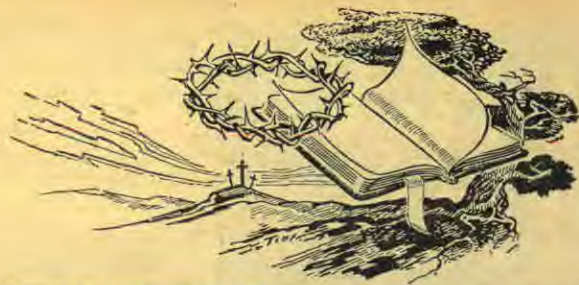


# SIGNS OF THE TIMES



THE WORLD'S PROPHETIC WEEKLY



NEWMAN, THREE LIONS

Vol. 77, No. 4

Is Protestantism Destroying Itself?—See page 3

January 24, 1950

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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### OUR COVER

The destruction of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church of Saint Nicholas, Fifth Avenue at 48th Street, New York City, brings down a monument to Protestantism that has stood for seventy-seven years. This may well be a symbol of the crushing force of materialism upon spiritual living. Read "Is Protestantism Destroying Itself?" on page 3.

### CIRCULATION MANAGER . . . . . H. K. CHRISTMAN

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### Kindness Needed

DEAR SIR:

Someone left a copy of the July 12 issue of the *Signs of the Times* at my door the other day. Though not a member of your church, I greatly appreciated the editorial, "Most Gracious Deed," and also the cover picture. Such deeds of kindness are greatly needed in these days of stress and hate. G. N. F.  
Colton, California.

### Passing It On

DEAR SIR:

I wish to thank you very, very much for the *Signs of the Times*. I always read it from cover to cover as soon as I get it, then I give it to my daughter to read, and then, when she finishes reading it, I give it to a colored preacher, and he enjoys it, too. I. C.  
St. Stephens, South Carolina.

### Of Special Interest

DEAR SIR:

First I want to thank you, and also the kind unknown friend who gave me a gift subscription for one year. I have enjoyed many articles, but there are some which I refer back to which especially appealed to me, such as "Power Through Prayer," "When Shadows Fall," "Under the Juniper Tree," "A Cross to Carry," and lots of others. I can't tell you how much this magazine has done for me. Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. A. B.

### Full of Truth

DEAR SIR:

I have read many church periodicals, but never have I found one that can begin to equal the *Signs*. For many years I was longing for such a magazine, and am only sorry that I did not know of its existence many years ago. It is full of truth, and I pray that God will richly bless all who contribute to its pages. I would rather go without a few good meals than be deprived of the help and blessing I receive from the *Signs*. S. R. P.  
Red Oak, Iowa.

### Freedom for All

DEAR SIR:

Your October 11 issue was the first I had heard of your magazine. May I, as a friendly stranger, say how excellent I thought that issue was? The poem, "The Secret Stair," and G. Bromley Oxnam's stirring article, "Should the State Support Church Schools?" were particularly notable. Bishop Oxnam is fighting, not merely for religious freedom for non-Catholics, but also for religious freedom for American Catholics, millions of whom are prudently uneasy concerning the objectives of the coercive propaganda flooding from hierarchy organs. E. M. M.  
Rye, New York.

### Brighter and Lighter

DEAR SIR:

I have moved recently, and the *Signs* has not yet begun to come to my new address, and I miss it. When life seems darkest, I get the *Signs* and read, and then the way gets brighter and the load seems lighter. Mrs. R. T. P.  
Denmark, South Carolina.

# THE FLIGHT OF TIME



Indicative of the enormous size and carrying power of modern aircraft is this picture of the XC-123, a troop and cargo transport, taking on a load of five jeeps at Mercer Airport, West Trenton, New Jersey.

## EDITORIAL

### Is Protestantism Destroying Itself?

WHILE in New York City recently, I made my way up Fifth Avenue to Forty-eighth Street to witness the razing of the beautiful Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church of St. Nicholas. I found workmen piling the stone and rubble of the once stately edifice into dump trucks, while bulldozers crawled about over the debris.

The stones of the lofty spire were being taken down one by one. Thus, a pinnacle which for seventy-seven years had stood as a beacon for God, was destroyed to make way for commercial interests.

Ironically enough, a twenty-one-story skyscraper is to be erected on these ruins by a life insurance company, and this passing of the old to make way for the new well symbolizes our age—a time when men are more concerned about security in this life than they are in receiving God's gift of eternal life.

The destruction of this church also symbolizes the danger Protestantism faces today. Unless its leaders awaken to the plight of the church and strengthen its foundations, it will destroy itself.

"There is a growing concern among us all in these days over the vagueness and weakness of our American Protestantism," says Dr. L. J. Trinterud, associate editor of *Theology Today*, in the

October, 1949, issue of that journal. "The concern is well founded but badly expressed. We are looking for the causes of our weakness and disintegration in some external foe or rival, whereas that which is destroying us is an inward confusion as to the mission and message of Protestant or evangelical Christianity."

The cornerstone of Protestantism is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul proclaimed the central message of the church when he asserted, "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2. However, the divine Son of God is the forgotten Leader of many Protestant churches today, and His words are doubted or cast aside for strange new teachings. Dr. Trinterud

well states the problem when he says, "We have come to put our institutionalized church to the forefront, and we have set the gospel aside. By so doing we have set in motion those forces of inward disintegration which now cause us so much concern, and which we mistake for the work of an outside foe. By setting the gospel aside we make our entire history as Protestants meaningless, and are not able to give our people any sound reason for the occurrence of the Reformation, or for the continued existence of Protestantism."

The church is in grave danger because, like Martha of old, it is "careful and troubled about many things." It has become an "institutionalized church," a Christian bureaucracy. We agree with this astute editor when he declares,



In Warsaw and other ruined cities of Europe, rubble is being made into cement blocks for use in rebuilding. Special mills are located in the devastated areas where the rubble is ground and mixed with cement.



INTERNATIONAL  
This jet-propelled fighter-bomber, of a class known as the "Thunderjet" carries thirty-two five-inch high-velocity rockets, plus six machine guns, and flies at 600 mph.

"There is today no load upon our American Protestantism more crushing than the ever-growing burden of what is called 'church promotion.' Year by year it takes more organization, more people, more effort, to produce the quotas of money and services which are needed to make our programs function. Year by year the organizational structure pyramids, and the cost of raising money and doing good works rises. Yet, year by year the reasons for the doing of all this become less and less clear to all of us."

Every minister and lay member will do well to think about this serious indictment of Protestantism. Materialism is the most sinister enemy of the church in this age. Dr. Trinterud states the crux of the matter well in these words: "The greater share of our current American Protestant church promotion, and preaching as well, indicates that we have gone further than had the medieval Catholicism (from which the Reformers revolted) in identifying ourselves, our religion, our very deepest hopes, with a kingdom which is wholly of this world."

In seeking a kingdom of this world, Protestant leaders are aping the Catholic hierarchy. They are demanding prestige and influence in political affairs. They desire the voice of the church to be heard in state matters. Indeed, some are willing to compromise the divine principle of separation of church and state enunciated by the Saviour in order to gain material resources for religious institutions. Many ministers who are ordained to preach the pure gospel spend the majority of the time in raising money, balancing budgets, and

caring for the material interests of the church. In such churches, "the hungry sheep look up, and are not fed."

Protestantism is also in danger because it has gone "essentially pagan" in its appeal to men and women. Too often it endeavors to prove its value to the world on a materialistic basis. "Religion will help you," has become the slogan of many of us. 'Prayer gets results.' 'Only through religion can you achieve a rounded personality.'

Such propaganda, based on selfish motives, can never bring the love of Jesus to sin-sick souls. The Master taught sacrifice, self-denial, and cross-bearing. When the gospel of Christ fills the heart, a man does not estimate his Christianity by material standards. Before the fisherman, Peter, was truly converted, he measured his discipleship with Christ upon a material basis. He said, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore?" Jesus did not promise wealth, honor, or glory in this life. He did, however, promise peace of heart, faith to see beyond every trial and disappointment, and in the world to come everlasting life.

When Protestantism appeals to the materialistic level of life it sinks to the lowest ebb of spiritual power. As Hugh T. Kerr, Jr., points out, "Protestantism apparently does not attract or speak to modern man with sufficient compulsion to effect conversion, repentance, or newness of life. There is, so it would seem, little sense of the distinctive demands and responsibilities of the Christian life. . . . A law of diminishing returns seems to be working within the

Protestant churches. . . . Furthermore, among those who do become church members only a fraction do so because of any deep religious experience."

How can the disintegration of Protestantism be halted? We know that the foundation of the church does not rest upon numbers, prestige, or wealth. Our lost world needs more than religious institutions and organizations. It demands the power of the Holy Spirit in humble, dedicated lives. It is not enough to preach Christ; we must live every principle and obey every precept of His teachings. It is not enough to believe that Jesus Christ will come again and that the chaos of this atomic age will end. It is not enough to see that men's hearts are failing them for fear, that another war is threatening, that crime and moral corruption are signs of our Lord's return. We must allow God to work in our individual lives. We must forsake our sins and hate the sordid, materialistic religion, which is dragging many down into a new paganism.

The power of the gospel is revealed in the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. That power alone can redeem the lost. Materialistic-minded men are making institutionalism, promotion, and good works the foundation of Protestantism, and, as the result, it is tottering!

Never were the words of the apostle Paul more appropriate than they are today. He said, "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." 1 Corinthians 3:11-13.

We sing that glorious hymn, "The Church Has One Foundation," but are we making Jesus, the Rock of Ages, "the Author and Finisher of our faith"? The greatness of the Reformation church was that it believed and lived the words of the Master, and it pointed men to the cross of Calvary. If the church today takes its eyes from "the simplicity that is in Christ," it will destroy itself.

M. L. N.

In our weakness His strength is ours. In our conflicts His victories are ours. In our bereavements and sorrows His grace is ours. He had not where to lay His weary head, that we might have His bosom on which to lean our fevered brows. He endured the cross and despised the shame, that, instead of weeping and wailing, we might share His immortal blessedness.—Richard Fuller.

# THE CITY of GOD

*Streets of Gold and  
Gates of Pearl: Who  
Shall Enter Them?*

by MARY J. VINE

**G**It was worship time, and we were reading in the twenty-first chapter of the Revelation the description of that city that will come down "out of heaven," and to whose exploration we are so joyfully looking forward. Inevitably we fell into the usual discussion. Not even Babylon of old could begin to vie with it for magnificence—foundations of precious stones, streets of gold, each several gate an unbelievable pearl. But when a tired woman longs for rest, magnificence never enters her thoughts. She wants to relax, for her taut spirit has almost forgotten how. She wants to encompass wide, soothing vistas of green, soft grass, to scent the flowers, and to hear the birds sing. Indeed, not even children dream of golden streets.

What then?

It was far away in the Australian bush that an old schoolmaster was conducting the preaching service in the small schoolhouse. He took from his pocket

Calaphas and his court adjudged Jesus guilty of death because He claimed to be the Son of God.

STANDARD PUB. CO.



for JANUARY 24, 1950



Nothing on earth can compare in beauty with the New Jerusalem, with its foundations of precious stones, its streets of gold, and each of its gates of one pearl.

a small, glittering piece of cut glass.

"I have here," he said, "a replica of the Koh-i-noor, the famous diamond. I have taken it from among other things in my pocket. Yet the diamond from which this is modeled is worth more than a million dollars.

"John saw," he went on, "that the foundations of the city that came down through the clouds were of precious stones like this. Think of the size of the city; think of the value of this one little gem; and then imagine the preciousness of those great foundations. What did the vision mean? It meant that the things on which the city of God is based are all of them very, very precious."

Very, very precious!

Here surely is a clue. The Sacred Word is studded with references to things so precious that they are past valuing in terms of sapphires and ru-

bies; precious knowledge, precious wisdom, precious promises, precious faith, the precious blood of Christ. Those things upon which the city of God rests are unspeakably precious; hence the foundations of precious stones.

Slipping the imitation diamond back into his pocket, the speaker took his fountain pen in his hand.

"I never quite understood the streets of gold," he said, "until one of my daughters gave me a fountain pen. Until then I had always written with steel pens. Each pen was beautifully clean *when it was new*, but how quickly the ink corroded and spoiled it! I have had my fountain pen for years now, but look! Although ink has been moistening the gold nib all the time, it is as clean and bright today as it was on the day when I first received it. It is gold, *and you cannot defile it.*"

I was reminded of a time when the feast of Corpus Christi was being celebrated in Catholic Dublin, and the city was thronged with worshipers and sight-seers. Almost every house boasted its banner; bunting and streamers decked every roadway. As the elevated host passed through the streets, the pavements were lined with kneeling suppliants.

But the streets! It seemed incredible that anyone could believe that here indeed was the very body and blood of Christ. True, there were flags above, but there was filth below. Not all the decorations could dispel the impression of a vulgar Saturday night. It was the litter that prevailed.

And I remember Tooting, London, early on a Sunday morning, where all the rubbish of the city streets drifted like autumn leaves against the shop fronts. Revolting!

No, city streets are not the cleanest places in the world—in any sense. But the streets of the city of God are of pure gold. They are not only undefiling and undefiled—they are undefilable.

"And the twelve gates were twelve pearls."

Now the old teacher in the school-house service took an oyster shell from his pocket. "I wonder if you all know," he continued, "how pearls come into the world. Just before I came here this morning, I found a little lassie in great pain. She had something in her eye. What happened? The tears came and did their work of cleansing, and soon the pain was gone.

"Now, a pearl," he exclaimed, holding up the shell, "is the tear of an

oyster! When the little creature is in great pain, and is being irritated by some substance that has invaded its shell, it emits a secret fluid not unlike the tears that come to our rescue when we get a sore eye. This fluid covers the irritating substance and, crystallizing itself, becomes a pearl. A pearl is the lovely monument to the oyster's pain. As the foundations of jewels denote the *preciousness* of those things on which the city of God rests, and as the streets of gold represent the *purity* of those ways in which its citizens delight to walk, so the gates of pearl stand for the *pain* that we must be prepared to endure before we can enter that fair city."

This, then, is the question: *Are* we prepared?

Paul said, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

But what of it?

Better to suffer for something than for nothing.

Better to suffer as a saint than as an evildoer.

Better to weep to some purpose than to waste our tears in remorse.

We are liable to get an unbalanced idea of this question of suffering, as though the adversary were not a bad paymaster and the unrighteous were exempt from the world's ills.

Even as Paul describes his sufferings he adds, "But out of them all the Lord delivered me." There is no such promised deliverance for the wicked.

On the front page of a fine religious paper there appeared recently this caption, "Dare to Share Your Faith." And underneath, "Abel shared his faith—and it cost him his life. Noah shared

his faith—and was laughed at for 120 years. Joseph shared his faith—and lost an influential position. Moses shared his faith—and forfeited his heirship to the throne of Egypt. Daniel shared his faith—and faced the prospects of a torturous death. John the Baptist shared his faith—and was beheaded. Paul shared his faith—and was flogged, and later executed. Jesus shared His faith—and died on a cross. Now is the time," it concluded, "for you to share your faith—if you dare."

Which, of course, is absolutely true. But do we dare to do the contrary?

What was Cain's life worth after he had rid himself of his mentor?

Who was it that stood on Ararat—Noah, or his mockers?

Joseph lost a position, yes, but only that he might climb higher.

Moses forfeited his heirship to a throne, but it was he, not Pharaoh, who was buried by the hand of God and who stood on the mount of transfiguration.

Daniel faced the lions, but it was not he whom the lions tore in pieces.

John the Baptist was beheaded, but did Herod Antipas have a more pleasant end?

"Go ye and tell that fox," Jesus said of Herod; and of John He said, "Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist."

Paul was flogged and later executed, but what of that? Of all the proud Pharisees of his day, Paul's voice is the only one we hear in 1949, and, as he wrote to Timothy, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown." It is surely worth everything to be as certain as Paul was of so great a glory.

And Jesus—

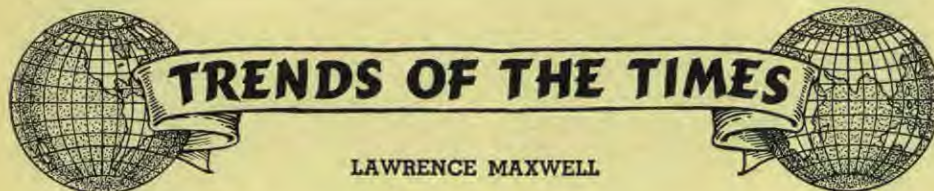
"Art Thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Caiaphas screamed at Him.

"I am," came the steady reply, "and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

"Guilty of death," they said He was, for that brave statement, and Caiaphas tore his robes in pretended horror; but when He comes, as come He will, what of Caiaphas then?

Would Jesus have forgone one moment of those last tortured hours? "He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied," Isaiah says. Satisfied! Torment and triumph. Pain and pearls. Suffering and satisfaction. The gates of pearl are beginning to be comprehensible, are they not?

Let us look forward then, longingly, confidently, joyfully, and God grant that we may, every one of us, be counted worthy to go in thereat into the city of God at last.



### Bigger Bombers

New, larger Superfortresses, with a maximum speed in excess of four hundred miles an hour, a range greater than 6,000 miles, with a load of 28,000 pounds of bombs, are being delivered to the United States Air Force by Boeing Airplane Company.

### Fleet in Reserve

The United States Navy now has 727 major vessels in the reserve fleet, with only 271 on the active list. Of these active ships, 174 are in the Atlantic and 97 in the Pacific.

### Incendiarism

There were 67,775 fires in protected forests of the United States during 1948. Of these, 4,392 were from natural causes, while of the

remainder—all caused by man—14,987 are attributed to smokers and 20,047 to deliberate setting by incendiaries.

### Fewer Marriages, Divorces

There were 1,802,895 marriages and 405,000 divorces in the United States in 1948. These figures are the lowest since the end of the war and represent a 20 per cent decrease in marriages and a 33 per cent decrease in divorces compared with the record highs of 1946.

### Colonies Move Forward

The six Caribbean colonies of the British Commonwealth are to be united into one group with almost full self-government. Approaching dominion status, the group will be virtually free except in areas of defense, foreign affairs, and some financial matters.

# THE DEVIL WE FIGHT

*Is He Real or Imaginary?*

by J. L. TUCKER

**T**HE Christian life is a battle and a march. It is one of constant conflict. Never for one moment should a Christian soldier permit himself to be caught "off guard."

Two great forces are pitted against each other, and the issues are clearly drawn. On one side, leading the forces of righteousness, is Christ. Opposing Him is Satan, with all the evil host that has been seduced by his sophistries. The stakes are high—eternal life or eternal destruction.

Paul likens the Christian life to a warfare, and the good Christian to a good

soldier. To Timothy he wrote, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." 2 Timothy 2:3. "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, . . . that thou . . . mightest war a good warfare." 1 Timothy 1:18. "Fight the good fight of faith." 1 Timothy 6:12.

It is well to know as much as possible concerning the enemy against whom we war, and his methods of warfare. Many today do not believe in the existence of the devil, holding that he is only a figment of the imagination or a personification of an evil principle.



When a worldly-wise gentleman told Charles G. Finney that he did not believe in the existence of the devil, Finney simply replied, "Don't you? Well, just try resisting him awhile and you will believe in his existence."

The Bible is the only book that gives Satan's origin and history. Here he is pictured as a superhuman foe, an actual aggressive enemy. He is called, "the tempter," "the accuser," "a liar," a murderer," "your adversary," "an enemy." Without considering the passages of Scripture where Satan is referred to as a person under the name "evil spirit," a brief glance at your Bible concordance will show that he is definitely called "Satan" nineteen times in the Old Testament and thirty-five times in the New Testament. He is called "devil" fifty-four times in the New Testament. He is called "serpent" five times in the Old Testament and five times in the New Testament. One hundred and eighteen times he is mentioned under these three designations. To say that no such person exists is to make the Bible a false book, and the words of our Lord meaningless.

The existence of Satan is the only explanation for the origin of sin and the reign of misery and death on this earth. How meaningless would be the words of Jesus, "An enemy hath done this," when speaking of the cause of human tragedies, if there is no enemy. If Satan does not exist, how absurd would be Christ's words to Peter: "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee." Luke 22:31, 32.

(Continued on page 14)



PERRY PICTURES

There are two great conflicting forces in our world today. Leading the side of righteousness is Jesus Christ, and opposing Him is Satan at the head of the hosts of evil.

# Christ Victorious

by TAYLOR G. BUNCH

**I**N the great battle in heaven, as recorded in Revelation 12, Michael and His angels were victorious over the dragon and his angels. After being cast out of their positions in the government of God, Lucifer and his angels came to the newly created planet, Earth, where they succeeded in deceiving Adam and Eve and usurping their dominion. Lucifer thus took the place of Adam as "the prince of this world." On the mount of temptation Satan offered Christ the kingdom and rulership of this world in exchange for a single act of worship in which Christ would recognize the superiority of Satan. This was what Lucifer wanted during the first phase of the conflict in heaven.

As an argument to persuade Christ to accept his proposition, Satan said, regarding the throne and kingdom of this world, "All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be Thine." Jesus spurned the offer by saying, "Get thee behind Me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Luke 4:6-8. We are told that Satan "deceiveth the whole world." As the ruler over Adam's dominion, Satan became, in Adam's stead, the prince of this world and its representative in the councils of heaven until he was displaced by Christ as the result of His victory on Calvary.

It was as the representative of this world, because he was its prince, that Satan had the right to go before the throne of God. There until the crisis at Calvary, when he was "cast out" of his position as "the prince of this world," he spent much time as "the accuser" of the saints on earth, accusing them "before our God day and night." Revelation 12:10. See Job 1:6 to 2:10. After hearing the first gospel promise made to Adam and Eve, which included the eventual crushing of the serpent's head, Satan knew that his one opportunity would come when Michael was stripped of His glory and power during His incarnation in sinful human flesh. He had been defeated by the Son of God in the first encounter in heaven, but he felt sure that he could defeat Him while He was in human form.

Satan's knowledge of the time of the advent of the Messiah was gained through the revelations of the prophets and the study of the types and antitypes of the typical services. One writer has said, "When God's written word was given through the Hebrew prophets,



During His loving ministry on earth our Saviour released many poor souls from the thralldom of sin and set them free from the oppression of Satan.

Satan studied with diligence the messages concerning the Messiah. Carefully he traced the words that outlined with unmistakable clearness Christ's work among men as a suffering sacrifice and as a conquering king."—Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, page 686.

Satan's first definite knowledge as to the time of Christ's advent was revealed in the 2300-year time prophecy of Daniel. The seventy prophetic weeks pointed out the very year of His baptism and anointing as the Messiah. See Daniel 8 and 9. "From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem," which, according to the record in the book of Ezra, went forth in the fall of the year 457 B.C., there were to be "seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks" of prophetic time (483 years) "unto the Messiah the Prince," A.D. 27. This was the year Jesus was baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit for His mission as the Messiah or Anointed One. As this time prophecy drew to a close, we are told that "the

people were in expectation." So was the dragon, or Satan. The record is that he stood before the symbolic woman, or church, with even more expectancy than was manifested by God's own professed people. This was his long-looked-for opportunity, and he planned to make the most of it.

## Identity of the Messiah

It seems possible that Satan entertained doubts at times regarding the identity of Jesus as the promised Messiah, as did also John the Baptist and the disciples of Jesus. The fallen angel may have shared some of the mistaken ideas of the Jews because of a confusing of the prophecies of the two advents. It seemed almost impossible that the meek and lowly Nazarene could be the former Prince Michael. Satan was assured that Christ was indeed his former antagonist when on the banks of the Jordan the voice of the Father was heard from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." His belief was further confirmed during the

*His Conquest  
of Satan  
Makes Certain His Triumph  
Over All  
the Forces of Evil.*

battle in the wilderness of temptation when Christ asserted His divine authority and commanded, "Get thee behind Me, Satan."

"Satan had questioned whether Jesus was the Son of God. In his summary dismissal he had proof that he could not gainsay. Divinity flashed through suffering humanity. Satan had no power to resist the command. Writhing with humiliation and rage, he was forced to withdraw from the presence of the world's Redeemer. Christ's victory was as complete as had been the failure of Adam."—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 130.

Satan then actuated the Jewish leaders with the spirit of the dragon, and they hounded Christ's footsteps night and day in an effort to destroy Him. They finally succeeded in having Him nailed to the cross; but in killing Him they did not destroy Him nor His earthly mission. His death on the cross was not the kind of destruction Satan had planned. Christ's death was a glorious victory for Himself, and an ignominious defeat for Satan, sounding the death knell of his kingdom and his eventual destruction.

It is evident that Revelation 12:7-13 is an interruption in the narrative of the warfare of the dragon against Christ the "man-child," and the "woman," or church. The purpose of this parenthetical narrative is to give the background to the long controversy and the reason for the relentless hostility of the dragon toward Christ and His church. While verses 7-9 apply primarily to the origin of the conflict in heaven, they have a secondary application to the great struggle between Christ and Satan during the former's earthly visit as "the man-child."

While there was doubtless a great celebration in heaven as the result of the first victory, the celebration was even greater as the result of the triumphant culmination of Christ's earthly visit on the cross of Calvary. In a special sense verses 10-13 apply to the latter: "I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of



GRAMSTORFF

Just before His passion, Jesus promised His disciples that His death would seal the new covenant and make sure the plan of redemption.

His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man-child."

The earthly struggle was the decisive battle in the long war between the two mighty princes. But the cross means far more than merely the defeat of Satan and the death knell of his revolt and kingdom. It was also the means of reconciling the universe to God and drawing all to Him. Just before His passion, Jesus said, "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." John 12:31, 32. The

next verse declares that this indicates the kind of death He would suffer, that is, the ordeal on the cross. The word "men" is supplied by the translators. It really does not belong in the text because the word "draw" includes more than the inhabitants of this world.

This is indicated in Colossians 1:20, "Having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." Until Calvary the meaning of the controversy was not entirely clear, and therefore the reconciliation was not complete. The murder of Michael uprooted and dethroned Satan from the hearts and sympathy of the angels and unfallen beings to whom the revolt had so long remained a mystery. It was this event that broke the last link of sympathy and fellowship between the former Lucifer and the heavenly host. From that time forward his evil work would be greatly restricted until it would end in utter ruin and eternal failure.

With the death of Christ a shout of

(Continued on page 13)

# The Bomb and the Earth

by CLIFFORD L. BURDICK



**T**HE scientist Watson Davis, writing in *Science News Letter* in 1939, expressed the fear that if the experiments in atom splitting were successful, it might upset the radioactive method of measuring the age of the earth. Since those two atomic bombs which all but wiped out Hiroshima and Nagasaki ushered in the Atomic Age, some have wondered if the bomb, or atomic fission in general, had any effect on the radioactive system of estimating the age of the earth.

As briefly referred to in the preceding chapter, that is a moot question, and it will need further study and much hard work before we have the final answer; but in one sense we can answer in the affirmative. The bomb did alter our

conceptions of the age of the earth.

As already shown, this new time system has been largely adopted by evolutionists, geologists, and other scientists to support those of their conceptions that had suffered when geological uniformity was cast aside. The evolutionary teaching postulates about two billion years past history for the earth, and perhaps many times that of uninterrupted progressive evolution in the future. The atom bomb changed all that. Scientists and laymen alike soon realized that they had created a Frankenstein monster that if not properly controlled would destroy, not only its creators, but all life on the earth.

At first it was assumed that with the atomic bomb hanging over our collec-

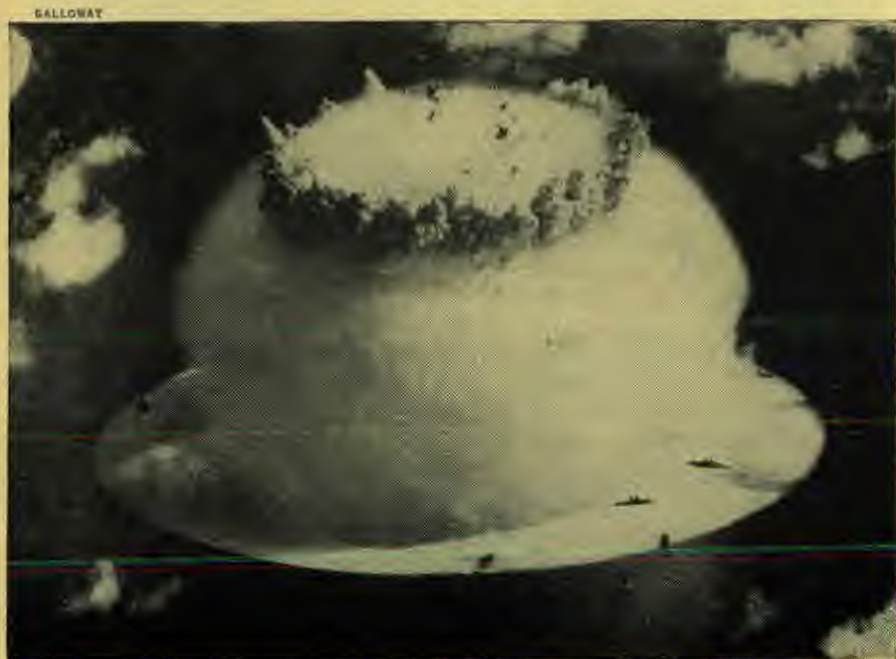
tive heads, no one would ever dare to risk another war; but now that it has become apparent that even this fear has had little effect in eliminating national hatreds, statesmen and scientists alike have become convinced that the world is doomed. The age of the earth in the past assumes lesser importance now than the age of the earth in the future.

However, the lines are tightly drawn between the creation-cataclysm school of scientific thought and the long-age-evolutionary school, and the controversy may even grow in intensity to the close of time. Louis T. More, in his book, *The Dogma of Evolution*, spoke of the former class of people as "those who hold to the naïve belief that in a single week chaos was transformed into a world of order as we now see it, except for minor changes such as are produced by erosion and limited action of volcanoes and earthquakes."

Let us take note of some of the assumptions involved in the radioactive theory of time measurement:

1. *Assumption of the Constancy of the Half-Value Period.* This is another way of saying that the quantum theory of a constant rate of disintegration for uranium or other radioactive minerals or elements is still only a theory. As long as this disintegration retains the form of alpha and beta emission, the rate may not have been found to vary, although a scientist by the name of Glashier claims to have accelerated this emission by brief rushes of high-voltage electricity. The work of both Gillette and Joly seemed to indicate that the older the rock the more rapid the disintegration of the radioactive elements. Possibly more experimental work is needed along this line. The emphasis now is on the development of atomic power, which is controlled fission, or atom splitting, and not on the time esti-

## *Did the Explosion of the Atomic Bomb Upset the Theory of Radioactive Time Concerning the Age of the World?*



mates, which are based on alpha and beta emission.

We have barely scratched the surface of this subject. As Thomas Edison aptly remarked, "We don't know a millionth part of what is to be known on any subject." It would seem to be far too early to accept the alleged findings of radioactive science that the earth is two billion years old. We remember that it was not many years ago that men were ready to accept the dictum that one hundred million years is the age of the earth, on the basis of sedimentary geology, which age system is now obsolete. The only age system that has stood fast through all these ephemeral scientific speculations, is still that found in the word of God.

In one sense the quantum theory has been disproved, for it states that the rate of radioactive decay is constant. What is atomic fission but accelerated decay of the atom? At least the spectacular destruction of Hiroshima, Japan, startled the world into the consciousness that the science of nuclear physics is still in its infancy, though it is too early to draw far-reaching conclusions.

Now from the Atomic Energy Commission comes the news that a way has been discovered to make cobalt, of which there is an ample supply, radioactive, so that it decays in a way similar to radium. It is thought that it may replace radium for medical purposes because of its relative cheapness. If cobalt can be made radioactive, and its radioactivity thus be turned on at will, who will be willing to state dogmatically that sometime in the history of the earth, possibly during the cataclysmic Deluge period, extraordinary environments might not have come to exert forces upon uranium or thorium that temporarily speeded up their rate of disintegration? Surely the laboratory of nature is more potent and resourceful than the laboratory of mere man.

It was Watson Davis who wrote in 1939, "The radioactive time clock method of determining the age of the earth may be proved wrong if uranium can be split up in the strange new fashion."—*Science News Letter*, February 11, 1939. This was written at the time that experiments were gathering momentum in the atom splitting that preceded the atom bomb, which was the culmination of this giant project. Therefore, according to Mr. Davis's prophecy, the accuracy of the age estimations might now be called in question.

Another scientific revelation now indicates that heat is a vital factor affecting radioactivity. Dr. George Gamow of George Washington University re-

marks, "Atomic nuclei of practically every chemical element are loaded with immense amounts of energy which can be released if the material is brought to a very high temperature. At the interior temperature of the sun, which is 20,000,000 degrees, only the comparatively light elements are subject to nuclear transformation." One cannot help wondering what effect, if any, the heat of vulcanism and metamorphism during the Deluge period may have had on the rate of uranium decay. The radioactive computations could thus give an exaggerated age reading.

This "artificially aging" process we see strikingly exemplified with meteor-

ites. In age calculations with helium it has been assumed that all of the helium was radiogenic, or was a by-product of the disintegration process. By measuring the by-products in relation to the undecayed parent, the apparent age could be calculated. Now Dr. Carl August Bauer of the University of Michigan has demonstrated that helium can also be produced by the impact of cosmic rays on various elements. Thus the age of meteorites had been overestimated, on account of this "artificial aging," much as whisky is often hurried through the aging process by ultraviolet irradiation.

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## "Not Under the Law"

by MRS. E. E. ANDROSS



"WE are not under the law," the speaker was saying.

"Not under the law?" I said to myself as I turned his words over in my mind. What a strange statement! Can you think of any piece of machinery that is not subject to law? When a man patents a machine, he submits a law of operation, and the machine cannot serve its intended purpose if that law is disregarded. I look up into the starry heavens, and recall that God "callesth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth." They all obey His divine law.

The all-wise Creator has also included us in His plan. He has outlined for the children of men the law of true living; and we cannot violate it without injury to ourselves. Somehow this fact was deeply impressed upon me during the years I lived in Canon City, Colorado. Often I walked down to the famous soda spring. One thing, however, marred the pleasure of that walk. It took me past the state prison; and it always gave me a chilly feeling to look at those cold, massive walls with their heavy iron gratings here and there. They stood for suffering, lost liberty, broken hearts, ruined careers, and crushed lives.

But one day I said to myself, "That institution is a reminder of the law that surrounds us with peace and tranquillity so long as we obey its precepts." In the same way the law of God surrounds

our hearts with peace and joy so long as we obey it. It was a hedge around the happy home of Adam and Eve. So long as they obeyed it, it was a wall shutting out from them all sorrow, pain, and heartaches.

What the law of God was to the Eden home it is to God's trusting child today. It is still the Christian's safeguard, and every broken precept is a breach in the wall, through which the enemy enters to mar the life and bring discord into its music. Perhaps we are earnestly endeavoring to keep *almost* all the law; possibly we are lenient with ourselves in only one particular. Well, that really is all the entrance the enemy needs, for well he knows that with one breach in the wall he can cause our destruction.

Sometimes it seems that there are no little things. "Tall oaks from little acorns grow," and often little acts of carelessness result in terrible tragedies. Small cigarette stubs have been known to be responsible for destructive fires. The other day I turned the key in the car, pressed on the starter, but only a muffled growl was the response. I had the car towed to a garage. The trouble? Only a loose connection. It was such a little thing, yet it made it impossible for the car to function. So in life, it is dangerous to underrate the so-called little things. Mighty results hang on them.

In the law of God there are no unimportant clauses. The law is a transcript

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## WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

BY RICHARD F. FARLEY

# 4. The Divine Origin of the Holy Scriptures

**THROUGH** *what agencies did God speak to people in ancient times?*

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets." Hebrews 1:1.

See also Numbers 12:6. A prophet is one who speaks for God by divine revelation. His message may cover past events, present problems and instruction, or future predictions. God is the only one who knows these facts with infallible certainty.

*What other revelations has God given of Himself?*

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork." Psalm 19:1.

"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them. . . . 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; so that they are without excuse." Romans 1:19, 20.

*How else has God revealed Himself and His purposes to the human family?*

God "hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds." Hebrews 1:2.

Our major conceptions of God the Father are shaped and formed by our knowledge of the life, character, purposes, attitudes, and works of Jesus. Remember what Jesus said to Philip, as

recorded in John 14:9: "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father."

*In what written form have God's messages been preserved for us to-day?*

"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according

to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith." Romans 16:25, 26.

"Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4.

The whole plan of salvation is now made known to us through the Bible.

*What divine origin do the Scriptures claim for themselves? How complete is the religious guidance they provide?*

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

The term "inspiration" means literally "inbreathed." The prophet, while in vision receiving a divine revelation, had no breath in his body. His respiration was suspended, yet he could speak. Daniel 10:17. That speech was produced by God's breathing through him the words He wished to speak. Hence the divine authority of the words the prophet had

On Mount Sinai Moses received directly from God the tables containing the Ten Commandment law. © SHAW



to declare to the people or to write in his scrolls.

***By what power and authority then did the Bible prophets speak?***

"The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21.

This removes the words of the prophet, both spoken and written, from the volition or personal thoughts of the prophet himself, and places the origin and content of his messages entirely with God and under His control. The Bible is the written word of these prophets, and therefore is truly the inspired word of God.

***By whose authority did the prophets themselves claim to speak?***

"Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice." Isaiah 56:1.

This is just a random selection, which can be multiplied indefinitely. In it the prophet prefaces his message to the people with, "Thus saith the Lord." Scan the writings of the prophets and you will see this expression occurring over and over again. The spokesman claimed to be speaking not only by divine authority and compulsion, but he was actually quoting word for word what God had told him to say.

***What was the source of Paul's writings?***

"I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Galatians 1:12.

The early church understood that Paul was speaking by direct inspiration, for Peter remarks, "Account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you." 2 Peter 3:15.

***What are the steps in giving such a divine message, as shown in the experience of the apostle John?***

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John." Revelation 1:1.

There are five steps in such a revelation: God, to Christ, to His angel, to the prophet, to the church. From the church it was to be given to the unbelieving world. As one reads the Bible he notices that God considered His word to the prophets of such superlative importance that He sent these messages by the hand of Gabriel, the highest angel in

heaven. See Daniel 8:16; Luke 1:19, 26-29.

***How are these claims of the Bible to a divine origin substantiated by internal evidence?***

1. By the unity of the teachings of the Bible on the basic problems of philosophy. Although written by forty men, more or less, over a period of sixteen hundred years, the books are in perfect agreement on the major theological and philosophical questions over which uninspired men have violently disagreed. Such unity would be impossible were it not for the fact that there is actually only one Author, God.

2. By its predictions. Only the One who knows the end from the beginning could do this infallibly, as He has done. We can now test most of these forecasts of human events by recorded history. There is invariable agreement, even down to the minutest details.

3. By the power of the Bible in the transformation of the lives and characters of men. Sinners have been recreated into saints. Whole civilizations have been revolutionized. No other book has had such an uplifting and beneficial power in this world as has the Bible.

***What was Jesus' attitude toward the Bible? Upon what did He base His claims to the Messiahship?***

"He began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." Luke 4:21.

This is but one of many similar expressions in the Gospels. The same is found throughout the writings of the apostles. Christ and His disciples consistently quoted the Holy Scriptures to prove their teachings.

***To what other use did Jesus put the Scriptures?***

"He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4.

"Jesus said unto him, It is written

again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Verse 7.

When Jesus was so severely tempted by Satan, He used the Scriptures to defend Himself. He makes it clear that the Bible will furnish us with spiritual food.

***If we search the Bible honestly, prayerfully, diligently, and obediently, what shall we find therein?***

"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 5:39.

In the Scriptures we shall find eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Following Jeremiah's example, how should we cherish the Bible?***

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy name, O Lord God of hosts." Jeremiah 15:16.

Why not make the Bible a daily "must" in your life? Why not read it, study it, meditate upon it, and obey it? In God's word you will find the joy of salvation.

## Christ Victorious

(Continued from page 9)

triumph rang through the universe. "I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ." It was the death of Christ that sealed the new covenant and thus made sure the plan of redemption. It deposed Satan from his last official position in the government of God, that of the prince of this world and its representative in the councils or parliament of heaven. In that position he had access to the throne room where, as "the accuser of our brethren," he "day after day and night after night, was wont to accuse them in the presence of God" (Weymouth).

All heaven was glad and relieved when Satan could no longer go into the presence of God and accuse the saints on earth. When Christ, the second Adam, superseded Satan as the prince of this world and its representative in heaven, a great celebration was held by the inhabitants of the unfallen universe. They rejoiced because of "the salvation by which the saints were delivered, the power by which the enemy was overthrown, the kingdom which displays God's majesty" (Bengel). Since Christ sat down at the right hand of God as our intercessor and representative the question applies with special force, "Who shall lay anything to the charge

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of God's elect?" Romans 8:33. Read verses 31-39.

The triumphant death of Christ was the signal for the beginning of this great celestial celebration. Again we quote from Ellen G. White: "As Christ in His expiring agony upon the cross cried out, 'It is finished,' a shout of triumph rang through every world, and through heaven itself. The great contest that had been so long in progress in this world was now decided, and Christ was conqueror. . . . Satan had revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer. It was seen that the very same spirit with which he had ruled the children of men who were under his power, he would have manifested if permitted to control the intelligences of heaven. With one voice the loyal universe united in extolling the divine administration."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 69, 70.

This same victory of Christ over Satan is pictured by the Master in His statement to the disciples recorded in Luke 10:18, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." The seventy had just reported, "even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name." One reason for the rejoicing in heaven was that Satan could no longer taunt the members of the church in heaven with his accusations against their fellow believers and church members on earth, whom they speak of as "brethren." The entire universe is intensely interested in the outcome of the controversy between good and evil on this earth where the saints are "a spectacle ["theater," margin] unto the world, and to angels, and to men." 1 Corinthians 4:9.

### The Devil We Fight

(Continued from page 7)

Peter's experience is a lesson to all concerning the enemy's designs and purposes, and of the Lord's interest in our victory.

Satan is a wily foe. His methods of attack are varied; his devices are many. He persecutes, he brings in false doctrine, he encourages worldly conformity, he divides the church into factions, and he creates doubts and despair.

The New Testament presents Satan as seeking to control individuals. We can ponder the extended record with profit. "Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?" Acts 5:3. "Now I send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God." Acts 26:17, 18. "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

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2 Corinthians 2:11. "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." 2 Corinthians 11:14, 15.

"Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us." 1 Thessalonians 2:18.

"Then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming; even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10. Paul also mentions "the snare of the devil." 1 Timothy 3:7.

"Some are already turned aside after Satan." 1 Timothy 5:15.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith." 1 Peter 5:8, 9.

"There was war in heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan." Revelation 12:7-9.

From this it must be clear that the Christian life will be a constant battle. But, thank God, it may be a daily victory. Every forward step toward the heavenly goal will be contested. The soldier of the Lord is admonished to put on the whole armor of God and to be strong in the Lord.

We are to face the foe "in Christ." David wrote, "The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." Psalm 24:8. He has met the adversary of our souls in conflict and has always been victorious. In Him we can stand.

We need not fail, for "the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10. In this deadly conflict complete dependence upon Christ will bring victory. He has promised, "I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Isaiah 41:13.

SACRIFICE your life rather than your word or your purpose.—Stonewall Jackson.

## "Not Under the Law"

(Continued from page 11)

of the character of Him "with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." He is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever." So is His law. It changes not; it is immutable. That law Jesus did not come to destroy, for He plainly says, "Verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." James warns us, "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

In the last book of the Bible, Jesus tells us of the beautiful home He has gone to prepare for those who love Him; of the city with streets of gold and gates of pearl; of the river of life and the wonderful tree of life bearing twelve manner of fruit. Then He adds this precious promise: "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

So our present safety and our eternal salvation depend upon our living in humble obedience to the divine precepts of the law of God. Such a life is not a disappointment. It is a life of sweet companionship with Jesus. The best promises in the Bible are for those who live that life; and on those promises they calmly stand through all life's vicissitudes. For every duty Jesus is their strength! For every disappointment He is their comforter! For every trial He is their sufficiency! For every temptation He is their refuge! And all along the rugged pathway of life Jesus will be their "all in all" until the pearly gates swing open before them.

## The Bomb

(Continued from page 11)

We may yet discover that the earth has also been "artificially aged" by these cosmic rays that come from outside and penetrate and bombard our terrestrial globe continually. Thus the radioactive estimations would show a gross exaggeration for the age of the earth. As long as the theory of the constant half life for radioactive elements remains an *assumption*, what logical justification have we for substituting this uncertain age estimate for the Bible chronology?

2. *Solubility and Chemical Affinity.* If by some strange coincidence radioactive minerals were to be insoluble, or relatively so, it would be easier to believe that they might remain unaffected by ground water long enough accurately to compute the long ages usually postulated. But the fact that there seem to

be about as many minerals of uranium as of any of the other metals indicates that uranium has a strong bonding affinity for other elements. Under favorable environments the mineral crystals will be dissolved; and if the proper elements should be present, there is a molecular breakup and a different mineral is formed. Solvency occurs in the crust of the earth under infinitely varying conditions. This may occur when the mineral has been dissolved by highly heated supermineralized and thus highly solvent and highly pressurized and circulating underground waters, or by other solvents such as molten magma. The oceans carry in solution thousands of tons of radium and much more of uranium and other radioactive ores.

Each time this mineral or uranium element is dissolved or a chemical reaction takes place, the products of radioactive decay are lost or thrown out of ratio, and that time cycle comes to an end. If the new mineral crystallizes, and a static condition could possibly be established, it would be possible for a new cycle of time measurement to start. But this is a changing earth's crust, not a static one. Solutions circulate, and often much exchange or removal occurs. Therefore how can any stability be counted on sufficiently for a dependable measurement of the age of the earth?

According to the best authorities on sedimentation and mineralization, this erosion, leaching, transportation, and redeposition cycle takes place numerous times in the history of the earth. W. H. Twenhofel throws some light on this question in his *Principles of Sedimentation*. He says, "If an environment always remained constant at the conditions that permitted a mineral to form, there would be no changes. There are probably no places on the earth's surface, or in the outer crust, where immutability is possible. Environments are constantly changing." He then enumerates environmental factors, such as temperature, pressure, light intensity, humidity, precipitation, contents of the underground water, character of the soil and rock, and the nature of the surface and the forms of life.

Every leading geologist and mineralogist and geochemist thus expresses himself as to the ephemeral and wandering fickleness of mineralization. Whether in igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary rocks anywhere in the crust of the earth, most ores are subject to chemical reaction and to transportation. Therefore the likelihood of the uranium ores remaining unaffected by their environment for two or three billion years would seem remote indeed.



# SANDED CURVES



POPE, DEANLY

by SANFORD T. WHITMAN

**H**E is the typical country doctor of a generation ago—elderly, pleasantly gruff, wise beyond the requirements of his profession. In all his years of service to the people of the upper valley he could not remember a more prolonged or a more inclement stretch of weather. For what seemed to be endless weeks there were north winds instead of south winds, east winds instead of west winds. There was snow instead of rain. There were cold overcasts instead of the usual frequent visitations of temperate, low-flying scud. A few times, on sunny afternoons, there was some thawing in the more sheltered exposures, but on the whole the bitter cold of winter held the region in a relentless grasp.

During these months the demands on the good doctor's services rose to an all-

time high. Calls came in from near and far, and at all hours of the day and night; and he, ever faithful to his calling, did his best to answer them all.

In his continual comings and goings he had occasion to use virtually every road in the sparsely settled hill country south of the river. These ranged all the way from a modern four-lane highway to primitive sawmill and log trails; and, under the extreme conditions prevailing, traveling them was often dangerous and at times almost impossible.

On one of the worst nights of the winter a call came in from a home at the very edge of the county. Outside, the elements were raging—snow was swirling down in blinding clouds, the wind was blowing fiercely, and the cold was piercing. It was many miles to the home at the pass, and the question uppermost in the physician's mind was, "Can I get through?"

A quick mental review of conditions

assured him. The lonely farmhouse was on a state road, and all such roads were constantly patrolled by maintenance crews. Even on such a night as this, traveling would be reasonably safe—on a state road.

And so indeed it proved. Here and there along the way, men with snowplows and other equipment were busily at work. Slides were plainly marked and barricaded. Drifts were promptly plowed through. Most important of all, every curve was freshly sanded.

On the trip home in the wee hours of the morning, the kindly old doctor gave thanks with all his heart to the men who work in the night and storm to keep the highways safe for travel. And more than once as he sped down from the frigid heights he thought of the spiritual lesson taught by the sanded curves.

The blackness of earth's last terrible night is now settling over our world—and multitudes of weary and bewildered travelers are far from the welcoming safety of our Father's home. Alas, in attempting to find their way back, how many are following tortuous roadways or the nameless byways which lead back and up and finally lose themselves in the outermost hills!

For the men and women of this generation there is only one road home. That is the state highway of repentance. "Jesus answering said unto them, . . . I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:2, 3. There are many other roads for us to travel, but they are all stormbound and lead only farther and ever farther into the night and cold.

How different is the King's highway! It is the one road home and it is always open and safe. Those who set forth upon this road have a wonderful Guidebook to direct and sustain them at every hard place of their journey. "Thy word," declares the psalmist, "is a lamp unto my feet." Psalm 119:105.

Sanded curves! Oil pots aflame, warning of places of danger! Powerful snowplows under the direction of able hands, opening the way through otherwise impassable drifts. An impossible journey made possible and safe—because someone cares enough to keep the road open at night!

Fellow traveler, are you far from home and lost in the darkness and storm of these anguished and fateful years? Have you sought and struggled until you can seek and struggle no more? It is not God's will that you shall perish. It is not His will that any shall perish. Through the infinite mercy of God a way is being kept open for you to return.