

# *Signs* OF THE TIMES



**GOD BLESS MOTHER**

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# Signs

of the TIMES

May 3,  
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*The World's Prophetic Weekly*

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## RELIGION IN ACTION

by M. CAROL HETZELL

● Parked-car Sunday-school classes are relieving crowded conditions at the Northwest Baptist church of Miami, Florida. Recently 133 children met in seventeen classes held in cars on the church lot. An additional 122 children met in twelve classes under canvas behind the building serving as the church center, and 177 men and boys met in ten classes in a cafeteria near the church. Plans are in hand for a two-story educational building to accommodate 600 in Bible classes.

● Churches are failing to hold the interest of young adults, according to a survey of the National Council of Churches. Emphasis is heavy on the children and teenage programs, but falls off sharply as the youth reach maturity. Traditional church programs were rated high by the group, but "optional" activities, such as scouting, vocational guidance, dating, and marriage counseling, were considered less effective. The need seemed to be for a program to put action into the church's teachings.

● "One in Twenty Thousand," the new technicolor anti-tobacco film of the American Temperance Society, is tearing smokers loose from their pet cigarette packs after each showing. The film is an authentic case history of lung cancer caused by chain smoking, with actual close-up filming of the lung operation necessary to save the life of the man who "had to have his smoke." High schools and churches are scheduling the film as fast as possible.

● Members of the Haileybury, Ontario, Seventh-day Adventist church can truly say they know every timber in their house of worship. They felled the lumber, milled it, built the church with their own hands, and finished it. Two successive pastors led out in the project, which went on despite winter's chill breath.

● Refugees arriving in the United States are by no means a forgotten people. The National Lutheran Council recently earmarked \$600,000 for expediting the resettlement of refugees in this country. This is the first step in a million-dollar, three-year program for refugees.

### OUR COVER

This beautiful picture by Armstrong Roberts will touch many a mother's heart this Mother's Day. And surely there is nothing more important, in these days of divorce and delinquency, than the fostering of the ties that bind children to their parents and preserve the integrity of the home. Read "Mother of Mine," by Charles G. Bellah, on page 5 of this issue, and "God Bless Mother!" by Donald A. Webster on page 12.

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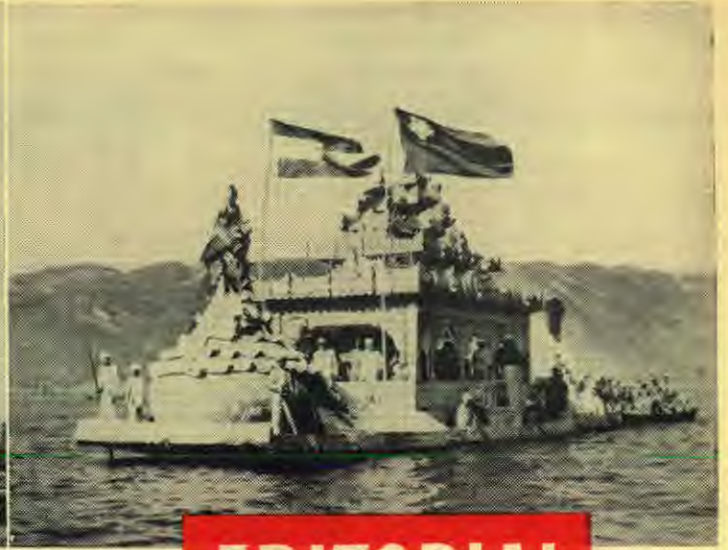
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UNITED PRESS

(Left) This experimental Bell Aircraft VTOL (vertical take off and landing) plane rises vertically and flies like a conventional fixed-wing jet when the engines are rotated to horizontal position. (Right) In honor of the visit of Premier Tito of Yugoslavia to Burma the Burmese President Ba U and Premier U Nu brought out the royal barge for a sail on the Inlay Lakes.



## EDITORIAL

### HEAD FOR THE HILLS

"**H**HEAD for the Hills" is now official Government policy in case of air raids on crowded cities. All cities, of course, do not have hills adjacent to them, but the general idea is plain. It is, Get out as fast as you can after the warning signal has been given.

Many large cities have already made extensive preparations for evacuation. San Francisco, for instance, has a dispersal plan designed to empty the downtown area of its estimated 773,500 daytime workers—if time permits, of course.

The bulk of these people would make their way by cars, busses, railroad and on foot southward into San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The rest would flee northward over the Golden Gate bridge.

With all six traffic lanes open to northbound traffic, and supposing nobody panics and causes an accident, 4,800 autos could cross this majestic but highly vulnerable span in an hour. With five persons in each car this would take 24,000 per hour out of the danger zone.

How many people would actually get out before the fatal explosion is problematical. That would depend upon the length of the warning. Authorities hope for a maximum of three hours if the Air Force radar network picks up the attacking plane in time; if not, one hour might be too much to count on.

Plans are being laid for homes, schools, barns, and other types of houses in the surrounding countryside to be requisitioned to shelter the hords of refugees. Food is being stored to feed them. Many first-aid stations are being set up to care for the injured.

Members of families have been warned not to wait for each other after the warning signal is given but to move out independently at once. Present counsel is for each family to select a meeting place *now* somewhere in the country where every member will proceed by whatever means and routes may be available.

With world conditions as they are, the Government is to be congratulated on taking these wise precautions to save as many lives as possible should the dreaded disaster strike. But what a shocking thing it is that in this year of our Lord,

1955, when prosperity abounds and civilization has reached its highest pinnacle in history, such plans should be necessary at all! How terrible that just when man has the means at hand to build the finest cities, the most beautiful homes and the most ingenious labor-saving devices, he should be told to prepare to head for the hills!

Surely this tragic situation should bring home to all of us anew the seriousness of the times in which we live. We are face to face with stern realities. The days of easy money, easy living, could be so quickly terminated. The material things on which so many of us depend so heavily could be swept away in a moment, in "the twinkling of an eye," as the Bible says.

Beyond question it is time to think anew of the things that matter most in life, of our relationship to God and His plans for the future. If ever there was a moment when men should be seeking God it is now. The gravest crisis of all history is just ahead. And it is no calamity-howling to say that we may soon witness scenes of terror and destruction beyond all imagination.

For many years the *Signs of the Times* has borne witness to the fact that Bible prophecies concerning the last days are now being fulfilled. In the face of no little criticism we have faithfully declared that events are moving toward that sublime climax when God will intervene in human affairs and the rejected and crucified Christ will return as King of kings and Lord of lords. Our opinion has not changed. Indeed, when the citizens of rich, powerful, America are counseled by their Government to get ready to head for the hills we feel more sure than ever that we have been right all along.

It is of special significance in this connection that one of the many Bible prophecies relating to the final scenes makes specific reference to a great trek to the hills to escape onrushing disaster. In the book of Revelation we read: "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, *hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains*; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him



that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:14-17.

With this prospect in view now, how fitting is the counsel of the prophet Zephaniah: "Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." Zephaniah 2:3.

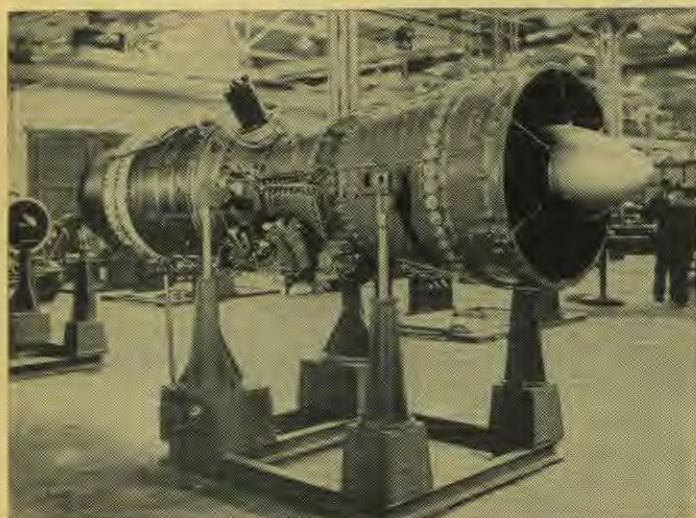
A. S. M.

## "IF CHRIST CAME BACK"

RECENTLY a London newspaper opened its pages for three weeks to a discussion of the subject, "If Christ came back." The interest in it is indicated by the fact that 25,000 readers were eager to express their opinions.

From the letters quoted in *Time* it is evident that the writers have little thought of Christ's coming in glory to bring to an end the present age and establish His kingdom of righteousness. Evangelist Billy Graham was the only one quoted who referred to the Bible teaching of the return of Christ. He said, "It is not if, but when, because the Holy Bible definitely teaches that Christ is coming back to this world!"

The others thought merely of what might happen if Christ



This giant turbo-jet engine, which has been designed to power the new Royal Air Force Avro-Vulcan bomber, was given its first public demonstration recently in Bristol, England.

UNITED PRESS

were to appear, say in London, as a man again walking among men, as He did 1,900 years ago, and the part He would take in the affairs of the world.

A Protestant leader is quoted as saying, "He would have much to say about politics—probably more than about anything else, for He would know full well that politics today has a part inexorably more important in the lives of men than it had in the first century. In fact, I believe He would say that His kingdom must first be sought in the political field, because that is where . . . the vital things are happening."

A labor leader expressed the opinion that "if Jesus came back, He would see much to admire and much that would distress Him, and, on balance, I humbly suspect more to applaud than to condemn."

A woman writer said, "He would probably be invited to speak at women's clubs, and His teaching would be regarded as a new cult worthy of the attention of 'progressive' females with nothing better to do."

There is no more important subject for men and women to think about today than Christ's return to this world. If

people would search the Scriptures, they would find how He will come and what His coming will mean to the world and to them personally. "I go to prepare a place for you," Jesus said. "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." John 14:2, 3.

The manner of His coming is equally clear. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." After certain signs have been fulfilled, He said, "then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24:30.

Christ foretold what His coming will mean to the two classes of people who will be living then—those who are making the needed preparation, and those who are carelessly disregarding His command to watch and be ready. "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left." And He added the warning, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matthew 24:40-42. There is no doubt that Christ is coming back. What will His coming mean to you, to me? C. D. U.

## GUIDE TO RELIGIONS

DURING the past two years a series of sixteen articles on "The Great Religions of America" has been appearing in *Look* magazine. These included, "What is a Baptist?" "What is a Methodist?" "What is a Catholic?" "What is a Seventh-day Adventist?" and several others.

A few of these articles, including "What is a Seventh-day Adventist?" have since been syndicated and published in scores of metropolitan dailies. Untold millions have read them. Now the entire group of articles has been reprinted in book form by Simon and Schuster of New York City under the title *A Guide to the Religions of America*. May 3 is publication day and many of our readers will no doubt want to secure a copy from their local bookstore. The book is edited by Mr. Leo Rosten, editorial advisor to the Board of Editors of *Look* magazine.

A. S. M.

## NO SPIRIT MESSAGE

AFTER waiting twenty-eight years for a message from beyond the grave a Providence, Rhode Island, man died recently. His long vigil was in fulfillment of an agreement he made with Harry Houdini, the famous magician, that whoever died first would try to communicate with the other. Mrs. Houdini, who outlived her husband some sixteen years, likewise tried hundreds of times to communicate with him, but no message ever came.

Mr. Houdini believed the alleged messages received through spirit mediums were trickery and fraud, and he spent many years in exposing their methods. His belief was only partly correct, because there are spirits which have the power to communicate with men. They are not, however, the spirits of departed loved ones, as those believe who deny the reality of death. They are the "spirits of devils," which even now are working to deceive. Revelation 16:14. If one knows the truth of Scripture, that the dead are dead, that they are gone "down into silence," that their very thoughts have perished (Psalm 115:17; 146:4), he will not expect to hear from them, and he will not be deceived by any messages purporting to come from them.

C. D. U.



# Mother of Mine

by CHARLES G. BELLAH

**I**T HAD been snowing on my mother's head long before I was born. The auburn locks had already turned to white, and the sunlight of heaven had been gilding the peaks of snow. Yet like Mount Hecla, while there was snow on the crest, there was fire in the heart. To my childish mind the gray hairs seemed like so many beautiful silver headmarks, which the Lord had granted her for loyalty in the arduous school of life.

After all, what is more beautiful than an aged saint—or more pitiful than an aged sinner? "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." Proverbs 16:31. But the white locks of the wicked are but the gathered frosts of approaching death. "The beauty of old men is the gray head." Proverbs 20:29.

I was the youngest in a family of seven children—the Benjamin of my devoted mother. One infant sister, little Sarah, went out of this life before I entered it. God gently hushed her into a long slumber that needed no lullaby. Thus the cradle song was silent for a time, and the home seemed empty. Then another bundle of affection was dropped into mother's lap. Again the simple song was heard—a song that no mother has to learn and no child can ever forget.

Our family moved from southern Illinois to southern Missouri when I was less than four years old. Father sold a few things and loaded the rest of our earthly belongings into an old covered wagon. An extra horse and colt were tied to the rear of the vehicle, or led by one of the older boys. It was a very hard journey, but full of adventure, especially for the children.

Early one day, while on this trip, father was driving and mother, with all the children, walked behind. Her ever-watchful eyes were the first to see a runaway horse bearing down upon us. Calling to the older children to hurry off the roadway to safety, she turned her attention to me. Being frightened, and not realizing the danger, I lingered.

Then, with true motherly instinct, she quickly sprang between me and danger. She saw that both could not be saved, and with almost superhuman strength hurled me to one side. I was safe. But by that time the frightened horse was upon her. It seemed for the moment to have struck her with all four feet as it crushed her to the earth.

Father and the older children hurriedly carried her almost lifeless body to the roadside. Upon examination we found that the terrified animal had struck the top of her head with one unshod foot, cutting a terrible semi-circular gash. We washed and dressed the wound as best we could considering our limited experience and materials.

Her first inquiry on awakening was to ascertain if her little boy was safe.

## A Delightful Mother's Day Story



GALLOWAY

### BLESS THIS HOME

NONA KEEN DUFFY

Bless, dear God, this home of ours;  
Keep it fresh as garden flowers.

Bless enduring roof above,  
May we match it with our love.

Bless the windows and the doors,  
Bless the gleaming tile and floors.

Bless the chimney, and, below,  
Warm our hearts with fireside glow.

Bless the cozy atmosphere,  
May our eyes reflect its cheer.

Bright as paper on the walls,  
May our laughter fill the halls.

Bless our circle, one and all;  
Bless each friend who comes to call.

Bless our gracious door of blue  
And each person who comes through.

Keep our spirits gay and free,  
Full of faith and harmony.

Bless our home with peace and love,  
Make it like the one above.

Amen.



By and by the wound healed, but it left a distinct scar, which she carried to her grave. This hoofmark became a kind of hallmark to me. I always looked upon mother as the one who had gladly risked her life for me. Her life had been offered instead of mine. Had she not done this, in all probability I would have been killed. In succeeding years, as the thrilling experience was told and retold, I looked upon that curved scar with a sort of childish reverence. It seemed to me that there was always a halo about the snow-white head.

Through all of that terribly hard first year in Missouri (1876), mother never complained. We were among strangers, our money was gone, and work was scarce. Our food was corn bread, wild greens, and Whippoorwill peas. But our little mother knew that "better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." Proverbs 15: 17. The Lord gave us good health. No one seemed to have indigestion or any loss of appetite.

Mother was an old-fashioned woman. She wore old-fashioned clothes, lived in an old-fashioned home, and had old-fashioned notions about rearing children with prayer and persimmon sprouts—and that frequently. She lived an old-fashioned religion around an old-fashioned fireplace so successfully that every little "chickabiddy" knew that the safest as well as the happiest place in all the world was at home.

She understood that there was no science greater than the fine art of just being a mother. She combined faith and works. She never thought of turning her children over to a nurse and a milk bottle. Hard knuckles, thimble marks, and nails manicured on a washboard were considered in those early days as naturally allotted to mothers.

If she could have collected time and a half for overtime she would soon have been independent. Six hours a day and five days a week would have been a joyous holiday for her. She spun her own wool and cotton, wove cloth, made clothing, flagged chairs, tended a garden, raised chickens, and kept house—and yet found ample time to mother her children. Money was always scarce in those days but right back of every dollar my mother found One who provided for all her needs.

All seven children were rocked in an old straight chair; but there was music in every creak. One child's rocker served all the children and was at last put away in the loft when we had outgrown it. Mother's old chair was just high enough to allow us to put our heads in her lap.

This was the bank in which we deposited all our childish hurts and worries, the harbor where we knew we were safe from the waves of trouble that broke around us.

There were only three books in the home—the Bible, a dictionary, and a book of adventure. I learned the alphabet, and also how to read, from the Good Book before having the privilege of attending school. Mother's greatest delight was in reading the Scriptures. I can see her yet, white-haired and bespectacled, as she sat with open Bible on her lap. Here she found solace for her soul and wisdom to interpret God to her children. Bible stories never grew old to us. The first song I ever learned was at her knee; it began:

Christ was born in Bethlehem,  
And in a manger lay.

We always told mother our troubles and went to her with all our needs. We were sure of finding sympathy and comfort. My big brothers might laugh at me, but mother never did. Whether I became lost in the cornfield, fell into the creek while trying to put my dog in, got choked on raw parsnips, was caught in a steel trap set for jay birds, or got my finger fastened in a bottle neck, she always stood ready to sympathize as well as to save.

Mother had always observed Sunday as a day of rest—and very sacredly, for

## OUR WORLD TODAY

### Government Surplus

The United States Government holds surplus farm products worth \$6.9 billion: \$2.8 billion in wheat, \$1.4 billion in cotton, \$1.2 billion in corn, \$0.5 billion in dairy products, and \$1 billion in other items, according to *U.S. News and World Report*. The United States expects to give away, sell, or barter, in the year ending in mid-1955, surplus products worth \$1.5 billion: \$80.7 million to schools for pupils' lunches, \$77.5 million to charities and relief agencies, \$64.4 million to drought-stricken farmers, \$21 million to Armed Forces and veterans' hospitals, and \$1.3 billion to foreign countries.

### Biggest Private Business

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the nation's biggest privately owned business, pushed its assets beyond the \$13,000,000,000 mark in 1954, according to the *Indianapolis Star*, thus retaining the No. 1 spot among the world's giant business organizations. At \$13,091,375,527, assets of the huge insurance firm were up 6 per cent over the \$12,311,933,367 reported for 1953.

D. A. W.

she was a devout Methodist. By and by, when I was a lad of fifteen, the truth that the seventh day, Saturday, is the Sabbath was preached in our neighborhood, and she and father readily accepted it. I well remember one Sabbath morning, sitting in the old log church. The minister presented the binding obligation of the Ten Commandments, with special emphasis on the fourth. As the Sabbath truth broke in upon my mother's mind, she clapped her hands twice over her head and shouted, "Hallelujah!" And until her dying day she never went back on the stand she had then taken.

On summer evenings, as the family sat on the old front porch, mother would occasionally slip out and away to the garden. There, like Abraham, she would look up at the stars and beyond them to God. Praying, meditating, worshipping, her heart would become so filled with the divine Presence that she would shout, "Hallelujah!" twice or thrice, and then return with the light of another world upon her countenance—the sweetest face in all the world to me.

As time rolled on, mother's hair became whiter and her steps more faltering. She had passed threescore and ten, and was hastening toward fourscore. Tears had washed the luster from her eyes. But even with dim eyes, the splendors of the celestial city would now and then kindle upon her vision. Time had driven his cruel chariot wheels across the dear old face and left, as it were, deep ruts and gullies behind. Her gait was slow, but every halting step was one more toward the shining gates of the yonderland.

At last she had seen her Benjamin grow up, become a Christian, and devote his life to Christian work. Then the end came without any illness. She came to her grave "in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season." Job 5:26. Father and some of the children had passed away years before. After peacefully sleeping for about forty-eight hours, she aroused, conscious and happy, drew a long breath—and was gone.

Having returned home a few days before the end came, my sister and I were much comforted by her readiness to go. The snow-white locks were folded back over the wrinkled temples, and the right hand placed over the heart that had always beat true to her family and her God. If you have such a mother, make the last few miles of life's journey as smooth for her as you can. Remember, home is empty when mother is gone.





REVIEW PICTURES

# Jesus Died for Us

First of Four Inspiring Articles

by J. L. TUCKER

**I**N OUR study we shall consider four views of Jesus and His work. Looking backward, we shall see Jesus die for us. Looking upward, we shall see Him ministering for us. Looking inward, we shall see Him dwelling within us. Looking forward, we shall see Him coming for us.

"Look unto Me, and be ye saved." Isaiah 45:22.

Jesus is not hard to find. He is a seeking Saviour; and when a seeking sinner and a seeking Saviour go looking for each other, they will soon get together. To find Jesus, the one great prerequisite is desire, wholehearted desire. "Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13.

In our first view of Jesus we shall look back and see Him dying for us. "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God." Galatians 1:4.

"Who gave Himself." There was no coercion, no force. No one compelled Jesus to become a sacrifice for man's

sin. He was a willing sacrifice. He took our place, bore our punishment.

Jesus was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. He took the penalty we deserved. By His stripes we are healed. Can you not love Him forever?

My son and I once stood on Calvary's hill and looked over the city of Jerusalem. In imagination we saw the events of 1,900 years ago. In Gethsemane, Jesus with His soul exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death, battled alone with the prince of darkness until, in the intensity of the struggle, blood oozed from His pores. Then we followed Him to Pilate's judgment hall and saw Him before Herod and his cruel soldiers. We saw the mockery, the crown of thorns, the spitting and the shame, the cruel scourging as He was condemned to die. We saw the heavy cross laid upon him. Exhausted, He fell beneath the load. On the summit of Calvary they nailed Him, uncomplaining, to the cross. They lifted Him up to die before the gaze of a few friends and loved ones, and the howling mob. As we continued to watch the scene, we saw the lips of Jesus begin

to move. He was praying. Wonder of wonders, He was praying for His murderers. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

"Forgive the man who nailed My hands and feet to the cross."

"Forgive the man who made the crown of thorns and tell him I will still give him a crown of life, if he will accept Me as his Saviour."

(Continued on page 14)



1. Looking Backward
2. Looking Upward
3. Looking Inward
4. Looking Forward

## BUSY HANDS

HELEN ROGERS SMITH

As nightly, Lord, in prayer I clasp  
These hands Thou gavest me,  
I ask Thy blessing on their work,  
Done this day for Thee.

Just common, homely, household  
tasks,  
Yes, lowly, Lord, as Thine  
Laboring in the Nazareth shop  
With cypress, oak, and pine.

Full were Thy hands with simple  
toil,  
Thy heart with love and praise;  
So help me lift my thoughts to God  
Through all my work-filled days.



by  
**SIEGFRIED H.  
HORN**

Professor of Archaeology  
and History of Antiquity  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Theological Seminary

# Samaria

## *The Forgotten City*



Sebastia (ancient Samaria), showing columns which bordered one of Herod's streets.

BARTLETT

**S**AMARIA, the capital of the kingdom of Israel, was the second important city of ancient Palestine. In rank it stood next to Jerusalem, the famous capital of the southern kingdom of Judea. However, Samaria's luster, glory, and wealth have passed, while Jerusalem is still a large city, the proud capital of a nation, and an attraction to millions of Christians, Jews, and Moslems.

Approaching Samaria on a good road from Jerusalem, the traveler suddenly sees before him a wide cuplike plain. This is surrounded on all sides by mountains rising up to about 1,500 feet above sea level, from whose summits the Mediterranean can be seen, while in the midst of the wide plain a steep hill rises to 350 feet—"the hill Samaria," bought by king Omri for about \$1,300 as a site of his capital. 1 Kings 16:24.

Samaria possessed a strategically favored position. Omri, the father of Ahab, who founded the city, showed great foresight in choosing this particular spot.

Since the hill on which the city was built lies far from the surrounding mountains, it was not easily conquered. In fact, Samaria seems never to have been taken by storm, although it fell sev-

eral times to conquering armies. In the time of Elisha, Ben-hadad of Damascus almost forced the city to surrender, when, after a long siege, famine conditions brought it very low. Only a miraculous interference, caused by Elisha's mediation, saved it at that time. 2 Kings 6:24 to 7:20. Even the Assyrians, the undisputed masters of ancient warfare and siege techniques, were able to conquer Samaria only after a three-year siege, in 722 B.C., when the city probably fell because of lack of food and water. 2 Kings 17:5, 6.

Samaria did not lose its importance with the destruction of the kingdom of Israel. When the country was made an Assyrian province, the city became the residence of the governor. It retained this position for centuries, although changing hands several times, falling first to the Babylonians and later to the Persians. When Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire, he likewise installed his representative in Samaria, but after this governor had been killed by the Samaritans, Alexander punished the city severely and settled Macedonian colonists on the hill.

Samaria, however, retained its rebellious character, and was therefore repeatedly destroyed in the following

centuries, first by Ptolemy I in 312 B.C., then by the Seleucid king Demetrius Poliorcetes in 296 B.C., and finally by the Maccabean king John Hyrcanus of Judah in 109 B.C. Rebuilt again by the Roman governor Gabinius, between 57 and 55 B.C., it experienced its most glorious period under Herod the Great, to whom it had been given by the Romans in 30 B.C. He beautified the city by erecting several large buildings, among which a magnificent temple built in honor of the emperor Augustus took first place. He constructed also a wide, columned avenue, crossing the city from its western to its eastern limits. Many of the columns of this avenue are still standing and testify to the city's past glory.

Samaria was long believed to be the place where John the Baptist met his death. Actually, John was beheaded at the castle of Machaerus in southern Transjordan, as the Jewish historian Josephus tells us. However, Machaerus because of its inaccessibility was hardly ever visited by Christian pilgrims, for which reason tradition moved his death place to a more convenient site in western Palestine.

That the tradition about John's death at Samaria has no historical basis is not



only proved by Josephus's statement already referred to, but also by the fact that Herod Antipas, the murderer of John the Baptist, never ruled over Samaria, but was tetrarch over Galilee and Transjordan, while Samaria and Judea were under the administration of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, in the time of the ministry of Christ and John the Baptist. Yet most modern visitors to Samaria, not being too well acquainted with ancient history, believe the story that John was held and decapitated in the dungeon shown at Samaria. That this erroneous tradition is rather old can be seen from the fact that the Crusaders built a church in John's honor, which is now a Moslem mosque, and that an ancient chapel has been excavated in which John's memory was kept alive during the early Middle Ages long before the time of the Crusaders.

In visiting this most interesting site, I was not so much interested in the structures which it is claimed were connected with John the Baptist's death,

as in the remains of Old Testament Samaria. They have been uncovered by two archaeological expeditions. The first, sponsored by Harvard University, worked at Samaria from 1908 to 1911, first under the direction of D. G. Lyon and subsequently under that of G. A. Reisner and C. S. Fisher. They uncovered some of the magnificent ruins of Herod's city, finding even a large statue of Augustus, which is now in Istanbul. Their most important discoveries, however, were the remains of the earliest palaces of Israel's kings, Omri and Ahab. Sections of the strong fortification system, built in casemate style, were also laid bare, and a large tank which the excavators have identified as the pool of Samaria, in which the blood-stained chariot of Ahab was washed. 1 Kings 22:38.

The excavators were fortunate to discover a great number of inscribed potsherds, called the Samaria ostraca. They are notes kept by royal tax collectors who registered the receipts of oil and

wine from the different parts of the kingdom for the palace storehouses. Since papyrus or leather was too expensive to be used as writing material for ordinary notes like registering received wine, pieces of broken pottery vessels were frequently used by the ancients as writing material. While all the precious records of Samaria for which papyrus or leather was used have perished long ago, simple documents like these inscribed potsherds have been preserved in the debris of Samaria's ruins. It is too bad that so few ancient scribes used potsherds as writing material. They would have rendered us moderns a great service if they had left us more records on such imperishable material.

Although the contents of the Samaria ostraca are not very interesting, telling us merely how many jars of wine and oil certain citizens had shipped to the palace, the discovery of these unpretentious documents was nevertheless of great importance. Since Palestine has never produced many written documents of ancient times, every inscribed object is hailed by the archaeologist with great joy. Being original records of the ninth century B.C., the ostraca of Samaria are shedding light on the language, orthography, grammar, and script of Israel during the time of Ahab and Elijah; but, best of all, through the many personal names which appear in these documents, they illuminate the religious conditions prevailing in the country in the time when they were written.

Ancient names reflect the religious loyalties of a nation. In every country the names of local or national gods were used in the personal names which people gave to their children. Egyptian names like Ramses, Thutmose, or Seti contain the names of the Egyptian divinities Ra, Thoth, and Seth, while in the Babylonian names of Nebuchadnezzar, Evilmerodach, and Belshazzar the names of the Babylonian gods Nabu, Marduk, and Bel can be recognized. In the same way many of the loyal Jews gave to their children names in which "God" (Hebrew *El* or *Elohim*) or "Jehovah" (Hebrew *Yahweh*) appear. The name "Elnathan," for example, means "God has given," while "Mattaniah," another Jewish name, means "the gift of Jehovah," the ending "iah" being an abbreviation of the Hebrew form for Jehovah. In the light of these observations it is most instructive to find among the many personal names mentioned in the Samaria ostraca a great number connected with Baal, like Abibaal, Baal-

(Continued on page 15)

Part of the huge tower, buried more than 2,000 years, which has been uncovered in the Biblical city of Samaria.







PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

## Dinosaur and Human Footprints Found Together

# WHEN REPTILES RULED THE EARTH

by CLIFFORD L. BURDICK

The author, Clifford L. Burdick, pointing to a dinosaur track and a human footprint excavated from Paluxy River, Texas.

**A**CCORDING to orthodox geology—or that branch of it known as “paleontology,” the study of ancient fossil life—the Mesozoic era was the period when giant reptiles flourished.

There were numerous forms and species, but the largest was the *Brontosaurus*, from the Greek meaning “thunder lizard.” His enormous body weighed about thirty tons and measured nearly seventy feet from nostrils to the extremity of his long tail. His brain did not amount to much more than a small swelling toward the end of his long giraffelike neck. His hind legs were operated by an oversized ganglion toward the base of his spinal cord. This rear brain was several times the size of his forward one. These giant beasts are supposed to have lived partly under water, browsing on aquatic plants as well as on land vegetation.

The mightiest and most feared flesh eater of all time was not the lion or the tiger, but the terrible reptile *Tyrannosaurus rex*. He was endowed with great strength. He measured some fifty feet from head to tail. His hind legs were powerfully muscled down to his three-toed, taloned feet. His main weapon of attack was his murderous mouth, armed with rows of six-inch, saberlike teeth. His front feet were so small as to be almost vestigial, or useless.

Evolutionary writers in recent issues of popular periodicals have referred to the sudden extinction of the dinosaur

with such statements as this: “And he vanished with the rest of the dinosaurs when their death knell suddenly and mysteriously tolled.”

Such language intimates that some great supernatural stroke of doom overwhelmed the world, when all life perished in one great catastrophe. Does history give us any clue? How about the Genesis account of the universal Flood at the time of Noah? How could a sudden destruction have overcome these giant reptiles along with the giant elephants, in a supposedly *uniformitarian* world, where even the use of the term “cataclysm” is taboo?

Could these creatures have been too big or too ravenous to enter the ark? Possibly the all-wise Creator chose to let them become extinct, for the post-diluvian world would never be able to support them. Since the Flood the ground has not produced of its former strength. The minerals of the soil have been largely washed out to sea, where whales and fishes thrive.

The writer has inspected a veritable graveyard of dinosaurs on the Colorado plateau in New Mexico. Some years ago a Russian scientist discovered a dinosaur graveyard in the Gobi, Mongolia, where he claimed that millions of dinosaurs died. These graveyards certainly suggest sudden extinction.

The writer already quoted likened the sudden destruction of the mammoths to that of the dinosaurs. “These giants of the Pleistocene, the mam-

moths, mastodons, sabertooths, and sloths, died out as swiftly as the dinosaurs before them—vast multitudes of living creatures—whole species, genera, families—abruptly vanished from the face of the planet. . . . The great dying of the late Pleistocene and early Recent epochs marked the most far-flung and radically destructive crisis in the entire history of the mammals. To the modern evolutionist it presents an enigma no less baffling than the great dying of the reptiles seventy-five million years before.”

As we shall hope to prove, there was no seventy-five-million-year gap between dinosaur and mammoth; evidence seems to show that they were living at the same time on the earth. As to the baffling enigma of their wholesale dying, the only logical answer would appear to be the great Deluge of Noah’s day, which Christ Himself corroborated as a historical fact. For some sufficient reason, God chose to destroy animal life when He destroyed the human race except for eight persons. Many whole species became extinct. Could both mammoths and dinosaurs have become extinct at one and the same time—by the same catastrophe, or was there more than one such catastrophe?

If we can demonstrate that man and dinosaur lived at the same time, then perhaps that would be proof that mammoth and dinosaur were contemporaneous, for we have already found that man hunted the mammoth. There is an old rule which says that things that are equal to the same thing are equal to each other.

Some time ago the writer assisted in field investigations on the Paluxy River, about six miles northwest of Glen



Rose, Texas. Portions of the stream bed, consisting of Cretaceous limestone, are covered with dinosaur tracks, both three-toed and four-toed. Dr. Roland T. Bird, paleontologist of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, supervised or assisted in removal of many of these giant reptile tracks for transportation to the museum. His story of the discovery of these tracks made interesting reading in the May, 1939, issue of the periodical, *Natural History*.

However, the real surprise was not the discovery of dinosaur tracks; they are quite common. The real stunner was when Mr. Bird found tracks that appeared to be human, in close proximity with the dinosaur tracks, thus confirming the axiom of Deluge geology that these extinct species lived contemporaneously before the Flood, along with modern types of fauna and flora. In studying extinct species such as mammoth and dinosaur, we are actually dealing with antediluvian life.

The pity is that most of the strange giant human tracks, found in the same river-bed strata as dinosaur tracks, have been chiseled out of the limestone and sold to various museums and curio collectors.

Mr. Bird first discovered a pair of these human tracks, eighteen inches in length, in an Indian trader's store in Gallup, New Mexico. Mr. Bird described his amazement: "For a moment I had them to myself—the strangest things of their kind I had ever seen. On the surface of each was splayed the near-likeness of a human foot, perfect in every detail. . . . I could conceive of no animal that might have made them."

Some have suggested that these footprints might have been made by the giant ground sloth, but Dr. John Lance, paleontologist of the University of Arizona, declared that these tracks do not even faintly resemble those of the ground sloth.

Please note that Mr. Bird readily admitted that these tracks had the likeness of a human foot, "perfect in every detail." When he arrived at the site where these tracks were discovered, he found actual dinosaur tracks plainly visible in the limestone river bed. "This put things in an entirely new light, even the possibility of such an association [dinosaur and human] seemed incredible. . . . The surroundings were lower Cretaceous in age, rock exposures roughly 120,000,000 years old—very definitely the age of reptiles. . . . Could I have been mistaken in my first conclusions? I am afraid Mr. Hill has found himself a pair of fake footprints."

Mr. Bird's conclusions represent the typical thinking of paleontologists based upon the dogma of the succession of life in the geologic ages, according to evolutionary conceptions. Inductive reasoning, from discovered facts only, caused Mr. Bird to admit that the tracks were human; but when he discovered that the tracks were found in association with dinosaur tracks belonging to the Cretaceous age, that put things in an entirely new light, because according to deductive reasoning,—the dogma of evolution,—120,000,000 years separated the age of reptiles from the age of man. If science is "truth found out," then it seems logical that observed facts should always take precedence over theory.

When Mr. Bird asked his guide, Mr. Ryals, to show him the "mystery



Dinosaur tracks in the bed of the Paluxy River, Glen Rose, Texas.

tracks," Mr. Ryals replied, "Oh, you mean the man tracks. Why, sure, there used to be a whole trail of them up above the fourth crossing, before the river washed them out." Mr. Bird smiled, "No man ever existed in the Age of Reptiles." *A priori* reasoning again, regardless of the fact that Mr. Ryals proceeded to uncover for Mr. Bird another giant *human* track in the edge of the river bed.

Please recall Mr. Ryals's reference to the whole trail of giant human tracks above the fourth crossing until the river flood took them out. The writer corroborated his statement when at Glen Rose on a field trip. An old resident, Mr. Charles Moss, told us that these tracks were visible in the river bed from about 1920 to 1930. Here is written testimony of Mr. Moss, given on the 18th of December, 1950:

"This is to certify that I, Charles Moss, Glen Rose, Texas, personally saw and inspected from about 1920 to 1930,

on the north bank of the Paluxy River, six miles northwest of Glen Rose, Texas, one-fourth mile west of the ford on the river, about fifteen tracks or footprints of apparent giant human beings. The tracks measured about eighteen inches from heel to toe, the toes being plainly marked. The tracks were six feet apart, then eight to ten feet, as he started to run. Then only the toes and balls of the feet were in evidence on the eight-inch layer of limestone along the river bed. About 1930 a flood came on the river and excavated and carried away all the stratum with the footprints. Downstream later could be seen fragments of rock slabs turned upside down in the stream. It is possible that with proper power machinery these slabs could be turned over and new footprints found. Or the bank on the bend of the river could be excavated. (Signed) Charles Moss."

Here we have at least two witnesses who have testified to the fact that for many years a whole trail of giant human tracks was visible in the river bed of the Paluxy River. Furthermore, Mr. Ryals showed Mr. Bird a track in the river bed. The photographs illustrating this article were made of giant human tracks cut from these same strata in the Paluxy River.

This would appear to be conclusive evidence that man and dinosaur lived contemporaneously in the prehistoric past, along with the mammoth and other extinct species of animals and plants, probably before the flood of Noah. This collapses at one stroke about one hundred twenty million years of geologic time. How much field work will be required to collapse the rest of it? If the separation of Mesozoic time from the Cenozoic, or Recent, is based on a false assumption, may it not equally be true that the whole evolutionary ages build-up is more fanciful than real?

Who has yet offered a better explanation of creation than is found in the Bible? We are told that God created the world with its inhabitants in six days. The human race corrupted itself, and the Creator destroyed it with animal and plant life in a great flood, saving eight persons and representative animals to restock the earth.

LAMPS do not talk, but they shine. A lighthouse sounds no drums, but far over the water its friendly spark is seen. So let your actions reveal your light. Let your conduct illustrate the sermon of your life.—Spurgeon.



# "God Bless Mother!"

by DONALD A. WEBSTER



DEVANEY

**S**HE has never written a book, or delivered a political address, or been on the stage. Yet to me she is the greatest little woman in all the world. She is my mother.

All my memories of mother are sweet ones—memories of one who was always kind, loving, tender, unassuming, faithful, and unselfish. I cannot once remember her losing her temper. True, there were times when she became righteously indignant over something my brother or I did that was wrong, but she never lost control of herself; she was always perfectly composed even when there was every excuse to "fly off the handle."

Mother was always energetic. She walked fast. There were people who said that unless she slowed down, her heart would stop beating. But it never did. She still walks and works fast, and her heart is still beating as strongly as ever.

Mother completed the nurse's course before she married. She could have carved out a profitable career for herself, but when she took the marriage vow she discarded all ideas of a career outside of the home; homemaking was her career, and she devoted herself untiringly to it.

Father was a minister and received small wages. Mother, therefore, could not keep up with the Joneses, nor did she even try to do so. Instead, she set about helping dad keep within the family budget. And through twenty-

eight years of happy married life they have succeeded admirably. Without the aid of any additional income they have always been able to pay their bills. Mother could not always get the new hat or dress she so badly needed, yet she never complained and always looked just as smart as "Mrs. Jones."

Two boys were born to this mother, and both were dedicated to the Lord in their early years. These boys graduated from college to become ministers. They did not choose their professions by accident or chance. No, indeed! One of the reasons can be spelled in six letters—mother.

In the morning when my brother and I got out of bed, mother was there to pray with us and to read a verse from the Bible. She was there to prepare a balanced breakfast for us and to see that we started to school on time.

Mother was there when we got home from school. She was not down the street at the club, nor was she attending the local ladies' social society. She believed that it was her duty to know where her children were at all times and exactly what they were doing. She realized that within her hands rested the eternal destiny of her boys, and she was determined to fulfill her responsibility to the best of her God-given ability.

Mother was there when we did our homework, to help us with an assignment, or to guide us in the solving of some difficult problem. Then, when we

went to bed, she was there to see that we said our prayers and read our Bibles, and to tuck us in our beds. The tender good-night kiss brought to us the realization of her deep love for us. She loved us still despite the headaches we had caused her during the day. It gave us a sense of security, of being wanted—something essential to the emotional development of any child.

Then, mother was also there when we were disobedient, to discipline, counsel, and direct. When father punished us for some wrongdoing we would often try to get mother to side with us, but we never succeeded. She and father always stuck together. This was true in everything they did; they were real partners. Someone once said, "True love never runs smoothly." I do not agree. I cannot remember mother and dad's ever having a quarrel. Certainly there were times when they disagreed on some point, as will any two people who think for themselves; but they always managed to disagree agreeably.

I cannot remember when mother first started teaching me to pray, and this is something else to her credit. Back in the very earliest years of my life, before the time to which my memory reaches, mother taught me to commune with heaven. It is this training that has been the guiding principle of my life.

When we went to church, mother was there. When we went to the beach or on a picnic, mother was there. When we were hurt or disappointed, she was there. And when we were sick, she was there, too. Once I contracted tetanus and was severely ill for a number of days. When I could not sleep, mother was there for three, four, and even five hours at a stretch, making the long night more bearable for me. Yet she never complained or became impatient. And dad always helped her, too. It was

(Continued on page 15)



# Ten-Minute Bible Study

## Keeping God's Day



*How did the followers of Jesus keep the Sabbath?*

"And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." Luke 23:56.

Who would know better the proper manner of Sabbathkeeping than those who had been the intimate followers of Jesus for more than three years? Let all take notice of the fact that their Sabbath observance was "according to the commandment."

*What is the first requirement of Sabbathkeeping according to the commandment?*

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." Exodus 20:8.

"All through the week we are to 'remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.' This means that all our plans are to be laid and all our business adjusted with reference to the Sabbath, the object of which is to help us keep in mind the truth that God is the Creator of all things. This is just as essential to spiritual growth during the six working days as upon the Sabbath itself. We are to remember that day, also, that when it comes we may not be tempted by circumstances of our own creating to treat it, or any part of it, as secular or common time. Thus the Sabbath commandment is to be obeyed every day, though the Sabbath itself can be kept, or observed, only upon the seventh day, for 'the seventh day is the Sabbath.'"

*On how many days is work to be performed each week?*

"Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work." Exodus 20:9.

By example as well as by command has God indicated man's work and rest program. God worked six days in the creation of the earth and rested the seventh day, thus establishing the weekly cycle. Man is to work the first six days of that weekly cycle and rest the seventh day.

*When does the Sabbath begin?*

"From even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath." Leviticus 23:32.

Man counts time from midnight to midnight, but God uses the sun, the great clock

of the heavens, and counts time from "even unto even." "Even," according to Mark 1:32, is when the sun goes down. Every twenty-four hours when the sun goes down a new day begins. This was so in the beginning, at creation. In the first chapter of Genesis there is an "evening" and "morning" in connection with each day of creation.

*How is the Sabbath day different from the working days of the weekly cycle?*

"Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:11.

Only God's presence makes anything holy. It is God's presence in the Sabbath day that makes it holy time. At the burning bush, God told Moses to remove his shoes because the place where he stood was "holy ground." Exodus 3:5. It was God's presence that sanctified the tabernacle in the wilderness. Exodus 29:43. In order to keep the Sabbath holy, man must recognize its sacred character.

*What instruction did God give Israel in respect to Sabbathkeeping?*

"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isaiah 58:13, 14.

God's people in Old Testament times were doing what Christians are doing today—trampling the Sabbath day underfoot by their business transactions, sports, and pleasures. The Lord called upon them to

take their foot off the Sabbath. He is calling upon Christians to do the same today. The Sabbath was not made for man's amusement, nor as a working day. It was made as a worship day, a day in which man is to turn from his customary pursuits of the six working days and keep God's memorial of creation holy.

*What has God declared the seventh day to be?*

"Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, an holy convocation." Leviticus 23:3.

A convocation is a gathering together of God's people in a religious meeting.

*Did Jesus meet in "holy convocation" with other worshipers when upon earth?*

"As His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day." Luke 4:16.

*What earnest exhortation does the Lord give to those who live near the end of time?*

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25.

*Is it lawful to relieve suffering on the Sabbath day?*

"Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath days." Matthew 12:12.

*What is the significance of the preparation day, the day before the Sabbath?*

"That day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on." Luke 23:54.

The preparation day was so called because it was the day in which immediate preparation was made to keep the Sabbath "holy."

*What work should be done in preparation for proper Sabbath observance?*

"Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe [boil] that ye will seethe." Exodus 16:23.

So far as possible all cooking, house cleaning, preparation of clothing, and such things should be done on the day before the Sabbath, that the Sabbath day may be devoted to worship.





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## Jesus Died for Us

(Continued from page 7)

On Calvary the mysterious words of Paul were fulfilled, "Being made a curse for us." Galatians 3:13.

Jesus, in whom dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead, was made a curse.

Jesus, who dwelt with the Father from times eternal, was made a curse.

Jesus, the teacher sent from God, was made a curse.

Jesus, the Creator and light of the world, was made a curse for us.

Jesus, who was earth's greatest blessing, was made a curse for everyone.

Jesus, the blessed Son of God, brought blessing wherever He went. Into the midst of earth's sorrow He came bringing comfort, solace, and joy. Into the midst of earth's strife and turmoil He came bringing peace and good will. Into the midst of earth's sickness and death He came bringing healing and life. He made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak, the lame to walk. How can it be that Jesus, ever bringing blessings, is made a curse?

The curse due us fell heavily on Him. "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6.

Look back often and see Jesus dying in your place. See Him paying the debt of your sin. Look back and see what an awful thing transgression of God's law is. Ask yourself, "Shall I look lightly on sin? Shall I go on in careless disobedience when I see Jesus die and know it took His death to pay for my sins?" "He was wounded because we had sinned, 'twas our misdeeds that crushed Him; 'twas for our welfare that He was chastised, the blows that fell to Him have brought us healing." Isaiah 53:5, Moffatt.

On Calvary, Jesus was made "to be sin for us; . . . that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21. We stand in awe and amazement that the Sinless One is made sin. The fact of His sinlessness is beyond all challenge. His enemies and friends alike affirm the spotlessness of His character. And yet to save man, you and me, He was made to be sin.

Jesus trod the wine press alone. He was made to feel the awful anguish which the lost sinner will feel. The wrath of God against sin was hurled at the Sin Bearer. It was this sense of sin that made the cup He drank so bitter and broke the heart of the Son of God. It was this that wrung from His lips the anguished cry, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

What a price was paid for your re-



demption and minel How God must love us! "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Can you longer ignore or spurn such love? While the spirit of God is pleading, while your heart is tender, before Satan catches away God's word of truth and diverts your attention to less important issues, yield yourself to God. Accept the wonderful Substitute who died for you. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." John 1:12.

## Samaria—Forgotten City

(Continued from page 8)

zamar, Baalazakar, Baalmeoni, Meribaal, Baala. These names clearly show that many citizens of the northern kingdom were worshipers of Baal in the days when these documents were written. Baal was the Canaanite deity against which Elijah fought so vehemently at Mount Carmel. 1 Kings 18.

However, the Samaria ostraca reveal also that the worship of the true God had not yet died out. They contain as many personal names connected with Jehovah as names connected with Baal. Some of these are Jedaiah, Jehoiadah, Shemariah, and Meraniah. The occurrence of these names on the royal records of Samaria illustrates the truth of a divine assurance given to Elijah when the prophet was in deep despondency. In reply to his claim that he was the only worshiper of the true God left in Israel, he was told that seven thousand others had not bent their knees to Baal. 1 Kings 19:14, 18. The Samaria ostraca have corroborated this word.

One name on the Samaria ostraca, Egeliau, also connected with Jehovah, is of special interest because of its meaning, "Jehovah is a calf." Jeroboam I had set up two calves in Bethel and Dan, where Jehovah was worshiped as were the idol gods of Israel's pagan neighbors. This became known as Jeroboam's sin, (1 Kings 12:18-30; 15:34, etc.), and was one of the main reasons for the downfall of the northern kingdom. Although the golden calves have disappeared long ago, the name of a lowly citizen of Ahab's time bears witness to the fact that the people in his time considered Jehovah to be a calf, as the images of Bethel and Dan taught them.

During the years 1931-35 another expedition worked at Samaria. This time it was a joint undertaking sponsored by American and British institutions under the direction of J. W. Crowfoot, then

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the director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. While no sensational discoveries were made during the excavations, the work was extremely important in completing the picture gained from the previous work. More sections of the ancient city walls were uncovered, and a number of large cisterns were found which account for the city's ability to withstand long sieges, since Samaria had no natural water supply within its walls.

The most valuable and spectacular discovery was a series of delicately carved ivories. They are little plaques, in which beautiful designs of flowers, palmettes, Egyptian gods, and animals are carved, which were painted in bright colors. They must have been fastened to the walls of Ahab's palace, probably covering them, so that it received the name "ivory palace." This discovery has furnished the explanation to a Bible text mentioning Ahab's "ivory house." 1 Kings 22:39.

When, after capturing the city, the Assyrian soldiers cut down the ivory wall coverings, they apparently discarded broken pieces and carried away only the well-preserved ones, to be re-used for the decoration of the royal palaces in Assyria. The discovery of the Samaria ivories immediately reminded some scholars that eighty years earlier Henry Layard had found similar ivories

in the ruins of Sargon's palace at Calah in Mesopotamia. These had been exhibited for many years in the British Museum, and some of them were now found to be identical with those discovered in the ruins of Samaria. Since Sargon II, who claims in his inscriptions to have deported from Samaria 27,290 inhabitants, was commander in chief at the time of the city's fall and successor of Shalmaneser V, he used the ivories of Samaria to beautify and decorate his own palace in Calah. These remarkable pieces of art reveal that the artists of Israel had reached a high standard of craftsmanship and artistic taste.

The study of the Samaria ostraca from the royal storehouse, and of the beautiful ivories of Ahab's palace, is most fascinating for the serious Bible student. To see how details of the Biblical records are corroborated and illustrated by the discovery of the modern archaeologist, and to visit the ruins of the very city where they were made, strengthens the faith of a believer more than anything else can do.

## "God Bless Mother!"

(Continued from page 12)

in their lives that I first caught a glimpse of the deep love of God.

When I went away to college, mother was there to say good-by. And she was there every week through the mail; I was never disappointed.

Four years ago I left home in South Africa to come to America. When the boat sailed, mother was there with tears of love in her eyes. Once again her great unselfishness was made evident, for not once did she try to stop me from leaving.

In the four years that have elapsed since then, I have received more than 250 letters from home, an average of more than one letter a week, another evidence that here is one who does not forget, who is faithful.

Should the time come for me to return to South Africa, I know mother will be there to meet me and to welcome me home. Her love for me, rather than having diminished, will have grown stronger through the intervening years.

When Jesus comes, I know that mother will be there. When the saints gather about the throne of God in heaven, mother will be there, too. And she will be there when the New Jerusalem descends from God out of heaven, and when the earth is restored to its Edenic beauty.

God bless mother!



# HEAVEN'S GLORY

by LEONARD C. LEE

AT THE top of the continental divide in Colorado, at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, at the foot of El Capitan in Yosemite, I wondered how I could ever explain mountains to the children of New Orleans who had never seen even a hill.

I had often watched New Orleans children playing on the only hill they knew, a little mound of earth piled up by a steam shovel in Audubon Park. There was not another hill within a hundred miles except the levee along the Mississippi River. How could I tell them about mountains?

There are so many things we cannot understand until we have had experience with them. An Eskimo cannot visualize the tropical jungle nor the Kansas farm boy the ocean. No wonder Jesus said to Nicodemus, "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" John 3:12.

Bible writers have given us many glimpses into that land of glory, the home of the saved, but the words they use are earthly words, and the pictures they paint are only glorified scenes of earth. Their mountains and trees and flowers, their birds and fountains and buildings, all convey to our senses only things we have felt and known. The artist and the poet can do no better, for they can picture only what they know. Their gates may be made of pearl and their streets of gold, but they are still gates and streets.

The apostle Paul said he was "caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not possible for a man to utter." 2 Corinthians 12:4, margin. No wonder he could say, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Even the better things of earth cannot be pictured with the pen of the writer or the brush of the artist. How could love be described? or how would it look in a picture? What is the color of truth? or the shape of loyalty? How could peace and harmony be put on paper or canvas? These are the most precious things of life, but only those who have known them by experience in the inner soul can understand them. The moral and spiritual values, not the material things, make heaven worth while.

The new earth, pictured in the last two chapters of the New Testament, is beyond the power of the imagination. But heaven does not consist only of streets and walls and buildings, glorious as they may be. Only people restored to the image of their Creator, united to Him in perfect love and harmony, and filled with joy and adoration, can fill the promise and the purpose of heaven. Only heaven within can lead us to heaven without.

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment,



CLYDE PROVINSKA, ARTIST

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With the eye of faith God's children catch glimpses of the glories which He is preparing for those who love Him.

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: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:17, 18.

Heaven will not seem new or strange to those who reach its shores, for with the eyes of faith and hope they have glimpsed its glories from afar and carried its image in their hearts and lives. It is the homeland of the soul to which they long to return.

How can I tell about mountains if I have never seen any? How can I tell about heaven if I have never been there in the spirit, or looked upon its glories with the eye of faith?

Open wide the gates of light and let us see within.  
A glimpse of heaven's glory will help us conquer sin.  
Temptations may be mighty but the sight of heaven's shore  
Can give our spirits wings of power and dim the world's allure.

And when the days of test are o'er, we'll look with  
rapturous gaze  
On glory lands we viewed afar, and longed for all our days.