may be his to possess in all its satisfying and beneficent fullness.

For peace is not an ephemeral thing. Its source is fixed. Its flow is constant.

Let us locate its course and post it that all men may know and find it. It is this simple, this near, this abundant: The source of peace is Jesus Christ.

Read the Inspired Word: "His name

shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.

The Prince of Peace. Have we so quickly come upon the source of this seemingly elusive thing? The Prince of Peace. Where else should we expect to find peace?

Peace, then, is of the domain of Christ. He is its Prince. He is its ruler. He is its

possessor. Peace is His to give and His to withhold.

Is He who is the Master of peace a selfish ruler? Is this the cause of its scarcity among men? Notice the beautiful words of John:

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27.

The depth and the love of the words! "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you."

Try for a moment to grasp the significance of this statement. "My peace,"—it is the Prince of Peace speaking,—"My peace I give unto you."

From the moment of His birth every force and weapon and artifice of evil had been directed full upon the person of Christ. Each day in its passing saw the tempest increase, each night found the two great forces locked in ever-closer grips.

Yet through it all His peace—the peace of Christ—had triumphed, unmoved by tempest, undaunted by threat. And then, in a moment of quiet before the final conflict, Christ bequeathed His all-triumphant, all-sustaining peace to His disciples, and through them to all who should ever believe on His name.

Was it the peace of sinful man that He gave? The peace of worldly philosophers? The peace of treaties between the nations? Indeed, no! "My peace I give unto you." What a heritage is ours in this gift, in this peace that sustained its bearer and Prince all along the rough and stony path to Calvary's hill!

Why is it that men find their days so empty of this precious boon? Why is it that with the source of peace so plainly marked and the full abundance of it so graciously bequeathed to them, men still live in such want of it?

Here is the solution of the enigma. Here is the tragedy of our modern world. Men do not find peace because they will not go for it to the fountain of peace. They do not have peace because they will not walk in the ways of peace.

By their actions and their attitudes, all too many proclaim: "Away with Him, away with Him." John 19:15. Their proud hearts do not want the humility of the lowly Christ. Their vain natures do not de-

sire the meekness of the great Sin Bearer. Unwilling to surrender to Christ, they go off on the long, vain search for peace at another fountain.

Can such a quest ever be successful? No, it cannot. Men will not find peace in military armament, because Christ is not there. They will not find peace in war and intrigue, because Christ is not there. They will not find peace in some new and as yet unachieved coalition of nations, because Christ is not there.

As individuals, they will not find peace in the possession of money or material wealth, because Christ is not in these. They will not find it in social position or in the possession of political power or intellectual attainments, because Christ is in none of these.

The one place where Christ can be found, and the one place where peace can be found, is in obedience to the divine law. Peace in Christ, trouble and distress outside of Christ. Peace in obedience to the law of Christ, trouble in disobedience. The whole question is as simple, as clear, as free of ambiguity as this.

As a river has a source, so has peace a

source. And as a river has a channel, so has peace. The source of peace is Jesus Christ. The channel of peace is obedience to the law of Christ. Peace will never be found outside of Christ, and Christ will never be found outside of obedience. It is a fact as certain as sunrise, as eternal as time.

Declares the psalmist: "Great peace have they which love Thy law." Psalm 119:165. And this further testimony is added by Isaiah: "O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Isaiah 48:18.

To all men today the hands of the Infinite God are outstretched. From His lips there falls the gracious invitation: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:29.

With every humble child who brings his need to Him, He is anxious to make the following covenant:

"This is as the waters of Noah unto Me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee." Isaiah 54:9, 10.

In the days of the first world war multitudes were thrilled by the slogan: "To make the world safe for democracy." Today other multitudes are giving fervent support to another war effort, this time marching under another slogan: "To preserve our way of life."

Both of these slogans stand for noble, worthy ideals. It would have been splendid if the world had been made safe for democracy, even at the cost of blood and loss paid in the first great conflict. However, we cannot deny that in so far as the slogan was concerned, the first world war was lost.

History teaches well the fact that peace which fruits from war is never a perfect or lasting thing. Too often it is the peace of exhaustion, its duration determined alone by the degree of exhaustion suffered by the losing side.

However he may wish it so, man has not in himself the qualities that make for true

God Bless Our Men

*God bless our men in air, on land, and sea!
Full well we know how dear they are to Thee.
Where'er they go, whatever they may dare,
God ever keep them in Thy gracious care.*

*God guard our men by night as well as day,
For we, at home for them will ever pray
That war and strife and enmity may cease,
And Thou wilt send us everlasting peace.*

*God guard our men. Oh, keep them ever near!
Make strong their faith and drive out all their fear;
Give them a vision of Thy saving love,
That nothing in this world can ever move.*

*God guard our men, and though just now they roam,
Grant us our prayers and bring them safely home.
God bless our foes and cause all eyes to see,
That peace, O Christ, can only come from Thee.*

—E. SPARROW,
Cardiff, England.



LAMBERT



SINCE the Bible is God's Book and contains His revelation of the origin of the earth and of man as well as of all creation, we naturally would suppose that He, the Creator of the universe, would not therein contradict, but affirm, the laws of nature and of science.

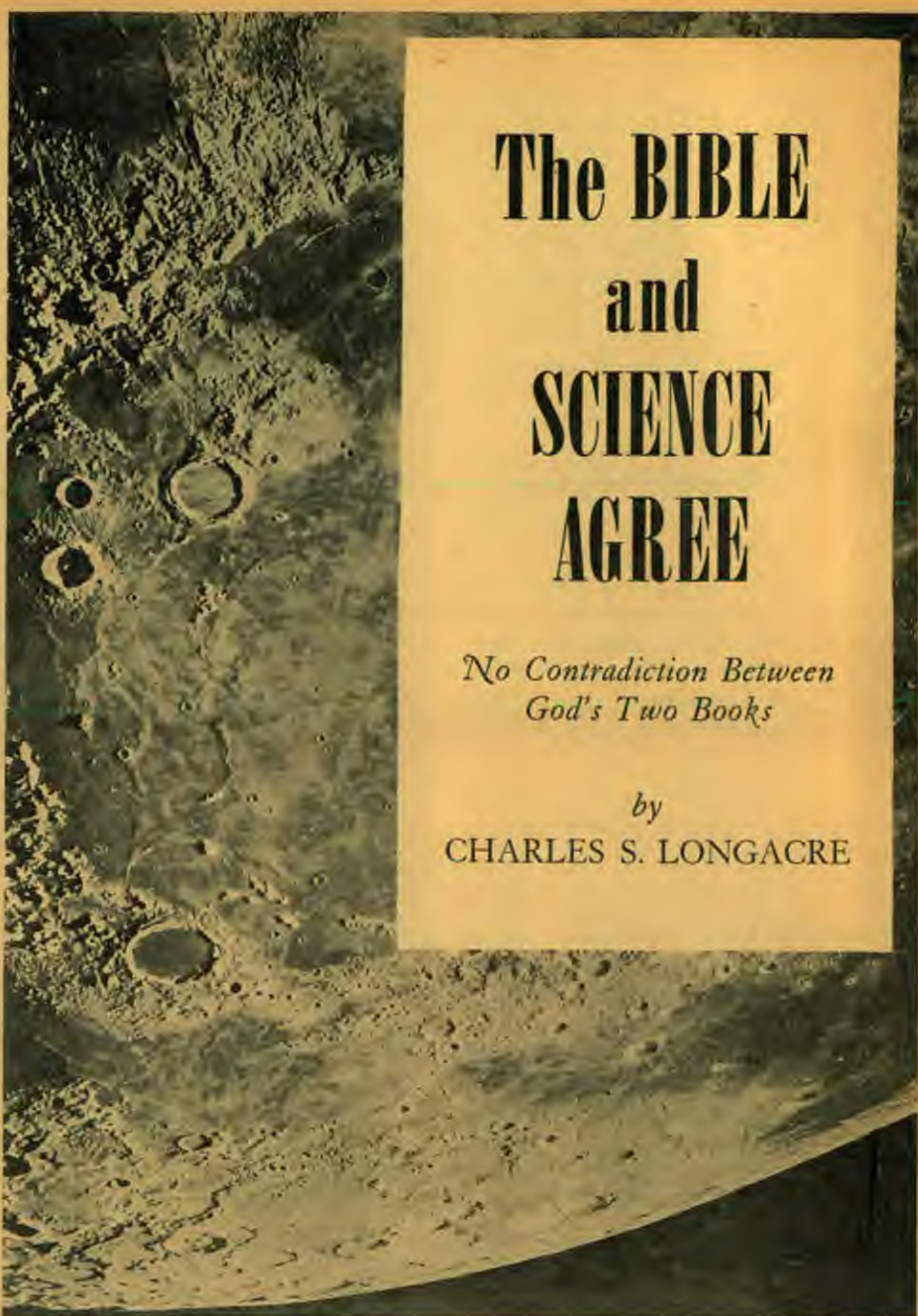
Many volumes have been written by so-called scientists who have attempted to prove that the Bible and science are in open conflict, but such authors fail to make a distinction between the true facts of science and what are called scientific theories and hypotheses. The inspired writers of the Bible did not fail to make the distinction between true science and so-called science, which is nothing but human speculation. The apostle Paul, instructing his youthful disciple, Timothy, said:

"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: which some professing have erred concerning the faith." 1 Timothy 6:20, 21.

It has been said that in a large Paris library there are three and a half miles of bookshelves containing nothing but scientific volumes which have been discarded as obsolete and untrue to fact. As early as 1861, the French Academy of Science published a list of fifty-one so-called "scientific facts" advanced by scientists in their day as true science, every one of which is now rejected by modern scientists. When these theories were first published as true science, the persons who rejected them were no doubt called bigots and narrowed-minded ignoramuses.

We should be slow in accepting man's scientific theories, because man's theories are changing continuously and often have no basis in fact, but are merely speculation. True science is descriptive and not theoretical. It can be demonstrated before our eyes or worked out in the laboratory and proved beyond a doubt. Unless it is supported by such proof, we ought to wait until a hypothesis has been proved true before we accept it.

Science is the study of the operation of the laws of nature, which are the laws of God. God reveals Himself both in His Book of divine revelation and in works of creation as found in the book of na-



WIDE WORLD

The BIBLE and SCIENCE AGREE

*No Contradiction Between
God's Two Books*

by

CHARLES S. LONGACRE

ture. There is no contradiction between these divine books—the Bible and true science. God does not contradict Himself. He is a "God of order and not of confusion." God teaches the same truth in both His books.

But a scientist will often contradict the scientific theory that another has propounded. The men of science today will not accept the scientific theories of the men who wrote even fifty years ago.

God never changes, and since the Bible came from God, it needs no revision. True science and the Bible are in complete agreement. Our difficulty as finite beings is that we but faintly comprehend them. We have a whole eternity before us to learn their wonders and their secrets, and during all eternity we shall never be able to discover a contradiction. As Sir Isaac Newton and John Kepler said, the more we delve into science and the Bible, the more we shall find that we are but thinking God's thoughts after

Him who is the author of both the Book of Revelation and the book of nature.

The Bible stated scientific facts long before scientists discovered them. For many centuries so-called scientists taught that the earth was flat, that it did not move, and that the sun moved around the earth every twenty-four hours. These "scientists" also taught that the earth rested upon some kind of solid foundation that was fixed and immovable. But the prophet Isaiah, some seven hundred fifty years before Christ, stated through inspiration: "It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth." Isaiah 40:22. Moffatt's translation of Isaiah 40:21, 22 reads as follows: "Were you not told this from the first, have you not grasped this, since the world began?—that He [God] sits over the round earth." Smith and Goodspeed translate these verses as follows: "Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the foundation of the earth? It is He

[God] who sits enthroned above the circle of the earth."

This scientific accuracy is one of the evidences that the Bible is inspired of God and that the prophets did not write their own opinions when they wrote the Scriptures.

Job, the great patriarch who lived in the land of Uz, said: "He [God] stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Job 26:7.

How did Job know there was an empty place in the heavens? The astronomers never discovered this "empty place" until the large telescopes were invented within the time of our own generation. But God revealed it to Job.

The Lord put Job through a quiz as recorded in the thirty-eighth chapter of Job, and asked him forty scientific questions. Job was unable to answer a single one of those questions.

Several years ago these same scientific questions were put to a large group of distinguished scientists, and the keenest among them was able to answer only three. The God of the Bible gave the world scientific data so contrary to general beliefs and opinions that it took four thousand years for the truth of the things God stated to Job to be discovered.

At one time men believed that this earth was the center of the universe, that there were only about two thousand stars in the sky, and that the earth was the

largest of all created bodies. But when God revealed to Job some four thousand years ago that He hung the earth in space upon nothing, He also told Job that "His Spirit" had "garnished the heavens; His hand hath formed the crooked serpent. Lo, these are parts of His ways." Job 26:13, 14.

In other words, when we look into the heavens and behold the stars, we simply see "parts of His ways." When God revealed the littleness of this earth to the prophet Isaiah as compared with the rest of the planets and suns in the universe, He said: "Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance. . . . All na-

(Continued on page 14)

THE world is looking for a mighty leader who will solve its problems, heal its maladies, and lead mankind out of this wilderness of strife, distress, uncertainty, and hatred into a state of abiding peace, security, and prosperity.

God has made provision for this unprecedented hour of the world's needs. He has One who can set the world right, so that it will stay right. He has another Moses to send to this world.

The great lawgiver, Moses, predicted: "A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you." Acts 3:22. This promised leader is Jesus Christ. He is heaven's appointed leader and commander for the people. Isaiah 55:4.

Nineteen hundred years ago the Father sent His blessed Son to this world to live among men, to show them how to live, and then to die upon the cross to save them. We are now nearing the close of the Christian age, when the Father will send His Son back to earth the second time, to restore man to his primeval purity and perfection, and to bring the earth back to its original splendor.

Just before He left this world, Jesus declared that He would return to gather into a place of eternal happiness those who accepted Him. He said: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3.

Alexander, Julius Caesar, and Napoleon were great leaders in their day, but when the time came for them to depart, not one of them ever said, "I will come again." There was only one man who ever trod this earth who was great enough to say, "I will come again." And this Man is the Man of Destiny for this hour.

The Bible prophecies of His coming



THE COMING Man of Destiny

*Who Is He?
When Will He Appear?*

by
JOHN L. SHULER

furnish an answer to the almost universal cry that is being wrung from anxious hearts everywhere: How soon will the new day of better things come to the earth?

As the headlights on the automobile enable the motorist at night to see through the darkness and have a clear view of the road ahead, so the sure word of prophecy, as a light shining in a dark place, illuminates the path ahead, and enables us to know whither we are going.

"We have also a more sure word of

prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the daystar arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19.

The prophecies of the Bible contain light for this dark hour. They give us an understanding of the times, and show us what we ought to do. No one can really understand the baffling, bewildering, complex conditions of the times, and know how rightly to relate himself to this situation, except through a knowledge of the Bible prophecies that pertain to our day.

The God of heaven, knowing the end from the beginning, has in Holy Writ pointed out the conditions that would prevail in the earth in the last days. Jesus said: "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

No heart need sink in discouragement over the dangerous situation which now exists. There is no occasion for anyone to become despondent and pessimistic over the outcome. In the light of the sure word of prophecy, these very conditions which we see around us are the omens of a brighter day, and of a really perfect world soon to be ushered in.

The long, dark night of suffering and sin, of woe and injustice, of inequalities and violence, is soon to pass away forever, not by the process of evolution, not by the conversion of the entire race, not by the Christianization of politics, but by the glorious coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven. Even now we see the gleams of that golden morning. Earth's night of woe is almost spent. The day is at hand, the day in which there shall be neither pain nor grief, when none shall grow old, when the buoyancy and bloom of youth shall continue forever, when all shall rejoice forever with joy unspeakable.



CHRIST AND

Dis

MILLIONS are in need of physical health and healing. There is probably no more disappointing experience in this world than to place your trust in some man, or medicine, or course of treatment, and find that the person or thing you have trusted has failed.

There are thousands who have trusted in human power and believed that there would be recovery in the agency selected, only to find that when they came to a certain place there was no more help. This is one of life's greatest disappointments.

As we study the life of Jesus we find that He looked upon the sick and suffering with compassion and sympathy. He was the Great Physician.

"And it came to pass on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them." Luke 5:17.

This scripture reveals that there was a special time when the Spirit of God was present to heal. There are certain times and places where God's mercy is especially extended in this way.

In this same chapter is the story of a man who had great faith in Christ—faith that Christ could do for him what he needed to have done. His four friends were not able to bring him into the presence of Jesus because of the crowd; therefore they went up to the top of the house and let the man down through the roof. They lowered him, bed and all, down before Jesus.

Medical science has accomplished many wonderful things. Self-sacrificing men have done great service to humanity, and every sensible person is deeply thankful for the blessings they have brought to the world; but there comes a time when the medical profession is unable to accomplish that which the physician himself desires. Then it is the privilege of every soul to reach out in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ. This man had faith in Christ. And not only did he have faith, but his four friends had faith, also. And when this poor, helpless man looked

up with those pleading eyes into the face of Jesus, the Saviour looked at him and spoke these few words: "Man, thy sins are forgiven thee." Verse 20.

Immediately the scribes and Pharisees, who were prejudiced against Christ found fault with Him and said, "Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?"

Jesus had read the heart of the poor sufferer and knew that the burden of sin and a guilty conscience had done more to bring on his physical illness than anything else, and his first act was to assure him that his sins were forgiven. Then Jesus turned to his critics and said, "What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?" And then He turned to the sufferer on his bed and commanded: "I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house." Verses 22-24.

The man arose, picked up his cot, and started for his own home, completely healed and glorifying God as he went. This man's extremity was God's opportunity. The word of Christ had creative power.

On another occasion, as Jesus enters the city of Capernaum, see who is coming—a man in military uniform, one of the officers of the Roman army, a centurion who commands a hundred soldiers. This man's servant, whom he dearly loves, is sick and ready to die. The centurion is a pagan, a man of the world, and yet he comes to Jesus, the Carpenter of Nazareth, for help. The report of His wonderful work had spread everywhere.

While the rulers and leaders of Christ's own nation would not accept Him, here is an official of a foreign government—a government which is antagonistic to the name and authority of the true God—coming to Christ for help in his time of need. This man had learned something of the true God and had shown kindness to the Jewish people, having built them a synagogue, and shown evidences of his kindly heart, so that the leaders and elders of the Jews came to Christ and begged Him to come and heal the servant of the centurion. Here we have the people inside the church asking Christ to heal someone outside the church. When Jesus did not move immediately, they began to urge Him to respond to this

appeal for help. They said, Help this man because he helped us.

As Jesus drew near to the house, the centurion sent his servants to Christ with the message: "Say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. For I also am a



ine Healing

A Comforting Message for the Sick and Afflicted

Broadcast Over the Mutual System by the

VOICE OF PROPHECY



man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it." Luke 7:7, 8.

The authority which the centurion exercised came from Rome. His military orders were to be obeyed, and he obeyed them. He recognized that Christ was the agent and representative of heaven, and that His word was with the authority and power of God; and was to be obeyed. When Jesus heard the centurion's words, He turned to those about Him and said: "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel"—in other words: I have never seen such great faith in the church as I have seen outside it. At that very hour the centurion's servant was healed. The faith of this Roman officer was honored by the Saviour.

Friend, there is power in God; power which comes down from heaven to earth; power that can reach out and heal a poor, sick man, who had probably never seen Christ. But the real questions are these: Is there faith in our hearts? Do we trust Him? Do we believe? May God help us to exercise faith in Him and His word.

Wherever there is a sorrowing heart today, or anyone who feels that there is no help on earth, Jesus will come and put His hand of mercy within reach of every brokenhearted soul. Do not despair, my friend, for Jesus knows and He cares.

In John 4 there is a story of the nobleman's son. It seemed that he must have help, or he would perish. You can be sure that this wealthy man had done everything possible to save the life of his son. He had neglected nothing; but the boy was beyond human help. The nobleman came to Christ and begged Him to come down and heal his son who was at the point of death. "Then said Jesus unto him: Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe." There are a great many persons today who demand miracles and signs before they will believe, but notice the words of the nobleman: "Sir, come down ere my child die."

He was concerned for his child. He loved him. And Jesus said: "Go thy way; thy son liveth." And the man believed and went his way. Because of his faith his son was restored.

In Matthew 9:18-22, we read of the Master's visit to a home where a little girl was dead. As He moved along the streets to bring restoration, another group met Him. Let us read this story in the words of the Scripture:

"While He spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshiped Him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay Thy hand upon her, and she shall live. And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did His disciples. And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind Him, and touched the hem of His garment: for she said within herself, If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned Him about, and when He saw her, He said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour."

For twelve years this poor woman had been sick. For twelve years she had suffered and had been losing her strength. Both Mark and Luke tell us that she had spent everything she had on the specialists of that day. Operations and medicine which had saved the lives of thousands would not help her. She spent all she had on physicians, but steadily grew worse.

Right here let me say a word about doctors. Thank God for faithful and self-sacrificing physicians and nurses who minister to the needs of their fellow men, and who stand by us in our hours of need and pain. All honor to them! I have known both doctors and nurses who literally gave their lives for others in service night and day. They often receive little of this world's wealth in return, but they are rich in the love and gratitude of those whose lives they have saved or made easier. The least we can do is to recognize our debt to those who spend their energies and lives unselfishly for others.

But in the case of this woman, the physicians had gone as far as medical science in those days could go. She faced death, and there was not one more ray of hope for her in this world. She was utterly discouraged. Yet, the people had told her about the mighty power of Christ. She would endeavor to make one more attempt for life.

Her friends help her, they try to get close to Jesus; but the crowd is so tight around Him that she finds it hard. She gives up trying to speak to Him, and reaches out to touch Him. "If I may but touch His garment." She went as far as she could in that throng and crowd, far enough so that the ends of her fingers

touched Jesus' garment. Her faith was rewarded. The power of God instantly came upon her, and she was healed. Jesus stopped and said: "Who touched Me?" The disciples were surprised. What a strange question to ask in this great crowd when people were pressing on every side! Peter said: "Master, the multitude throng Thee and press Thee, and sayest Thou, Who touched Me?"

"And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched Me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of Me."

Then the woman came trembling, and fell down before Him. She told Him before all the people why she had touched Him, and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her: "Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace." Multitudes pressed about Christ, but she alone came with complete faith in Him. It was an act of faith.

Just one touch as He moves along,
Pushed and pressed by the jostling throng,
Just one touch and the weak was strong,
Cured by the Healer divine.

—Birdie Bell.

Yes, my friends, here is the secret: "Thy faith hath made thee whole." In your hour of need have faith in God. When the time comes that the physician shakes his head and says, It is too late, I can do nothing for you, may God help us to find the way to the power that can bring us help. This woman's faith

reached out and took hold of the power of God.

You ask, Why do we not see more power today? Has the power of Jesus Christ faded out and weakened? Has it ceased? No, indeed, it has not! One great difficulty is that today *man's faith is weakened*. God's power has not faded; man's faith has faded.

Along with this loss of true faith comes a manifestation of counterfeit power to heal. One of the greatest deceptions of the last days is the counterfeit power of healing. But this is the power of Satan. Satan has set himself up as a great world healer, and has attempted to counterfeit the work and power of Christ. Let me prove to you from the Scripture that Satan has power to heal in some instances. He is one of the greatest healing practitioners the world has ever known. There are quacks in every profession, and Satan is the greatest of quacks.

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders." 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

According to this prophecy, in the latter days Satan will have power to perform signs and lying wonders. Mighty power will be evidenced. Miracles will be wrought. In Revelation 16:14 we read:

"For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world."

Notice, these unclean spirits work miracles. The devil has power to perform certain miracles. He was the covering cherub next to the throne of God in heaven, and was cast out into the earth. The glorious angel of heaven above became Satan, the great opposer of God on earth. He can do almost anything, except raise the dead. He *cannot* give back life. Where his own power oppresses the sick, he can remove the oppression; but he cannot produce life.

All sorts of false healings and spurious miracle-working powers are increasing in the world. This is not divine healing at all. This deceptive healing of which we speak is really satanic healing, and Christians need to be warned against it. There is true healing, and there is false healing—one comes from God, the other from Satan. Divine healing always works in harmony with nature and nature's God, and is not averse or opposed to true science, healthful living, proper laws of diet, and mind culture.

Let me read you an announcement that God has put in the Bible for the afflicted today:

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:14-16.

Here is God's definite arrangement which He prescribes for His faithful children when human science fails. God collaborates with true medical science. His power, which works through nature, and also directly upon the human heart and body, co-operates with us when we co-operate with Him. If my arm is broken, I go to a good physician and he sets the bone. This is co-operating with God and with nature, which reveals the power of God. We are not to go to God and ask Him to do things which we ourselves can do. It would be foolish for us to ask God to set the bone, as long as we have access to men who can do that part of the work. When Jesus came to the tomb of Lazarus, He said to those who stood by, "Take ye away the stone," and then He cried out, "Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth." See John 11:39-44.

Christ instructed the friends of Lazarus to do all they could do. They could roll away the stone, but they could not raise Lazarus from the dead. The same power of Christ that raised Lazarus from the dead could have rolled away the stone as well, but God's plan is that

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Spiritual Weights and Measures

Morning Manna

by ADLAI A. ESTEB

"THOU shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have." Deuteronomy 25:15.

We are constantly making decisions based upon our measurement of men and things. God enjoins us to have a perfect weight and a just measure: for "a false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is His delight." Proverbs 11:1. Remember that "the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by His actions are weighed." 1 Samuel 2:3. By us also actions are weighed. We are often weighing the motives of men. We say we are "taking their measure." Right here we need to see if our spiritual weights and measures are correct, for "with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matthew 7:2. How often our scales need repair and our balances need adjusting!

Weighing our own trials and temptations has always been one of the most difficult things for us to do. Did not even Job fail here. Hear him: "Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together! For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea." Job

6:2, 3. Job laid his troubles on one side of the balance and the sand of the sea on the other, and said his griefs were heavier than the sand. No doubt they seemed so; but Job should not have looked to earth at all, but to heaven. Did he not receive a double portion of blessing after passing through the crucible of affliction?

The spiritual blessings of God will always weigh infinitely more than the trials we bear. We must always place God's promises over and against our troubles. See how this worked out with the apostle Paul, who contrasted heaven and its glory with earth and its trials, and said:

"We faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our *light affliction*, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and *eternal weight* of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen." 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

Let us measure time with eternity, and earth with heaven, using spiritual weights and measures perfectly adjusted by the Spirit of God.

What Is Your Life?

by

JULIUS L. TUCKER



ALL life is from God. Every moment of man's existence he is dependent upon God. How strange it must seem to the Creator and Sustainer of life to have the creatures who move and live only by His power, ignore the Author of their existence and accept life as something inherent in themselves. God challenges this attitude of man toward his existence by the question, What is your life?

God made man in His own image, yet only by the continued mercy of God do "we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:28. Immortality is not an attribute of humanity, for man's every moment of life is a gracious gift of the Creator. The frailty of human existence, man's absolute dependence on God for each day's subsistence, is plainly and repeatedly taught in the Scriptures.

Compared to God's life, man's life is but as "a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14. The psalmist wrote: "They were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again." Psalm 78:39. Again, he said that men are "as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourish-

eth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth." Psalm 90:5, 6. The patriarch Job said of man: "He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." Job 14:2. Isaiah gives this testimony: "All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: . . . surely the people is grass." Isaiah 40:6, 7.

Our dependence on God for every moment of existence should make us most reverent and careful that the life so graciously preserved should be used in fulfilling the objectives of our Creator.

What do you think of life? What does life mean to you? Though in comparison to the life of God, man's life is "a vapor," "a wind," "a flower," it is a priceless treasure. Our eternal destiny depends on our attitude toward this present life.

God honored man by making him only a little lower than the angels and crowning him with the glory of being in the image of his Maker. Psalm 8. There should be seen in our lives a dignity that becomes kinship with the eternal. Jesus taught and instructed us to call His Father, "Our Father." Matthew 6:9. We need to sing, "I'm a child of the King," and think of the true meaning of the words. Are the things you say and the things you do, worthy of you? Do you think of life only as a time for fun and pleasure; for the indulgence of the physical senses? There was a man in Christ's time who held that measure of life. His philosophy was: "Eat, drink, and be merry," and be at ease. But Jesus said: "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." The measure of life is not the possession of stocks and bonds, of real estate, gold, or jewels; it is measured by peace of mind, fellowship with God, nobility of purpose, and unselfish service to others.

Each one of us needs to think of his life as a channel of blessing to others, to

ask himself: Does my life count for my fellow men? Is the world better for my living? No man lives to himself. We either live to bless or to blast. Dying men have said: Oh, that my influence were gathered up and buried with me! But our influence does not stop with death. It lives on, affecting others for weal or woe.

King Manasseh tried to stop the influence of his wasted years. With wanton abandonment he had plunged into sin. He performed every vile and vicious act the devil had suggested. Each passing year found him deeper in sin.

At last the day of retribution caught up with Manasseh. His nation was invaded, the scepter was taken from his hand, and he was made a captive. In his affliction he remembered his father's God. He sincerely repented of his sins and for the ungodly influences he had set in motion, and by the mercy of God he was put back on the throne. With commendable earnestness and zeal he sought to undo the ruin of his years of sin, but he was helpless before those tides of evil that were the results of his own influence. He realized that it was easier to lead men into sin than to lead them away from it. What anguish must have been his lot as he watched a nation go to ruin because of the influence of his life!

The world is either better or worse because of our life. Jesus said: "He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad." Matthew 12:30. Someone (it may be many) because of your life and example will either hear the warm welcome from their Lord, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom," or those dread words, "Depart from Me, ye cursed." What is your life to others?

One more phase of this question should be pondered. What is our life to God? What returns for all His blessings does our life bring Him? God has invested much in man; He has a right to expect returns from His investment.

"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should

walk in them." Ephesians 2:10. He has planted His image in man. He has a plan and a purpose for every life. One deeply spiritual writer put it this way: "We were brought into existence because we were needed, and it is a sad thought that if we stand on the wrong side in the ranks of the enemy we are lost to the design of our creation. We are disap-

pointing our Redeemer; the powers He designs for His service are used to oppose His grace and matchless love."

No other life can fill God's plan as you can. You are different from all others who have lived before you and who will live after you. It is a true statement, "When God makes a man, He breaks the mold."



The General Found a FRIEND

by MRS. E. E. ANDROSS

IT WAS in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, that a certain general of that country made a great discovery while he was a political prisoner. The future was dark with despair for him. One day a mysterious book fell into his hands. In his distress he tried to while away the painful hours by turning its leaves indifferently. Then light flashed from the sacred page. His interest deepened, and soon the book intrigued him. The story between its covers held him spellbound. It was no ordinary volume; it was a marvelous book.

In that book he found a personal Saviour. He found that God was his Friend, that He would deliver him from sin. What a remarkable discovery! His heart thrilled with a joy of liberty such as he never before had known. Somehow those walls of grim despair shone with unseen splendor. Divine light had penetrated his dark soul. Jesus had entered his heart, and for the first time he enjoyed a freedom, a peace, a deep, abiding joy, that he never had known in his gala days of freedom, power, and popularity. The difference, he knew, was because God had come into his life.

Having God for his Friend made the world look so different. Now he had a clearer vision. Like Paul, the things that he once treasured were as dross compared to the friendship of God. Worldly wealth and pleasure and national fame dwindled to nothingness as compared with the riches he found in the divine friendship. The general had lifted his eyes from those things that are slipping away, and, like Abraham, "he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:10.

When another political upheaval liberated the elderly general, he was free to tell others of his matchless Friend. Perhaps it was because God had come to mean so much to him behind those seemingly hopeless prison walls that he did not forget Him after his release. Friends and neighbors noticed a great change in the general. He was kind and generous to the tenants on his large estate. He was a benefactor to the poor. Many arose to call him blessed. His only explanation was that the wonderful Friend he had found in prison had transformed his life. And how the general loved and revered God! Said one of our friends, who visited him in his home and administered to him the rite of baptism: "The general wears a big Texas hat, which he always removes when he mentions the name of God."

When he accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour, when he chose God for his best Friend, the general discovered the secret

of the Christian life; for, after all, being a Christian means being a friend of God.

As we look back through the millenniums, we find that Christians who have been friends of God sought to tell others of Him. Abraham, whom the Bible calls a friend of God, greatly prized that friendship, and wherever he went he told others of his wonderful Friend.

Paul prized the friendship of God above everything earthly. He longed to taste the sufferings of Jesus. He pressed so close to Jesus, he knew Him so intimately, that he shared His love for suffering humanity. He had discovered the great lover of humanity. He had accepted Him as his Friend, and at once began the great transformation that eventually made Paul like his Master and Friend.

In 1937, when my husband and I stood on the pier in Puteoli, Italy, where, according to a placard on the wall, Paul landed on his voyage to Rome, a longing deep in our hearts urged us once again to love God as Paul had loved Him. As we walked on the Appian Way near Rome, and as we visited the dark, dismal Mamertine Prison in that city, where, history tells us, Paul suffered for his faith, our hearts overflowed with gratitude for Paul's noble life.

Paul's love for God never grew cold. Daily he pressed closer to the Friend who halted him on the way to Damascus. Well could he say: "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." So day by day the friendship grew warmer, his joy deeper, his faith stronger, his trust sweeter. The present did not perplex him. The future he did not dread. All was in God's keeping; and, said he, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." 2 Timothy 1:12. Nor did his confidence waver when the storm grew more furious. When the executioners were about to lead him forth to his tragic death, that confidence sustained him. Hear his message of faith ringing down through the centuries:

"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 4:7, 8.

Such is the assurance of the friends of God. Such is the secret of the Christian's life of victory, of peace, of joy, of service. Such is the life God would have us live, that, like Paul, like hosts of others, we may walk in confidence through the darkest valley of trouble, and at last look up and say: "This is our God; . . . He will save us."

The all-important question for every one of us is: What is the divine blueprint for my life? Our prayer should be, like Paul's: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" God has promised to give personal guidance. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6. "Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, 'This is the way, walk ye in it.'" Isaiah 30:21. "If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching." John 7:17, R. V.

Paul at the end of the journey of life could say: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7. He had found God's plan for his life, and having found it he never deviated from the course, for it was a good way.

What is your life to God? Are you measuring up to His will for you? Is the divine investment in you yielding returns? Is God pleased with your life? Is the smile of His approval resting on you? Oh, to be able to say at the end of our earthly sojourn: "I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do." John 17:4.

Divine Healing

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man should co-operate with Him. We are to be workers together with God. Thus we share in the blessing. God does what man cannot do. Divine healing continues where human help ceases. It is my privilege to do all that I can do, and also to come to the elders of the church and ask them for prayer and anointing. They will anoint me with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith shall save the sick.

But in our prayer for the sick we must make no demands on God. Our prayers for the suffering must be in humble submission to the will of our Father in heaven who sees the end from the beginning. He is too wise to make a mistake and too good to be unkind.

The great apostle Paul was the agent of God in healing others, and even in raising the dead to life. When he was afflicted with his "thorn in the flesh," he prayed three times that the Lord would take it from him, but the answer was, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness." And the reply of that mighty man of faith was: "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:7-9.

The fact that a true child of God is not healed at once when prayer is made in his behalf is by no means evidence of lack of faith or of God's displeasure. Paul was a man of faith and a child of

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SEEK FIRST *the* Kingdom

by J. NORMAN CLAPP



Jesus Christ realized that the material needs of man are important, but that the kingdom of God is the paramount search of humanity.

THE wisest Teacher this world ever knew enunciated this great rule of life: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33.

In the midst of the rush of everyday life it would be wise for everyone to reflect upon this divine counsel. Each one of us is individually responsible for his success or failure in life. No one else can act or speak for us in matters pertaining to our eternal destiny.

The Bible says: "Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness." Ezekiel 14:20.

It is true that the present is important to each one of us. Food, shelter, and raiment are essential. We must have them. But man is a higher creation than the ox or the mule, which are concerned only with present needs. He is highly endowed by his Creator, and he faces a

great destiny. He has a tremendous choice to make. He can make the present all-absorbing, or he can make the glories of eternity his chief aim. However, it should be observed that in either choice the individual should recognize the essential responsibilities of the present and perform them faithfully.

Does the past furnish any help in the matter of man's choice? Said the apostle Paul, referring to the experiences of Israel: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Corinthians 10:11. The word of God from Genesis to the Revelation is the guidebook and counselor of men. In it Christ "is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." 1 Corinthians 1:30.

From cover to cover the Bible carries the mind of the reader into the future. It is not a Book for one generation alone, but its principles, promises, and prophecies reach into eternity.

At the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God gave the first promise of redemption: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15.

During the long lifetime of Adam, nine hundred thirty years, he must have experienced much remorse as he realized that his sin had opened the floodgates of evil in this world. He saw the marks of sin upon man, beast, and nature. Even the tragedy of murder came into his own home when his son Cain slew Abel. He beheld the sting of death. Then, too, Adam and his family were banished from their beautiful home, the Garden of Eden.

However, Adam was given the promise of a Redeemer to come, and by faith in Christ he could find forgiveness from sin and look forward to Eden restored. We are assured that Abel was justified by faith. "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous." Hebrews 11:4. His faith was in "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8. And our hope nineteen hundred years this side of Calvary is also in the Lamb of God.

The carnage of war, the injustices, the inequalities, the deprivations, the sickness, death, and sorrow—all are constant reminders of the fall of man and the awful consequences of sin. But the God of love and wisdom never designed that the world should continue this woeful program forever. He has promised a complete restoration of the sinless and deathless Edenic world. As we repeat the Lord's Prayer, we voice the plea, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

This prayer will one day be answered, and then "the kingdom and dominion,



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THE FIRST FROST	Sanford T. Whitman

and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High." Daniel 7:27.

Then the woes, evils, and curses of the present shall be utterly eradicated. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death." Revelation 21:4.

God's love, manifested supremely on Calvary, has prompted all these stupendous provisions of grace for His people. Christ tasted death for every man, and thus opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. He says to all: "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.

Not one of us has any positive assurance as to the length of life here. It may be long or brief. But we may all have the certainty of life everlasting if we choose God's way. Let us then seek first the kingdom.

The Bible and Science

(Continued from page 7)

tions before Him are as nothing; and they are counted to Him less than nothing, and vanity." Isaiah 40:15-17.

"The small dust of the balance," how small is it? It is next to nothing. This earth as compared with some of the largest suns and planets in the universe is next to nothing. There are millions upon millions of suns in galactic systems, or island universes, like our Milky Way. "Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth." Verse 26.

"All things were created by Him, and for Him: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist." Colossians 1:16, 17.

What a wonderful Redeemer and Saviour we have! As Paul said: He upholds "all things by the word of His power." If Christ, the divine Son of God, can uphold the planets and the suns of the universe in space by His mighty power, He must be able to uphold a poor sinner and keep him from falling.

When once we comprehend the wisdom and the power of God as manifested through His only-begotten Son and revealed in the Scriptures, we no longer scoff at the Bible, but accept it as it is indeed, the word of God "which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

Divine Healing

(Continued from page 12)

God. There may be precious lessons we need to learn, or blessings to come to others by our affliction. Even our Saviour, praying in the Garden of Gethsemane when His human nature shrank from the cup of suffering, said: "Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done." Luke 22:42.

And in submitting our wills to the heavenly Father, it is our privilege to follow Jesus. His presence will be with us here, and His voice will greet us in that land where no pain nor tears shall ever come.

The Source of Peace

(Continued from page 5)

and lasting peace. And until he possesses these qualities, strife and bloodshed will continue their rampant course the world around, both between nations and between individuals.

Not until the Prince of Peace comes, not until His law is enthroned in every heart and every creature in heaven and earth is in full and willing harmony with His divine law—not until then will true and lasting peace dawn upon our troubled world.

Christ and obedience. The source and the channel. Always it has been so. And always will it remain so.

NOTICE

In harmony with our policy of publishing only fifty issues of the *Signs of the Times* annually, one number is omitted in June and one in December. Consequently there will be no issue next week. Number 1 will be dated January 4, 1944.

SIGNS of the TIMES

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

EDITOR ARTHUR S. MAXWELL
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CIRCULATION MGR. . . H. K. CHRISTMAN

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Help Only in God

IF YOU see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts? "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." Jeremiah 13:23. There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are.

But let none deceive themselves with the thought that God, in His great love and mercy, will yet save even the rejecters of His grace. The exceeding sinfulness of sin can be estimated only in the light of the cross. When men urge that God is too good to cast off the sinner, let them look to Calvary. It was because there was no other way in which man could be saved, because without this sacrifice it was impossible for the human race to escape from the defiling power of sin, and be restored to communion with holy beings,—impossible for them again to become partakers of spiritual life,—it was because of this that Christ took upon Himself the guilt of the disobedient, and suffered in the sinner's stead. The love and suffering and death of the Son of God, all testify to the terrible enormity of sin, and declare that there is no escape from its power, no hope of the higher life, but through the submission of the soul to Christ.—E. G. White.

"IN THE darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day."

It is easier to see how bad got into a good world than how good got into a bad world.—McConnell.

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"SIGNS" 1944

TWO GREAT EVENTS IN 1944

1. Centenary of the second advent movement
2. Seventieth anniversary of the SIGNS

BEYOND the shadow of a doubt the coming year will witness some of the most momentous events of the twentieth century. The war will move toward its climax. Costly battles will be fought on land and sea and in the air. Postwar problems will loom large, while the roar of the multitudes yearning for freedom will rise in deafening crescendo.

There will be ominous developments in the religious world. Spiritism will spread amongst the millions bereaved by the war. The papacy will make its boldest bid for political power on both sides of the Atlantic. Protestant churches will clamor for still further collaboration between themselves and their

onetime enemies. Advocates of the new world calendar will press their objectives with added zest.

In the midst of this tumultuous situation, with all its perplexing cross currents of thought, the *Signs of the Times* will seek by the grace of God to stand like a rock "for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," and to champion truth with the same zeal that has characterized its witness in all the seventy years since its founding in 1874. To a sad and weary world it will endeavor to bring a message of hope and consolation through the gospel, accenting the certainty of the soon coming of the Lord in view of the centenary of the second advent movement.



Among the outstanding contributions promised for this historic volume of the SIGNS are the following:



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THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

BY DONALD W. MCKAY



HIS year the spirit of Christmas, of peace and good will, is conspicuous by its absence. Armies face each other all over the world. In the East, whence the Wise Men came, the war lords today are not searching the stars to find the way to the King whose kingdom is not of this earth. Even the little town of Bethlehem lies guarded by grimmer sentinels than the shepherds of old Judea.

But the spirit of Christ cannot be crushed. Since time immemorial men have given gifts, relieved the poor, and gathered their families and friends around them at this season of the year.

"Glory to God in the highest," sang the angels, as recorded in Luke, "and on earth peace, good will toward men." Some read the words, "good will among men." This emotion is ancient, profound, and enduring. It is, in every land, in every language, in every creed, the spirit of Christ, and it will abide until His everlasting kingdom is established in the earth.

Christians may well consider the deeper implications of this annual festival, not only as relating to the first, but also to the second advent of their Lord. In the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of John is to be found this precious promise: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*"

Such words from the lips of Jesus should bring renewed courage in a time like this. When Christ came the first time, His advent was literal. He was a real being among men. Even after His resurrection He said to His disciples: "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see." Luke 24:39. As He came literally the first time, and was actually seen by human eyes, so will He come literally the second time.

After Christ ascended, two heavenly messengers proclaimed to the disciples: "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 John, from his confinement on the Isle of Patmos, some nineteen hundred years ago, wrote: "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." Revelation 1:7.

Paul, in describing the second coming of Christ, said: "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 the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

At this season of the year let us rededicate ourselves to Christ. Let us invite Him to come into our lives, not once each year, but daily. Let us heed the insisting pleading of the Holy Spirit:

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:6, 7.