

Signs

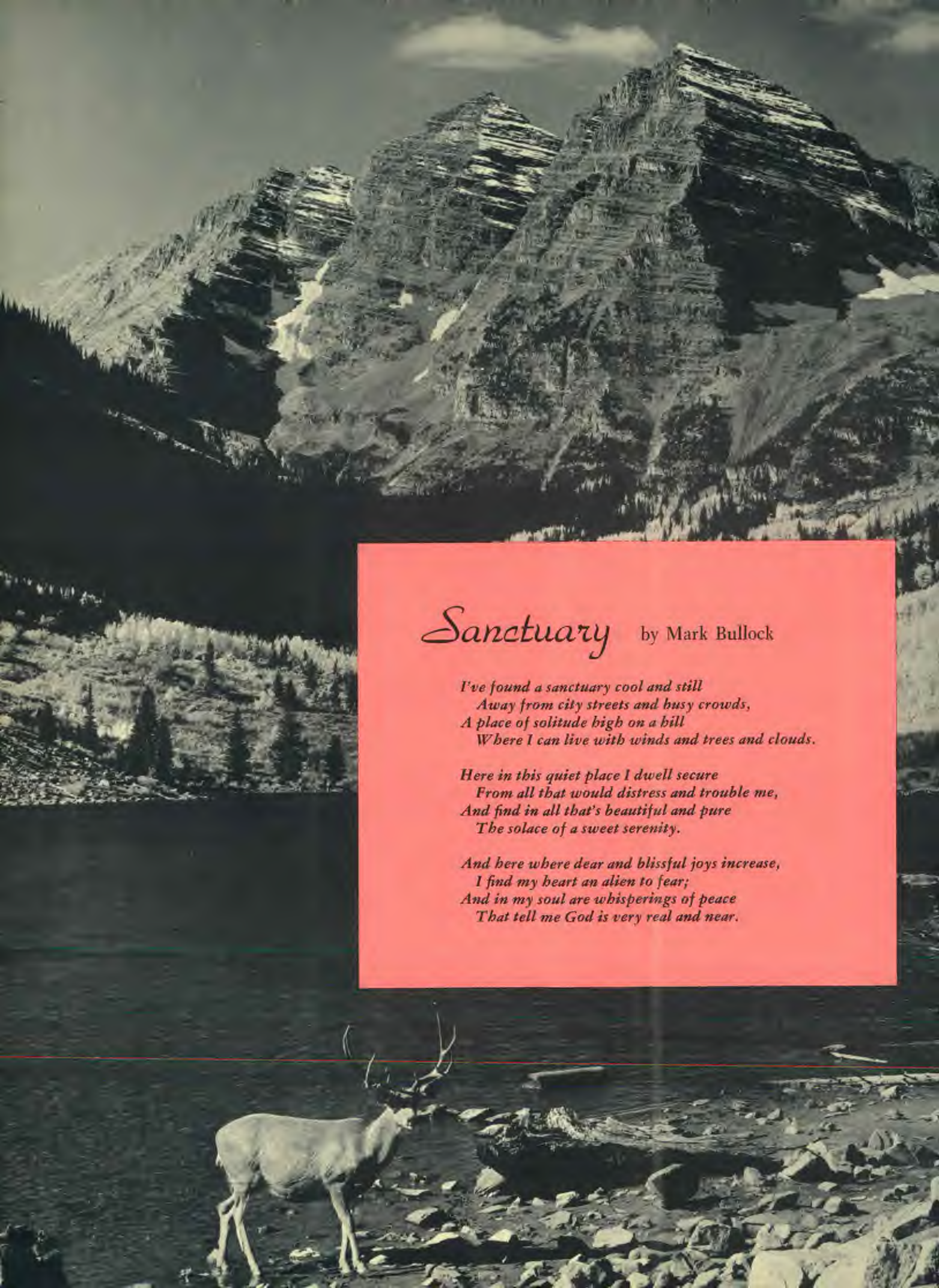
OF THE TIMES

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Facing the Future



Sanctuary by Mark Bullock

*I've found a sanctuary cool and still
Away from city streets and busy crowds,
A place of solitude high on a hill
Where I can live with winds and trees and clouds.*

*Here in this quiet place I dwell secure
From all that would distress and trouble me,
And find in all that's beautiful and pure
The solace of a sweet serenity.*

*And here where dear and blissful joys increase,
I find my heart an alien to fear;
And in my soul are whisperings of peace
That tell me God is very real and near.*

SIGNS

OF THE TIMES

The World's Prophetic Monthly

A Magazine of Christian Living, Presenting
the Bible as the Word of God and Jesus
Christ as Man's Redeemer and Coming King

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In This Issue . . .

Our cover picture, painted for this issue by Ken Gunall, typifies the epochal times in which we live and forms a fitting introduction to the main theme of this issue: "Facing the Future."

Appropriately, the leading article is "The Future Unveiled," by Frederick Lee, on page 4, a study of the great prophecy in the second chapter of Daniel which shows clearly that history's climax is approaching.

With such an eventuality at hand, it is fitting that the question be asked, "How Should We Face the Future?" which is the burden of George D. King's contribution on page 6. Many look ahead with growing fear, others with developing faith.

"What I See Ahead," on page 10, is a fascinating glimpse of coming events by H. M. S. Richards, speaker of the Voice of Prophecy radio program.

"Youth and the Future," by Theodore Lucas, is another timely contribution. This deals with the challenge of time's greatest hour and how the space age calls for great decisions, noble living, and glorious adventures with God. All young people will enjoy this article on page 14.

What has the space age done to the Bible? Does it speak to our day or not? See "The Book You Need Now," by Adlai A. Esteb, on page 12. And for a stirring personal testimony, be sure to read "What Christ Means to Me Today," by R. R. Bietz, on page 8.

As the gathering storm deepens in intensity, we shall all need spiritual fortification. And for this we shall need to know the true sources of courage. See "Courage From the Cross," on page 18.

Health will be a matter of first importance in the coming crisis, lending emphasis to the question, "How Nervous Tensions Cause Disease," discussed by Clifford R. Anderson, M.D., on page 26.

Two other choice items are "House With the Golden Heart," by Mary J. Vine, on page 29, and "The Hills Beyond," by Sanford T. Whitman, on page 34.

In order to meet the heavy demands for this special issue, it is being printed far in advance of our normal schedule. Consequently we have omitted all news notes and the "Flight of Time" editorials. These will be resumed in our May number.

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THE prime questions posed by the nuclear age," writes Stuart Chase, "are not the United States against Russia, or Russia against China, or communism against capitalism; the prime question is the continuity of the human race."—*The Saturday Review*, May 6, 1961, page 32.

In such times of dire peril and uncertainty the rulers of nations turn to their staffs of experts, missile men, intelligence agents, diplomats, world observers, generals, and politicians, for an answer to the question, "What of the future? Will it be peace or war?"

But can any of these men know for sure what tomorrow or next year will bring forth? They cannot. God alone knows what will come to pass in the years ahead—and those to whom He reveals it. Through the prophet Isaiah He made this fact clear.

"I am God," He said, "and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done." "Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them." Isaiah 46:9, 10; 42:9.

Daniel the prophet was one to whom God unveiled the future, the most outstanding example being found in the second chapter of his book.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, was greatly concerned about "what should come to pass hereafter." One night he had a dream that troubled him, but when he awoke he was unable to recall it. So he sent for his counselors—magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans—and said to them, "Tell me what the dream was and what it means." Daniel 2:6, Moffatt.

Astonished and fearful, they cried, "Tell your servants the dream and we will interpret it for you. It is a rare thing the king requires. No one except the gods who do not dwell with men could do this."

When the king heard their excuses, he "was angry and very furious," and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon should be slain. The captain of the king's guard came to take Daniel, for he, too, was considered one of the wise men. When the Hebrew youth learned the purpose of this call, he asked for time to pray. This was granted, and the secret of the dream was revealed to him. Immediately he went to the palace to tell the king.

It was a momentous occasion as the calm, devout youth came face to face with the distraught monarch.

Daniel addressed the king with respect and boldness. "There is a God in heaven," he explained, "that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the King Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these. . . .

"Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. . . . This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Verses 28-35.



FUTURE UNVEILED

by Frederick Lee

The king listened in wonderment as the prophet proceeded with the interpretation. "Thou, O king," he declared, "art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. . . . Thou art this head of gold." Verses 37, 38.

The proud ruler was pleased as he heard this. But Daniel gave him little time for satisfaction. "After thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee," he said, "and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron." Verses 39, 40.

The picture is clear. Four universal kingdoms were to rule in succession. This was fulfilled in the empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, whose history covered the next one thousand years.

Then events were to take a sharp turn. The fourth kingdom was to be divided into smaller nations, "partly strong, and partly brittle." Verse 42, margin. Of this period of world history Daniel declared, "And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but *they shall not cleave one to another*, even as iron is not mixed with clay." Verse 43.

Marvelously accurate was this prophecy! When Rome was overrun in the fourth and fifth centuries by barbarian hordes, she was broken into several separate kingdoms, forerunners of the nations now occupying Western Europe.

As the prophecy declared, these nations turned out to be partly weak and partly strong. As iron cannot adhere to clay, so for 1,500 years no way has been found to unite these states. Numerous attempts have been made to this end, but none has long succeeded. "They shall not cleave one to another." That is the dictum of God, and none can break it.

One of the first to try to bring these nations under one rule was Charlemagne, in the ninth century. Although he was crowned emperor of Rome, his reign soon revealed the weakness of clay and perished.

In the sixteenth century Charles V tried and failed, as did Louis XIV some hundred years later.

Then came Napoleon. His insatiable ambition to conquer nation after nation was successful for a time, but his power was broken when the cruel cold of Russia brought disaster to his armies, and later when inclement weather helped to precipitate his final defeat at Waterloo.

Even in our day there have been renewals of this desire to bring Europe under one head. During the first world war the armies of Kaiser Wilhelm swept quickly into France and southern Europe, aiming for world empire. But they, too, were halted at great cost in blood and treasure.

After World War I was over the political divisions of

Europe remained practically the same as before. Then in 1939 Hitler made a daring effort to seize control of Europe, sweeping east and south with breathtaking swiftness. His armies reached the portals of Moscow and Alexandria before opposing nations gathered sufficient strength to defeat him.

The prophecy still stands. Let those who fear the worst today take hope. "The dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." Verse 45.

But the prophecy does not end here. Man is not left alone to meet the repeated threats to his peace and security. God still rules in the affairs of this world, and someday soon He is going to call a halt to these cycles of peace and war, abundance and devastation. According to Nebuchadnezzar's dream, a great stone, "cut out without hands," struck the image on the feet and crushed it to powder. Of this Daniel said:

"And in the days of these kings [that is, the nations of modern Europe] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Verse 44.

Today we are living in that period of history foreshadowed by the toes of the image, close to the end of human history. Soon Christ, the "chief cornerstone," will smite the nations in judgment and bring an end to the reign of sin and sorrow. Not by some proletarian or capitalistic Utopia, nor by an international organization, will man realize his highest hopes, but when Christ returns as He promised to renovate the world.

The apostle Peter pictured that day when he wrote, "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. . . . Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:10-13.

Thank God, man will not be permitted to destroy himself in some nuclear holocaust. When the elements are made to melt with fervent heat it will be God's doing, not man's. And when He does it, He will be mindful of His people, those who love and serve Him.

In that day Christ will say to the wicked, "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." But to the righteous He will say, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:41, 34.

Friend, the hour is late. You now know what the future holds. Are you ready for it? [END]

HOW SHOULD WE *FACE THE FUTURE?*

In Fear or Faith? _____ by George D. King, _____ *Our European Correspondent* _____

RECENTLY I WAS greatly impressed by a question asked by a young businessman who had spent some weeks in Poland attending a trade fair. His question was, "What is the Christian answer to man's obvious fear as he faces the future?"

This young man made no pretense at religious faith but, like myself, had been impressed by the many things he had seen and heard in Poland, not the least of which was the fact that men and women (young men and women at that) seemed to be finding great consolation in church attendance and devotional exercises.

This is impressive when seen in a country that has passed through such travail as Poland has experienced for many years. A visit to former concentration camps with the torture chambers, gas exterminators, and corpse incinerators still preserved, leads one to realize the fear and horror that such experiences must engender in the hearts of a people who endured so much so long.

But this fear is not merely characteristic of people "east of Berlin." It is the outstanding characteristic of our times. It is a world symptom. A few years ago General William Dobbie, former governor of Malta, said: "One of the chief characteristics of our times is fear. The invention of the atomic bomb has accentuated that fear. The people do not know what the future has in store."

How true that is! "Brinkmanship" has developed an anxiety neurosis in the minds of men everywhere, and people have been conditioned to live in a crisis atmosphere until, as one writer has said, "People are too tired to care."

It would appear from recent events that this fear and anxiety is likely to be increased rather than diminished in the ensuing months. A writer in *The British Weekly*, perhaps the most popular religious journal in Britain, made this comment: "The politicians who ought to know are repeatedly reminding us that the next six months will be one of the most dangerous periods in postwar history."

Thus again the world faces a future fraught with fear and anxiety, with a possible new intensity in the war of nerves, and the people's minds being directed to all the terrifying possibilities of nuclear warfare with apparently no defense against total destruction. No wonder the London *Daily Mail* stated: "The dire need of ordinary people is for guidance through the crazy-mixed-up-nuclear-nightmare of current affairs—for one gleam of sanity in the madhouse which the world has become."

Where and how shall we find that guidance and that sanity? Only as we find our way back to the Guidebook

which gives us a prophetic picture of the very conditions in which we now live. The only certain antidote for the fear which is gripping the hearts of men is *dynamic faith*.

Faith will be increased as we find God's appropriate word for our day and generation. And there is such a word. It may be found in the remarkable vision recorded in Revelation 7:1: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree."

The New English translation reads, "Holding back the four winds," and the J. B. Phillips reading is, "Holding in check the four winds."

This great vision given to John on Patmos at the time of his own isolation and possible discouragement, is a picture of divine control in the affairs of men and nations. It is God's word to us today. He has not abdicated. He still holds back the winds of strife. He has them in check. The program of coming events is ultimately in His hands. The destiny of nations lies with the Controller of the universe.

A political commentator, looking at world events today, might readily give us a picture of four men standing on the four corners of the earth; possibly one great and vigorous leader from the United States of America; one, of course, from Russia; one from France and one from Britain or possibly from China. Four great world statesmen standing on the four strategic points of world control, holding the potential forces of destruction, poised to release them at any given moment of their own choosing. If this were the only picture given us, our sense of security would indeed be negligible, and fear would be our logical condition.

But this is not the picture. Four angels hold the winds. God has them in check until His purpose has been fulfilled. This can and does give us faith and confidence, for God Himself says in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Smith and Goodspeed's translation states: "To give you a future and a hope." God's thoughts toward mankind are thoughts of peace, and our Creator plans for us a future full of hope. The immediate future may seem dark and foreboding, filling the hearts of men with fear, but this need not be and must not be our ultimate end. We have reached that time spoken of by our Lord Himself, recorded in Luke 21:26: "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on

the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

That word is being fulfilled today as never before in the history of mankind, but of this very time our Lord admonished us, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

These are the days for the upward look of faith, not the downcast, depressing look of fear; for the redemption and final deliverance of mankind is at hand. The very fears that now beset mankind should be the source of our assurance and encouragement, for "when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 21:31.

In the dark and trying days of the winter of 1939, when Great Britain had cause for fear, standing alone against a formidable and ruthless foe, King George VI went to the microphone and delivered his Christmas message, as has been the custom of the royal house of Windsor for many years. He ended his weighty and comforting message with this quotation from Louise Haskins:

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'"

This is the faith with which men must now face the future. Such a faith brings strength and comfort. It gives the spirit a calm which nothing else can provide.

God has not failed, and we shall not fail if we place our hands and our future in His hands, knowing that His plans and purposes for us will be victoriously fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

[END]

EWING GALLOWAY



WHAT does Christ mean to me today? What does He mean to me when walking on the crowded city streets or driving on the busy and sometimes frightening freeways? What does He mean to me amid all the marvels of the space age?

I accepted Christ when a young lad. For me, He is "the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8. I believe Him to be the "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, . . . which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8.

The yearnings of the human heart through the changing centuries find in the changeless Christ complete satisfaction. Christ has a way of meeting the problems of every heart in every age. His power and wisdom are eternal. His love remains constant. He is the same Christ who brought assurance to the troubled heart of Job three and a half millenniums ago when he

could find no reasonable explanation for life's problems.

Job found the answer in Christ when he said, "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Job 19:25, 26.

The Christ I believe in is called, "Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6. Great peace floods the souls of those who commit their ways unto the Lord. Whether we live on the mountaintop of happiness, or in the valley of sorrow and despair, Christ is always near. He makes joys more meaningful and causes pain and sorrow to subside. When waves of trouble and care are about to engulf us, He says, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. When the burdens of life become too heavy, He calls us to lean on Him. "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7. When relatives and friends forsake us, He says, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5.

The promises of Christ are life because Christ is life. He says, "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore." Revelation 1:18. The Christian can say with confidence, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

Christ in the heart means hope, and this brings a sense of security. Referring to this experience, the apostle Paul speaks of "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27.

This hope is not confined to any one particular age. Abraham had it when he looked for a city whose builder and maker is God. Paul had it when the ship in which he was sailing was tossed about on the tempestuous Med-



WHAT CHRIST MEANS TO ME TODAY

In the Atomic Age or the Space Age, He Is "the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever."

by R. R. Bietz



iterranean for fourteen days and nights. When the storm was about to dash the ship to pieces and all hope of survival had vanished, he said, "Be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve. . . . Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God." Acts 27:22-25.

Christ always satisfies my soul, gives assurance and peace to my heart. Whether I am living quietly near some mountain stream, undisturbed by fear of atomic bombs, or living in a metropolitan city, constantly being reminded of fallout shelters, Christ has the same promise: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3.

With the apostle Paul I can say, "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." Romans 14:8.

To die in the Lord means to have part in the first resur-

rection and to live forevermore. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29.

It is this hope, the hope of everlasting life, which gives life here on this transitory planet a security which not even the biggest bombs can destroy.

Martin Luther said,

Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

Christ within gives assurance of life everlasting. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." 1 John 5:11. The promise is that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:15.

This is what Christ means to me today. [END]

THE CROSS AND TOMB

by Helen Rogers Smith

Upon a hill an empty cross
Still stands in memory.
And where a garden bloomed, men still
An empty tomb can see.

The tomb was but a borrowed one.
The cross was His alone.
And yet both bear the name of Christ,
And by His name are known.

The mightiest battle ever won
On that dread cross was fought.
The mightiest wonder 'neath the sun
In that dark tomb was wrought.

He sanctified that cross and tomb
By His great love divine,
And o'er them shed a radiance
That will forever shine.

For that blest cross and borrowed tomb
Speak to our hearts today,
Of Him who chose to die for us,
Yet lives with us alway.



WHAT I SEE AHEAD

TWO sailors stood on the deck of a ship looking at a tiny speck on the horizon. One said: "I can't make out what it is. It is too small, too far away. There is too much haze and the ship is too unsteady. In fact, it may be only a freak of the imagination. There may be nothing there at all."

The other said: "It is large and near at hand. It is a ship, and it is coming in our direction."

Both men were talking about the same thing and they were both right, for one was looking through the big end of a telescope and the other through the little end. What we see ahead depends upon what kind of glass we are using and what sort of light we have.

I believe it was Patrick Henry who said, "The only light we have is the light of experience." Yet while one can see a great deal in that light, one certainly cannot see much about tomorrow. To see what is ahead, we need the eyes of God and the light of His word. His word is called a "light" and a "lamp." Psalm 119:105. And the holy men who wrote the inspired Scriptures were originally called "seers." 1 Samuel 9:9. They could see not only what God was doing in the world in their time, but in many cases they could see what He was going to do in the days ahead.

Some of the things these seers, or prophets, wrote are a little too modern for us—that is, they are still ahead. They have not yet occurred; but they will occur.

Some men are able to put two and two together and make intelligent guesses about certain events of the future, especially the near future. Tennyson wrote,

For I dipt into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be;
Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales;
Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rain'd a ghastly dew
From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue.

The forecasting of world events even one day ahead is impossible for any man. No one on earth knows, in its completeness, what is going on today, much less what will happen tomorrow. According to the law of compound probability, the possibility of guessing or foretelling the events of one day in the future is only one in many billions. The apostle was right when he said that we "know not what shall be on the morrow." James 4:14.

Yet God challenges: Look into tomorrow and tell us what is coming—if you can! Describe the future. Tell us

what you see. "Show the things that are to come hereafter." See Isaiah 41:21-23; 48:2-6.

That events forecast by divine prophecy in Holy Scripture have been fulfilled cannot be denied. God appeals to their fulfillment, and so does the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. See Luke 4:17-21; John 6:45.

The writer is no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but what God's prophets have spoken, it is our privilege to read and to believe.

A friend in India met a student in Calcutta University and heard him say, "Yes, the Christian Bible is good for the Christian, but we also have sacred books good for the Hindus."

"Do your sacred books describe the rise and fall of empires? Can you point to the fulfillment of such prophecies?"

"No, there are no historic prophecies in our sacred books."

As they talked, my friend turned to the prophecy of Daniel and read the outline of world empires in the second chapter. "Now," he asked, "how is it? Do you know from your own study of history whether this prophecy written in Babylon nearly 2,500 years ago was a true outline of events that have come to pass?"

"I know that it is correct," the student replied. "It gives the history of this world in the exact order of events. Then, as he turned in the light of his study lamp, surprise and awe showed upon his face. He looked up and said, 'Only the living God could have written that before it came to pass.'"

As we read the prophecies of the future, we seem to be in a darkened projection room as the prophetic picture is thrown upon a vast screen before us. Time is foreshortened. Events take place rapidly. There are both color and sound. The great panorama sometimes speeds up and again it slows down. Sometimes we see clearly, sometimes as "through a glass, darkly." 1 Corinthians 13:12. Many of the scenes are mingled. Many appear to be happening at the same time.

What do we see ahead? First of all, we notice changes in church and state—great changes. Strange things appear to be taking place: A great revival of the ethnic religions in the East; Christianity, forgetting the lessons of the past, appealing to the state for assistance and authority.

We see confusion, fear, and tension increasing among the nations. Small wars begin, coalesce, and become great wars. The nuclear threat becomes so great that man cannot stand it no longer. So there is a world-wide cry for peace

Stirring Panorama of Things to Come as Revealed in Bible Prophecy

by H. M. S. Richards (Speaker, Voice of Prophecy Radio Program)



It spreads over the world. Everyone talks peace and safety—especially safety. 1 Thessalonians 5:3. There seems to be a great chorus crying, "Let us beat our swords into plowshares and learn war no more. (See Isaiah 2:4.) Melt the tanks and war rockets into instruments of agriculture. Use the defense budgets for health research, for new homes, new roads, a new world." Then a dark curtain seems to obscure the screen, and there are cries and curses, smoke and fire, storm and lightning.

I see in the future crime and corruption increasing until they become an international problem. Life itself is endangered. "As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:37. Remember the words of Genesis 6:11, describing those days: "The earth was filled with violence."

As I look ahead I see the rise to power of non-Christian nations, their resurrection little dreamed of a hundred years ago. I see the papal power rising to a new place of prominence. I see Protestantism drifting farther and farther from the Holy Scriptures and the teachings of the Reformers. I see laws passed denying religious liberty to minorities and enforcing the popular religion of the moment upon everybody.

The picture moves faster. I see spiritualism becoming a mighty force in Europe and Asia, and even in America. There are startling appearances of a being of dazzling glory, speaking peace, healing the sick, and announcing great changes in religion. Multitudes believe that this impostor is Christ.

I see a plan being formed for world government, a theme by which man, without humility and without God, stands upon this earth as upon a footstool and reaches out to claim the stars.

I see inventions coming one after another in a steady stream: new medical miracles, faster travel, bridges and tunnels connecting the continents, mighty irrigation schemes with water from the ocean, deserts inhabited by millions. "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4.

I see also something beautiful and wonderful. The glorious gospel of Christ, in all its pristine purity, is being preached with the power of the Holy Spirit to earth's remotest bounds. Radio and TV enable millions to hear and see its lovely message. As hundreds of millions from the less advanced peoples rapidly become literate, the printed page comes into a new day—books, periodicals, and tracts are printed by the million. Best of all, the message goes by the witness of consecrated hearts. It brings peace to troubled

souls. It brings calmness and confidence where confusion, terror, and heartache once reigned. It brings hope, the blessed hope, to every land.

Persecution tries to stop its progress, but cannot. See it going like a holy fire to Russia, China, America—everywhere! The earth is lightened with its glory. I see a mighty angel coming down from heaven, adding his power to its victory. It is irresistible. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

How fast the picture is moving now! I see the heavens open. I see the whole sky from horizon to horizon filled with radiant forms. I hear music, the like of which this world has not heard since that night in Bethlehem. I see great towers fall at the presence of the Lord. Radio and television go off the air. The great presses cease to roll. A white cloud is moving up out of the east—faster and faster; larger and larger; brighter and brighter! We can scarce endure the glory, yet cannot cease to look.

It is the King in His beauty. He is here! We see Him whom, having not seen, we love. 1 Peter 1:8. The earth trembles. The nations of the saved come forth singing—and what a song! It is a song of triumph over death and the grave.

Hear the happy cry ringing through hospital wards: "No more operations, no more pain!" I see patients leaping from their beds, healed. No more suffering, no more death. What a day!

Suddenly another scene flashes before our startled gaze. The great day of the Lord is here. There is a judgment and a separation. There is a mighty sigh as tears are wiped away forever.

There is a city in the sky, a great city "coming down from God out of heaven." Revelation 21:2. It is the city of man's dreams.

Now creation is being repeated. Before us are "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13. This is *terra nova*, the new world, the land of eternal youth. It is the restitution of all things spoken of by all the holy prophets since the world began. Acts 3:21.

People—millions of them—build homes and plant gardens. They travel this wonderful earth and the sinless universe. Nowhere is there pain, sorrow, sickness, or death. There is only happy activity—building, planting, learning—forever and ever.

[END]

OUR WORLD TODAY is littered with the wreckage caused by hate, selfishness, and disillusionment. On my last trip to Europe a year ago I found many cities still digging out from under the mountain of debris and rubbish left in the wake of World War II. Think of it! After more than fifteen years they are still faced with these horrible piles of ruins!

Jesus once said, referring to the children who were proclaiming Him as Messiah, "If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." Luke 19:40. Well, the stones of these devastated cities of Europe and Asia are truly crying out in our day. They cry out for sanity in a world gone mad! They cry out for love in a world filled with hate! They cry out for peace in a world feverishly preparing for another war! They cry out for order in a world of chaos!

Take another look at this troubled world. You can hardly put your finger on the map without touching a trouble spot. If ever man needed light from above it is now!

Jesus foretold the conditions of our day. He was most explicit when He spoke on this subject, and He also said, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. . . . When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 21:28-31.

What were "these things" to which He referred that must come to pass before the kingdom of God would come? Let us notice some of them and see how the Bible does truly speak to us now.

First, Jesus predicted the international troubles of these solemn times. "There shall be signs," He said; "upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; . . . men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21:25, 26.

Do the nations need more "perplexity" than they have today to fulfill this prophecy? Do they need more "fear"? I have traveled around the world and know that "fear" is the one word that best describes the condition of people everywhere.

On another occasion Christ's disciples asked Him specifically what would be the sign of His coming "and of the end of the world." That question is found in Matthew 24:3. In that chapter is the record of one of the most amazing

prophecies He ever uttered. Not only did He predict "wars and rumors of wars," earthquakes, famines, and pestilences; He also said that "iniquity shall abound" and "the love of many shall wax cold."

Surely the present epidemic of crime should stab us awake to a new understanding of the Master's words. Recently J. Edgar Hoover released the shocking news that crime in the United States has increased 98 per cent since 1950.

The apostle Paul went so far as to say that "in the last days" "evil men and seducers shall wax *worse and worse*." 2 Timothy 3:1, 13. That whole chapter is a scathing indictment of our present social structure. Notice the language: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

What an accurate delineation of the social conditions of our time!

Christ also uttered this prophecy: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

Here is another of "these things" that "must come to pass" before the end of the world. And the very fact that you are reading this article is another sign that the kingdom of God is near. A program of world missions is now carrying the good news of the coming of the Prince of Peace to all the world. Fifteen sixteenths of the human race can now read or hear it in their own tongue.

Yes, the Bible speaks to our day. To the political world, the social world, the religious world. But best of all, it speaks to the heart of each individual.

Benjamin Franklin was an ardent exponent of the Bible. He was convinced of its value and fully persuaded that it had a message for every family. He wrote: "A Bible and a newspaper in every house, a good school in every district . . . are the principal support of virtue, morality, and civil liberty."

The Book You Need Now

How the Holy Scriptures Speak to Our Day

by

ADLAI A. ESTEB

It was doubtless his high esteem for the Bible and his recognition of its importance to our civilization that caused Franklin to react as he did when Thomas Paine showed him the manuscript of *The Age of Reason*. Franklin counseled him not to publish it, saying, "The world is bad enough *with* the Bible; what would it be without it?"

Apparently this advice had its influence upon Paine, at least during Franklin's lifetime. However, four years after Benjamin Franklin's death, Paine published part 1 of *The Age of Reason*, and two years later, in 1796, he published part 2.

Now in the perspective of 166 years it appears that Franklin's fears implied in the statement, "The world is bad enough *with* the Bible; what would it be without it?" were somewhat groundless. *The Age of Reason* has not stopped the sale of the Bible, for it is perennially a best seller.

Other voices have been raised against the Bible, and with the same result. In fact, Bruce Barton throws the spotlight on this: "Voltaire spoke of the Bible as a short-lived book. He said that within a hundred years it would pass from common use. Not many people read Voltaire today, but his house has been packed with Bibles as a depot of a Bible society."

Why has the Bible been able to survive the attacks of its enemies? How is it that, like an anvil, it has worn out the hammers of its critics? How is it that it shines with greater brilliance today than ever? For one reason, because it has a message for all men. As Carlyle said in his eulogy of the Bible: "A noble Book! All men's Book! It is our first, oldest statement of the never-ending problem—man's destiny, and God's ways with him here on earth; and all in such free-flowing outlines—grand in its sincerity, in its simplicity and its epic melody."

We could call the roll of many of the good and great of earth and hear their testimonies concerning the Bible. Let us call up John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States: "I speak as a man of the world to men of the world; and I say to you, Search the Scriptures! The Bible is the Book of all others, to be read at all ages, and in all conditions of human life; not to be read once or twice or thrice through and then laid aside, but to be read

in small portions of one or two chapters every day. . . . So great is my veneration for the Bible, that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens to their country and respectable members of society."

Daniel Webster, one of America's greatest orators, said: "I have read the Bible through many times, and now make it a practice to read it through once every year. It is a Book of all others for lawyers, as well as divines; and I pity the man who cannot find in it a rich supply of thought and of rules for conduct."

Theodore Roosevelt, twenty-sixth President of the United States, urged that the Bible should be in every home and studied diligently. "What could interest men who find the Bible dull? The Sunday newspaper? Think of the difference there must be in the mental make-up of the man whose chief reading includes the one, as compared with the man whose chief reading is represented by the other—the vulgarity, the shallowness, the inability to keep the mind fixed on any serious subject, which is implied in the mind of any man who cannot read the Bible and yet can take pleasure in reading only literature of the type of the colored supplement of the Sunday paper! . . . As a substitute for serious reading of the great Book, it represents a type of mind which it is gross flattery merely to call shallow." These are the words of this great President, who further said, "If a man is not familiar with the Bible, he has suffered a loss which he had better make all possible haste to correct."

Let us come another step closer to 1962. A few years ago Sterling North wrote in the New York *World-Telegram*: "Personally I do not see how civilization can survive if we continue to blur the difference between *right* and *wrong*; if we scorn all the ethical lessons learned so painfully by the human race; if we insist upon the values of Babylon slyly promoted as the values of Christianity. To remind us that we should lift our eyes to the hills I suggest a rereading of the Book we buy most frequently but never find the time to read."

Another well-known newspaper correspondent, Quentin Reynolds, said this about the

(Continued on page 31)



Jeff Clayton knew every after-dark hideout in his neighborhood. Well he might, for he and the other young delinquents of his gang on occasion had to flee from the law just a few paces behind. But mostly the gang pursued pleasure in smoking, drinking, and gambling, led by seventeen-year-old "Big Jeff."

Jeff had grown up in the streets since his father disappeared. His mother had died when he was three. His grandmother, a devoted Christian, undertook the care of Jeff and his twin brother, but very early the boys learned to outwit her and disappear whenever they chose. They learned the language and the ways of the streets, and Jeff, big for his age and afraid of nothing, became the undisputed gang leader. He was clever in evading the law, but eventually he was arrested and convicted. He served a short sentence and returned to the old life. But his grandmother was praying for him all along.

Then it happened. Suddenly Jeff found no satisfaction in the thrills he sought so energetically. There was a strange emptiness within him. He tried to talk about it to his girl friend. They were taking an evening stroll.

"I tell you, there is this aching feeling inside me. It's something I don't understand."

But she only responded, "You sound crazy to me, Jeff. You've been acting funny all evening. Why can't we just have fun like we used to?"

But Jeff insisted, "No, I don't want that. I—I wish I could find God."

"Find God!" exclaimed the amazed girl. This could not be Jeff.

"Yes. Maybe if I went into this church. There's a meeting on. I hear people singing."

Jeff went in. Somehow the love of God reached down and touched his heart that night. He accepted Christ as his personal Saviour.

Once Jeff and his brother knew the wonderful story of the cross, they had to tell others. They rented a hall, and five people accepted Jesus as a result of the services they held.

But this was not enough. Jeff could not forget the old friends and scenes. Back he went, this time to tell them the story of a Saviour. It took more courage than he had ever known.

Earnestly he pleaded with his old friends.

"You, Jack; you, Thomas—why will you sell your lives so cheaply? You know me for what I was, now know me for what I am—saved by the grace of God from a life of wastefulness, selfishness, and eternal loss."

Passers-by stopped to listen. But there was one who found the whole idea extremely distasteful—the tavern keeper on whose corner Jeff was speaking. He called the police and said that a mob was disturbing the peace and interfering with his business. The law promptly descended upon the little sidewalk congregation.

Jeff took his problem to the chief of police, hoping for permission to continue his sidewalk services, but the chief said this was out of his province. Then Jeff tried the town clerk, who could not help him either. Not easily dis-

YOUTH AND THE FUTURE

couraged, he sought the mayor and told his story of why he had gone back to the tavern neighborhood to preach on the street corner. The mayor listened gravely, and when Jeff had finished he told the lad that every street corner in town was his as long as he was in office, and that no police would interfere.

Once having felt the joy of leading others to Christ, Jeff and his brother could not stop. Jeff is now serving God in youth-for-youth work in the East, helping to move men Godward. In his heart burns warm and strong the love of Jesus, the Stranger of Galilee.

These are not easy days in which to live, or to be a Christian. All the precious years of youth can be spent in fearful uncertainty and insecurity, in an up-and-down experience of trying and failing. Something more is needed; each young person needs to say, "I, a youth of this space age, give my life without reserve to God, to be directed by Him in every way." When this is a consistent attitude, God takes over, and the good life begins. "I can do all things through Christ" becomes a personal, day-by-day experience.

This is not something to be shoved aside or postponed.

There isn't much time left. We like to think we have all the time in the world—plenty of time to learn, to love, to get started. But actually this is not true. There are many people who say when they are young, "I have all the time in the world." Then, all too soon, they say, "Time has run out on me. I have waited too long. It is too late."

One of my friends heard Leslie Weatherhead of London speaking to a congregation of youth telling how he once measured the average human life in terms of a waking day. If your life-day starts at 7:00 in the morning and ends at 11:00 at night, and if you are fifteen years old, it is the midmorning of your life. If you are eighteen, it is already nearly noon. By the time you have finished your education, your preparation for life, the most any of us have left is but an afternoon and an evening to live and serve effectively.

What can we do in the short time we have to make life what we really long for it to be? Openness to beauty, to love, to truth, to the eternal, is important. God is all of this. Only those who have a day-to-day friendship with Him know how to trust. If you do not always try to think of religious experience in terms of someone else, if you

The Challenge of Time's Greatest Hour, How the Space Age Calls for Great Decisions, Noble Living, and Glorious Adventures With God.

by Theodore Lucas

PINK ELEPHANT



Illustration by James Converse

do not confine it to something emotional, if you are willing to assume the disciplines of the spiritual life, and if you choose to let go and trust Him to take over your life—all the wonders of eternity are yours.

We must always recognize the fact that we have to live in the world as it is. But we should get our vision from God and not from the weather vane, which changes constantly in keeping with the winds. Certain principles are eternally true. The youth who takes the highest moral ground today will be in the favored position tomorrow. Time is on the side of the ultimate values of truth and goodness. If this premise is false, nothing else matters.

Young people need a moral awakening. The world winks at evils that shocked our forefathers. The cure lies in a clear-eyed, aggressive Christian interpretation and reappraisal of the old, time-tested virtues. The Ten Commandments must be sharpened to prick us. They must be the basis of every choice we make in life.

Choosing is so important. God is the only safe guide in this, too, for things are not always what they seem.

Young Gordon could tell you he knows all about that. He was steadily promoted from one responsibility to another, and his superiors in the firm where he worked said he would really "go places."

Gordon married, and continued to prosper. He had achieved distinction by his ability, and was still being promoted. But he was not satisfied. He wanted to be a minister of the gospel, which meant giving up a brilliant business future and going back to college to take ministerial training—in other words, starting all over again. And what would be waiting for him when he finished college?

Gordon made his choice. He assumed a load of study and work at college that was almost overwhelming, for by now he had a family to support. Then, while looking for summer work with better pay to tide over another school year, he encountered his former boss, who promptly offered him a responsible position and a fabulous salary for the summer—with the hope that he would not go back to

college. Gordon, the *minister*, said his mind was made up.

But the businessman did not give up. Later he asked to see Gordon, and sent his private plane to the school to pick him up. The offer this time was vice president of the multi-million-dollar business, with a still larger salary, a new car, and a \$75,000 home as a gift. Moreover, the head of the firm had no sons, and it was evident he had chosen Gordon as his successor.

The young man's mind had to work fast. What temptation to turn aside could have been greater? Here was something tangible, ready for the taking. On the other side were the long struggle and almost unbearable burdens before the goal was even in sight. Was it worth it?

Gordon made his choice. He did not turn back. God had called, and he had answered, once and for all. Now at work introducing the Saviour to hungry hearts, he is more sure than ever that he had made the right choice.

As the editor of the *Signs of the Times* once wrote:

"Great issues invariably produce great souls from the ranks of youth. Every crisis . . . has led to the discovery of young men and young women of unsuspected capacity and latent power. So also in this greatest crisis of the ages young people in every walk of life, and particularly those who have consecrated their lives to God's service, will be moved by the very solemnity of the times to deeds of heroism and self-sacrifice without equal in the annals of time. The tenseness of the final struggle will beget earth's noblest sons."—*This Mighty Hour*, page 375.

Crisis calls to youth. Danger is the element in which young people develop best. Dormant capacities and unsuspected heroism will be applied in the ratio of demand. Dedicated youth have a spiritual energy that will be felt throughout the world. They will regard it a privilege to be living when God's eternal purpose reaches for triumph.

That which falls upon your path is not the light of setting sun but the glow of a new day. Through the atomic clouds it shines, heralding God's glorious world of tomorrow.

[END]

GREATEST DAY IN HISTORY

by Raymond H. Libby



What will tens of thousands of people do on history's greatest day?

"At the word of command, at the sound of the Archangel's voice and God's trumpet call, the Lord Himself will descend from heaven; first the Christian dead will rise, then we who are left alive shall join them, caught up in clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17, N.E.B.

Why are Christians so certain that Jesus Christ will return?

"I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3.

Note: This is the pledged word of One who had power to rise from death and ascend to heaven before many witnesses. That One is Jesus.

How is His spectacular return described?

"Then all the tribes of the earth . . . will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory—in brilliancy and splendor." Matthew 24:30, Amplified New Testament.

Why will all nations tremble with fear when He appears?

"His eyes flamed like fire, and on His head were many diadems. . . . From His mouth there went a sharp sword with which to smite the nations; for He it is who shall rule them with an iron rod. . . . And on His robe and on His leg there was written the name: 'King of kings and Lord of lords.'" Revelation 19:12-16, N.E.B.

Note: A world in revolt against God will be frightened at His sudden and unexpected return.

What prophecy did Isaiah make anciently concerning this great day?

"Behold, the name of the Lord is coming from afar, in burning anger, amid thick rising smoke; His lips are filled with fury; His tongue is like consuming fire. His breath as an overflowing torrent shall reach the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of destruction." Isaiah 30:27, 28, Berkeley. Compare Isaiah 11:4 and 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

Will our Lord's return be secret?

"Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him." Revelation 1:7.

By whom will Jesus be attended when He returns?

"He shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels." Luke 9:26.

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels." Matthew 16:27.

What warning did Jesus give against the deception of a secret rapture?

"If they tell you, 'He is there in the wilderness,' do not go out; or if they say, 'He is there in the inner room,' do not believe it. Like lightning from the east, flashing as far as the west, will be the coming of the Son of man." Matthew 24:26, 27, N.E.B.

On what special mission do His angels come in that day?

"With a trumpet blast He will send out His angels, and they will gather His chosen from the four winds, from the farthest bounds of heaven on every side." Matthew 24:31, N.E.B.

How penetrating is the life call of that trumpet?

"All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life." John 5:28, 29.

What is the resurrection of the righteous called?

"This is the first resurrection." Revelation 20:5.

With what will these rising saints be clothed at that time?

"Listen! I will unfold a mystery: we shall not all die, but we shall all be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet call. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will rise immortal, and we shall be changed. This perishable being must be clothed with the imperishable, and what is mortal must be clothed with immortality." 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, N.E.B.

Note: The promise of immortality is given when we accept Christ as our Saviour; the receipt of that gift becomes a fact at the second coming of Christ.

Will the world be expecting Jesus when He appears?

"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the Flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:37-39.

How overwhelming will be the surprise when Christ appears?

"For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth." Luke 21:35.

What instruction did Jesus leave for every Christian?

"Hold yourselves ready, therefore, because the Son of man will come at the time you least expect Him." Matthew 24:44, N.E.B.

Who will be most fortunate in that final day of world history?

"Happy that servant who is found at his task when his master comes!" Matthew 24:46, N.E.B.

What will everyone do who is looking for Jesus to return soon?

"Everyone who has at heart a hope like that keeps himself pure, for he knows how pure Christ is." 1 John 3:3, Phillips.

What is Jesus' urgent message to us all?

"Yes, I am coming very quickly!" Revelation 22:20, Phillips.

COURAGE FROM THE CROSS

*God's Supreme Revelation of His Love the Most Potent Source
of Peace and Assurance in the Developing World Crisis*

(A Chapter From "Courage for the Crisis")

by Arthur S. Maxwell



"Courage for the Crisis," the latest book by the Editor of the "Signs of the Times," surveys the grave dangers now facing mankind and tells where courage to meet them may be found. "Courage From God," "Courage From the Cross,"

"Courage From Great Certainties," are some of the main headings. Clothbound, with 250 pages and many four-color illustrations. Price, \$1.00, plus 15 cents postage. Sales tax extra. Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California.

OF all sources of courage none is more potent than the cross of Christ, for it is the crowning revelation of God's love for mankind. While it is comforting to know that God is omnipotent and can do anything He pleases; while it is reassuring to believe that He is omniscient and knows everything, past, present, and future; to be certain that He is *love*, that every thought He ever had, every deed He ever performed, every purpose He ever conceived, was inspired by love, is to possess the deepest secret of quiet trust and calm endurance.

When we know for sure that somebody loves us, and we love him, or her, we are willing to do anything, suffer anything, endure anything, for that person without question, argument, or self-pity. So it is in our relationship with God. "There is no room for fear in love; perfect love banishes fear." 1 John 4:18, N.E.B.

Calvary removed all possible doubts of God's love. The fact that He was willing to die such a shameful death when He could so easily have escaped it; to put up with such calumny and ridicule when He didn't deserve it; to cry "forgive them" when He could have consumed His tormentors in righteous indignation; all this demonstrated a capacity to love beyond all human comprehension. Here was revealed a love without limit, a love willing to go to any lengths to accomplish its purposes, a love that "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." 1 Corinthians 13:7.

True, long before Calvary, God tried to convince men of His love for them.

He began at creation. Was there ever a more beautiful story of a father's love for his children than the placing of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? Surely no multimillionaire could do more for a young couple today than God did for our first parents, providing them with a home of exquisite loveliness and showering upon them blessings innumerable.

When an enemy entered that paradise and spoiled everything, God promised that, despite the tragedy, His concern for their welfare would continue. To the serpent He said: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15, R.S.V. His love would watch over them always.

When almost total rebellion made the Flood necessary, it was love that thought about the ark, love that led Noah to build it, and love that preserved it on those wild, tempestuous waters till the judgment was completed.

It was love that painted the first rainbow on the clouds, with its promise that the waters should never again cover the earth.

It was love that called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees to found a new and godly nation. Why else should God have bothered? Why else should He have cared?

That burning bush Moses saw in the wilderness was ablaze with love as well as fire. Out of the midst of it God said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows." Exodus 3:7. Only love could have said that.

It was love that uttered the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The Bible says so: "The Lord came from Sinai: . . . from His right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea, He loved the people." Deuteronomy 33:2, 3.

The chief purpose of those commandments was to inspire love—love to God and love to man.

The first four were compressed by Moses into one brief sentence: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deuteronomy 6:5.

The last six needed but seven words to encompass them: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Leviticus 19:18. Everyone was to love the deaf, the blind, the poor, the alien, as himself. Verses 14, 15, 34.

Over and over again God reminded the people of His love for them. "The Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them," said Moses. Deuteronomy 10:15.

On another occasion he confided, "The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: but because the Lord loved you. . . . Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that



love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations." Deuteronomy 7:7-9.

Even Israel's experience with Balaam was quoted as a token of God's loving care for them. "The Lord thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the Lord thy God loved thee." Deuteronomy 23:5.

One of the most beautiful revelations of God's love in the Old Testament is found in Psalm 103, where David says, "The Lord is merciful and gracious. . . . For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him." Verses 8-11.

His love is like that of a father: "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." Verse 13.

His love is like that of a mother: "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you." Isaiah 66:13.

His chief joy lies in loving: "I am the Lord which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 9:24.

"Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3.

Even when sin has separated people from Him, God says with infinite tenderness: "O, . . . return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord. . . . I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely." Hosea 14:1-4.

Thus God was love through all those far-off years. He was love in the Garden of Eden; He was love in the storm-rocked ark; He was love throughout the slavery in Egypt; He was love in the wilderness of Sinai; He was love in the Promised Land; He was love during the Babylonian captivity; and He was love when the people returned to Jerusalem.

Many times His love was spurned, ignored, and rejected, but it did not change. Nor did it lessen. It remained an inexhaustible reservoir waiting to be released someday in all its fullness.

And because God *was* love through all those sad millenniums, and because He *is* love (1 John 4:16) "from everlasting to everlasting," at last He sent His Son in a little bundle of human flesh to live upon earth as a man.

Thus we read: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16, R.S.V.

God saw this was the only way to reclaim man from the sad state into which he had fallen, the only way to bring him back into fellowship with his Maker.

Man could not restore himself. That was impossible. He had gone too far. He had sunk too low. God must do it for him. He must receive in Himself the penalty He had decreed for sin. Knowing all things, He knew, of course, that

it would lead to Calvary; but being love He was willing to go there.

So He came to this earth in the ever-mysterious, ever-glorious Incarnation. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19.

It was a brief sojourn, yet replete with love. All the way from Nazareth to Olivet He sought to convince people of His undying affection for them. From His tender heart love poured forth in a ceaseless stream of gentle words and kindly deeds.

Like the good Samaritan of His own parable He bound up the wounds of His enemies. Graciously He befriended the poor, the sick, the outcast. He loved the children, the young people, the old folks.

Calling a little child to Him, He said to His disciples, "It is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." Matthew 18:14.

"Suffer little children to come unto Me," He added, "and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Only someone with a love-filled heart could have used such words.

When He met the rich young ruler, the Bible says,

I SAW THE THORNS

by Hazel Hartwell Simon

*I saw the thorns upon the brow of Jesus,
Firm-twigg'd and brown, and sharply spiked for pain!
I touched the thorns, and knew that they were cruel;
I would not press them to His brow again.*

*The Son of heaven's Highest and Most Holy
Submitted meekly to that wreath of hate;
All that He bore in shameful ignominy
Through the long night, and far outside the gate,*

*'Twas for my sake, and nothing was too lowly
For Him to do or bear for love of me;
O cross and crown, be these my highest glory,
Since these for me He bore, for love of me!*

"Then Jesus beholding him loved him." Mark 10:21.

"Behold *how* He loved him!" exclaimed the bystanders as they saw Jesus weeping in sympathy with Mary and Martha over the death of their brother.

Love was the central theme of His teaching. His disciples, He said, were to love not only their friends but also their enemies. They were to do good to those who hated them and pray for those who did them harm. Matthew 5:44.

They were to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and their neighbors as themselves. Matthew 22:37-39.

"He that loveth Me," He said, "shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him." John 14:21.

"The Father Himself loveth you," He assured His followers, "because ye have loved Me." John 16:27.

He taught men to call God "Father," which was a new

idea to most of them. They had wandered so far away from God that they pictured Him as stern, cruel, and inaccessible. God wasn't like that at all, Jesus said. Instead, He was tender, kind, thoughtful, and understanding. "When ye pray," He told them, "say, Our Father which art in heaven." Luke 11:2.

Many people, He suggested, are like a prodigal son who leaves home proudly and self-confidently to enjoy the pleasures of sin. In consequence, they get into much trouble and sorrow. But if they repent and return to God, they will find a loving heavenly Father waiting with outstretched arms to welcome them.

Completing His revelation of the love of God, Jesus went at last to the cross. There, as the Son of God and the one sinless representative of the race, with His divine and human natures inseparably blended, He offered up a complete, perfect, and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of men.

Thus was the penalty paid. And "as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous." Romans 5:19.

This sacrifice was in no sense intended to appease an angry deity. Rather it was God offering Himself. As we read above, "God so loved . . . that He gave;" and the sharing in this sublime transaction of all three Persons of the blessed Trinity is revealed in the beautiful words: "Christ . . . through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God." Hebrews 9:14.

Here indeed was perfect love, made manifest by an act of complete self-surrender and submission, the willing yielding up of life that others might live.

What the Incarnation cost God the Father we shall never know. Nevertheless the results are clear.

God "hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us." Galatians 3:13, R.S.V.

Thus did God seek to bridge the gulf that sin had made. As Peter wrote: "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." 1 Peter 3:18.

Contemplating anew this great and glorious deed, this almost incredible act of sublime self-sacrifice and dauntless gallantry, how can we longer entertain doubts or fears concerning the future?

If God *so* loved the world, how great must be His love for us today! If He loves us *so*, will He not care for us, watch over us, and sustain us through the gathering storm?

"In Christ God has met and overcome the powers of evil and death," says the message issued by the National Council of Churches at its Fifth General Assembly. "In this Event we find the ground of our hope. . . .

"It is in gratitude for God's self-offering—gratitude for His supreme act of becoming Immanuel, 'God with us'—that we find resoluteness to oppose iniquity and injustice, compassion to minister to the weak and the suffering, indignation and sympathy as response to prejudice and hatred, fortitude to confront the tasks and hazards of this perilous generation with courage and faith. . . . Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!"

Yes, indeed. Thanks be to God for Calvary's glorious message in this crisis hour. [END]



GOD IN THE SPACE AGE

THE space age was ushered in with Yuri Gagarin's flight around the world. The Russian radio announced, "The world's first spaceship, Vostok [East], with a man on board, has been launched on April 12 in the Soviet Union on a round-the-world orbit."

Time magazine gave the following description of its impact on the people: "From Leningrad to Petropavlovsk, the U.S.S.R. came to a halt. Streetcars and buses stopped so that passengers could listen to loudspeakers in public squares. Factory workers shut off their machines; shop-girls quit their counters. School kids turned eagerly from the day's lessons. Somewhere above them, a Soviet citizen was arcing past the stars, whirling about the earth at 18,000 miles an hour, soaring into history as the first man in space."—April 21, 1961, page 46.

Since then the United States has sent two astronauts into space, and Titov of Russia has circled the globe seventeen times in about twenty-five hours. He traveled farther than the distance from the earth to the moon.

The implications of space travel are startling to contemplate. But of this we may be sure: This is still God's universe and man cannot escape His presence. As David said long ago, "Whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there." Psalm 139:7, 8.

Titov, after his memorable trip, during which he

crossed over all the continents of earth, said he could see the bright, sunlit surface of the earth and at the same time the stars—"clear and bright points on a black background." He said that at times, through a porthole of the spaceship, he saw the globe hanging over his head. It is reported that he remarked that he "couldn't help wondering what was keeping it there." A very good question for people to ponder who profess not to believe in God. Job said, "He [God] . . . hangeth the earth upon nothing." Job 26:7.

Surely the wonders of space join the written word in declaring that there is a God. The psalmist, as he beheld the sun, moon, and stars from our earth, cried out, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork." Psalm 19:1. Even as men travel ever farther out into space and behold the universe from still more distant vantage points, they, too, should acknowledge the greatness of the God who has created and governs all by His mighty power.

A man boarded a double-decker bus one day and the driver suggested he go to the upper deck. So the man went up, but was soon back down again.

"What's the matter? Didn't you like it up there?" asked the driver.

The man replied, "Oh, it may be all right, but there's

no driver up there, and I'd rather ride where there is one."

As man contemplates the happenings of the present and sees what to him appears chaos and disaster, he asks, "Where is God? If He is up there, why doesn't He do something about this world of trouble?"

To which we reply that God is doing something. Far more happens among men and nations as a result of divine intervention than many realize. In the past, proud, boastful men thought they were creating their own destiny. But before it was over they had to reckon with God. Pharaoh of old needed to learn this lesson when he refused to let Israel go. "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice?" he boasted. Exodus 5:2. It soon became evident that there was a God who took a hand in human affairs, and Israel was delivered from Egyptian bondage.

Nebuchadnezzar, who left God out of his thinking, said, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built . . . by the might of my power?" But he finally realized that "the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to

whomsoever He will," and that God "doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth." Daniel 4:30, 32, 35.

Today rulers and dictators need to know that God is still on the throne of the universe. "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever." Hebrews 1:8. Someday soon, before man is allowed to destroy himself completely, God will intervene. Jesus Christ will come the second time and usher in those events that will result in a new heaven and earth. How reassuring then for people in today's space age are the words of Moses in Psalm 90:1, 2: "Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God."

Military men contemplate space fleets orbiting the earth loaded with great nuclear missiles capable of destroying cities below. Missiles on land and sea already in operation could do untold damage. The possibilities of space war-

by W. A. Nelson

HAS NUCLEAR SCIENCE MADE CHRISTIANITY OBSOLETE?

With the world racing from one crisis to another, escaping one catastrophe only to face another still more ominous; with crime, corruption and juvenile delinquency on the increase; with the destiny of all in the hands of a few nuclear scientists, well may we ask, Has Christianity failed? Is it outmoded and obsolete?

If it is claimed that Christianity's purpose through the years has been to end war and bring peace to all nations, how is it that after 2,000 years of Christian endeavor the world is what it is today? Why has it not held in check the Hitlers and the Eichmanns? Why the vicious crime and corruption that stagger our courts? Why the increase of immorality? Why does a war of annihilation seem inevitable? What has become of peace and security?

It must be admitted that man has failed, that the statesmen of the world have failed, that the nations have failed. We can go further and say that, notwithstanding its earnest and dedicated combat against the forces of evil, the church has failed, too. This does not mean, however, that Christianity has failed. On the contrary, all the terrible conditions in the world today give meaning to Christianity, and make clear that the only hope for the peoples of all nations is to be found in its teachings.

The discoveries of the nuclear scientist indeed emphasize the need for Christianity. On receiving the Nobel Prize, William Faulkner said, "Our tragedy today is a general and universal physical fear so long sustained by now that we can even bear it. . . . There is only the question: When will I be blown up?"

While men's hearts are filled with fear "for looking after those things which are coming on the earth," there is hope and deliverance for all in God; for the Christian gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

The nuclear scientist split the atom; he made the atomic and hydrogen bomb with enough power to blow the earth apart. But the God of Christianity made the atom and created the heavens and the earth.

With darkness, confusion, and fear everywhere, God leads His trusting child in light, fills his heart with peace, and gives him a sense of security that keeps his mind strong with faith and confidence. Everything else may fail, but God will not fail.

Christianity will triumph gloriously. Soon the earth will be lightened with the power and glory of the Lord. He will come and put an end to sin. Then wars will cease and righteousness cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Christianity has not failed. All its objectives will be achieved.

[END]

fare have struck man with a new, paralyzing fear. Man needs God more than ever because he has learned how to destroy himself and life on this planet.

Harlow Shapley, Ph.D., LL.D., Sc.D., former director of the observatory at Harvard University, writes:

"If atomic war tools are available to angry and vain and stupid men, and are used—then a grim final curtain will close the human play on this planet. . . . The galaxies will continue to rotate, without concern for little Planet No. 3 and its highest life (which is not quite high enough). The sun will bountifully pour its energy into space, but not for *Homo*. He will be through because he has not learned to live with himself."—*Religion in Life*, Summer, 1961, pages 341, 342.

But man can learn to live with himself by living in harmony with his God and his fellow men. Peace and tranquillity can be the lot of those who believe in God and accept His promises. Bomb shelters may be helpful in case of future atomic war, but more important is placing your life in the care of a loving God. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. . . . He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Psalm 91:1-4.

As the poet has expressed it:

Behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above His own.

Now day by day you can claim the help, guidance, and presence of God in your life which will bring you peace of mind and strength to cope with your personal problems. Notice these statements of Scripture which indicate God's personal interest in you. The Scriptures tell of a God who is personally interested in you, who can number the very hairs of your head, and who notices the sparrow's fall. He invites you to cast "all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." Matthew 10:29, 30; 1 Peter 5:7.

God's plan of redemption through Christ is needed now in this space age more than ever before. Through Christ man has forgiveness and salva-

(Continued on page 31)

TEST YOUR "WORD" POWER

The King James Version of the Bible abounds in beautiful expressions. Frederick William Faber once wrote that "it lives on in the ear like a music that can never be forgotten, like the sound of church bells." Here are a few examples of this beauty. Below each selection place the name of the book of the Bible from which it is taken. Give chapter, too, if you can. Choose from the list at the bottom of the page.

earth, so are my ways;
and your ways, and my thoughts,
shall be as your thoughts.

10 For as the rain cometh down,
and the snow from heaven, and re-
turneth not thither, but watereth the
earth, and maketh it bring forth an-
d that it may give seed to the
sower and bread to the eater

1. _____

And not have crucified
of glory.
But as it is written, 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.

But God hath revealed it
by his Spirit: for thus

3. _____

one cubit unto his
And why take ye thought
aiment? Consider the lilies of the
field, how they grow; they toil not,
neither do they spin:

29 And yet I say unto you, That ever-
more in all his glory was re-
vealed like one of these.

5. _____

my body for the sin of
He hath shewed thee, O man,
that is good; and what doth the
LORD require of thee, but to do justly,
and to love mercy, and to walk humbly
with thy God?

The LORD's voice crieth unto thee
and the man of wisdom shall
hear the rod

7. _____

and I make my bed
and, thou art there.
If I take the wings of the morn-
ing, and dwell in the uttermost parts of
the sea;

10 Even there shall thy hand lead
me, and thy right hand shall hold me
If I say, Surely the darkness
shall cover me; even the night

2. _____

the race that is set before
Looking unto Jē'sus the author
and finisher of our faith; who for the
joy that was set before him endured
the cross, despising the shame, and
is set down at the right hand of the
Father of God.

Consider him that endured
the reproach of sinners

4. _____

the Lord himself shall
and from heaven with a shout, with
the voice of the archangel, and with
the trump of God: and the dead in
Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and re-
main shall be caught up to-
gether with them in the clouds, to meet
the Lord in the air, and so shall

6. _____

with fervent heat?
Nevertheless we, according
to his promise, look for new heaven,
and a new earth, wherein dwelleth
righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that
we look for such things, be diligent
that ye may be found of him in
peace and without blame

8. _____

Psalms, Isaiah, Micah, Malachi, Matthew, John, 1 Corinthians,
1 Thessalonians, Hebrews, 2 Peter

Answers on page 30

Signs counsel corner

Conducted by William A. Fagal

Director, "Faith for Today" TV Program

MAN AND THE MOON

QUESTION: Is there any prophecy in the Bible which indicates that man is to enter space and attempt to land on the moon? It seems to me that since God placed us on the earth, we should confine ourselves to it.

ANSWER: There is no prophecy in the Bible which indicates that man will ultimately occupy the moon. In fact, from what our scientists know of conditions on the moon it would seem utterly impossible for life as we know it to be sustained there over a long period of time. Psalm 115:16 indicates that the earth is the place for human habitation, at least until Jesus comes and takes us to His heavenly home. "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath He given to the children of men." After the thousand years of the millennium the righteous will return to this renovated and restored earth, which will be our eternal habitation. Since, as far as we know, this earth is the only part of God's creation which has fallen into sin, it would seem reasonable to conclude that He will not allow man to visit other inhabited worlds until sin is ultimately obliterated. The moon is in a different category in that it is not inhabited. Therefore it seems conceivable that mortal man might be allowed to make contact with it, even though it would not be possible for him to live there indefinitely.

TIME SETTING

QUESTION: There were 2,000 years from creation to the Flood, 2,000 years from the Flood to the coming of Christ, and in a few more years there will have been 2,000 years since Christ came into the world. So I believe something must take place at the end of this century. Nobody knows when Christ will return to this earth, but if things keep going on as they are, I do not see how the good Lord could let the world continue to exist.

ANSWER: I, too, believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming again soon. However, I do not base my belief on the argument which you have presented, which could be merely coincidental. The Bible nowhere gives us reason to believe that great events take place every 2,000 years. It does, however, give us signs by which we may know when the coming of the Lord is near, "even at the door." These signs are taking place all around us. The prophet Daniel indicated that at the time of the end many would run to and fro, and knowledge would be increased (Daniel 12:4), a picture of a day of increased knowledge and travel. Jesus prophesied that the gospel of the kingdom



If you have a question, address it to "Signs" Counsel Corner, "Signs of the Times," Mountain View, California. Enclose a four-cent stamp and your name and address. Anonymous questions cannot be answered.

would be preached to all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end would come—a prediction now being marvelously fulfilled. We cannot know the day or the hour of the Lord's appearing, but Jesus does enjoin us to be ready; "for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

QUESTION: Why do we have to go to church? Can't we do our praying at home and perhaps study the Bible during the week?

ANSWER: It is possible for a person to do his praying at home and study the Bible during the week, and maintain a rich Christian experience. I have known of individuals who have maintained their faith even though isolated from other Christian believers. However, willfully to separate oneself from association with other Christians is a mistake. In the Scriptures we are told not to neglect the assembling of ourselves together. Christ Himself selected twelve "that they should be with Him." We need association with those who believe as we do. When each day we face a world hostile to Christian principles we need to mingle with those who see spiritual matters in a right light. True, salvation is a gift of God as we dedicate ourselves to Him and accept the blood of Jesus Christ. But association with other Christians has a large part in strengthening us for the day-by-day battle with sin.

HOW MANY WILL BE SAVED?

QUESTION: I have heard that only 144,000 people will go to heaven. Please tell me if this is true.

ANSWER: The 144,000 are a special group referred to in the book of Revelation. Apparently its members pass through exceptionally trying experiences. However, they are not the only ones who will be saved.

In Revelation 7:4 we are told, "And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." In verse 9 we read, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and

tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." So, besides the 144,000, there will also be a great multitude who will be saved in God's kingdom.

FATE OF UNBELIEVERS

QUESTION: What will happen to people who do not believe there is a heaven or a hell?

ANSWER: It will depend on what opportunities they have had to believe. If they have had ample opportunity to understand the gospel story and have rejected it, then there is little hope for them unless they change. However, there are many who have never had opportunity to understand these Christian themes. God will judge them according to how they lived up to the light they had. It is impossible for us to make any generalizations about those who do not believe as we do. We must leave them in the hands of the God who knows all about their opportunities and how they have taken advantage of them. The important thing is that we live in harmony with all the light we have received. As Paul wrote to the Romans, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10. Instead of wondering how others are going to be treated by the Great Judge, let us make certain that we are living in such a way that we shall be found worthy of a place in His kingdom.

SHOULD BABIES BE BAPTIZED?

QUESTION: Eleven years ago we lost a baby only a few hours old. A well-meaning friend made a remark that has always haunted me—that our baby was lost eternally because he was not baptized. I never read anything in the Bible regarding this. Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me." The church I have always gone to teaches that we are to be baptized when we are old enough to realize the seriousness of it and to want it forever. I have been so dissatisfied about my baby. Can you help me?

ANSWER: Baptism is important. The Bible teaches this in the words, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:16. Baptism, according to this verse, is to be prefaced by belief, and for this reason it is clear that baptism is not for infants—rather it is for those old enough to be able to believe and to make a right choice. Jesus was an adult when He was baptized, and thus set us a perfect example in this matter. Nowhere in the Scriptures is infant baptism taught or practiced. On the contrary, Jesus said of little children, "of such is the kingdom of heaven." If you serve the Lord Jesus Christ as best you can and accept Him as your Saviour, then undoubtedly you will have your child with you in the kingdom. The Lord wants to save your baby even more than you do. Certainly He would not keep him from salvation because of the absence of an un-Biblical ceremony.

WHERE WAS EDEN?

QUESTION: Is the garden where God placed Adam and Eve to be found on a world map today? I have been curious about this for some time.

ANSWER: There is no way of knowing the exact spot where the Garden of Eden was located here upon this earth. There have been various traditions on this subject, some of which may have a degree of plausibility. However, there is no way of being sure about this matter. We do know that after sin entered the world, God barred fallen man from entering the garden. We are told, "So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." Genesis 3:24.

We are told in the book of Revelation that the tree of life will be in the home of the saved. "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." Revelation 22:2.

Someday, therefore, access will be given to this tree again, and God's original plan, including the Garden of Eden, will be restored.

REMEDY FOR DISCOURAGEMENT

QUESTION: Is it right to petition God to let you leave this world? Each night I pray God it will be my last. I am alone. My three daughters are married, and my husband is dead. I go to work and come home to a very nice apartment, but no one cares if I come home or not.

ANSWER: At one time Elijah prayed that he might be allowed to die, but God showed him that his attitude was the product of wrong thinking. Your discouraged outlook is also caused by wrong thinking. If you could see what is in the hearts of the busy people about you, you would without doubt discover that they feel sincere affection toward you, even though they do not show it as you might choose.

One of the best ways to overcome negative attitudes like this is to engage in a positive program of trying to be a blessing to others. Jesus expressed this beautifully in the words, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38. From the beautiful book *Prophets and Kings* by Ellen G. White comes this comforting statement: "Into the experience of all there come times of keen disappointment and utter discouragement—days when sorrow is the portion, and it is hard to believe that God is still the kind benefactor of His earth-born children; days when troubles harass the soul till death seems preferable to life. It is then that many lose their hold on God and are brought into the slavery of doubt, the bondage of unbelief. Could we at such times discern with spiritual insight the meaning of God's providences we should see angels seeking to save us from ourselves, striving to plant our feet upon a foundation more firm than the everlasting hills, and new faith, new life, would spring into being."—Page 162. Place your trust in God, remembering that He loves you and that angels are nearby to sustain you. Live affirmatively to bless others. That which you dispense in kindness and love to your fellow men will surely come back to you in multiplied measure.

In these days of great scientific discoveries, it is easy enough to assume that all illnesses arise either from germs, viruses, or new growths. While these are responsible for much human suffering, they are not the chief causes of disease today. A far greater number of illnesses arise from an entirely different source. These are the diseases brought on by nervous tension.

Psychosomatic diseases involve both the mind and the body. They are not new to the human race. They have been with us for a long time. But today, with most of the serious infections already brought under control, they are becoming more evident. In fact, they account for more deaths than all the infections, accidents, and malignancies added together.

It is surprising how many different diseases arise from nervous tension. Among the more common are high blood pressure, heart attacks, strokes, peptic ulcers, chronic gastritis, tension headaches, migraine, colitis, chronic skin troubles, and serious mental disorders. Other factors may also enter into some of these conditions. But the emotional impact is most often responsible for the more serious complications.

Our emotions are with us all the time. We are never entirely free from them, not even in our sleep! When things are going well, we experience joyful emotions accompanied by smiling, laughing, relaxation, and contentment. But when things go wrong the picture is entirely different. Unpleasant emotions arise that bring about great changes within the body, especially if continued for any length of time.

Consider the normal reaction of fear, an emotion that shows up in an instant. The face turns pale because the tiny blood vessels in the skin suddenly constrict and become greatly narrowed. A cold sweat breaks out all over the body. This is due to stimulation of the sympathetic nervous system. Goose-pimples appear on the skin. The pulse is quickened. Breathing becomes deep and forceful. There is trembling in the muscles. The powerful hormone known as adrenalin is poured out into the blood stream, preparing the individual for fight or flight. These are the physical reactions of fear.

A somewhat different picture is presented when a person is angry. His jaw is set. His fists are clenched. His voice is harsh and tremulous. His face is flushed and his lips drawn tight. Looking at him, you know instantly he is angry.

What Goes on Inside?

What you see is merely the outside appearance. Inside his body many other things are going on. His blood pressure is rising. His heart is beating more rapidly. Large reserves of blood are being poured into the circulation to provide fresh power to meet the needs of the moment.

If he has hardening of the arteries, he may feel sharp pains in his chest. This is known as angina pectoris. He cannot get enough blood through those narrowed vessels to meet the needs of his heart during this time of emergency. He may even have a heart attack, for the simple reason that the blood clots more rapidly during a period of stress.

These are but a few of the strange reactions that occur within the body when an individual is under nervous tension. If the strain continues for any length of time, widespread changes may occur within the various organs. Muscles in the legs and other parts of the body may become tense and tender. There may be marked feelings of pain and discomfort.

The muscular tension interferes with the normal flow of blood to the area. At the same time the tissues need more blood because of the extra work they are called upon to do. We all know the unpleasant feelings of pain that arise from muscle cramps, especially after heavy exertion.

Pains arising from physical effort are usually no problem. We can stop what we are doing and wait till the pain is over. But emotional pains are different. We cannot turn off our emotions so easily. They are likely to remain with us all day, and often most of the night as well. This is why we tend to suffer far

more from the results of nervous tension than we do from any mere physical effort.

Muscle Cramps Cause Headaches

Muscle cramps are a common cause of severe headaches, especially those that involve the back of the head and neck. Changes in the walls of the arteries on the outside of the skull may also result in a severe, throbbing headache. Tension in the muscular walls of the smaller vessels also raises the blood pressure. This is a normal reaction. But when carried to an extreme and continued over a long period, it places a heavy strain upon the heart, the kidneys, and the arteries that supply the brain.

All of these conditions are brought on by nervous tension and frustration. They are not diseases at first, but rather functional disorders, which if continued over a long period will result in serious disease.

How often we pride ourselves on having everything completely under control! Life may be going along fairly smoothly until something gives us a jolt. Perhaps it is something we have done, or it may arise from circumstances beyond our control. But whatever the cause, we are soon aware of our emotions and their widespread effects upon the body.

For instance, a person may feel a "lump" in his throat. He experiences a choking feeling. Swallowing may become difficult. Before long he may begin to suspect he has cancer. The more he worries about it, the bigger the "lump" seems to feel. Yet a careful examination reveals no swelling or other deformity. The uncomfortable feeling is not due to any organic change in the throat except that the muscles in that area have become oversensitive. The real cause of the trouble is not in the throat but in the person himself.

Down in the stomach a similar situation may develop. Severe ulcerlike pains may be felt. Yet the X ray could be entirely negative—at first. Later a real ulcer may develop, mainly because of the nervous tension. This is most common in young adult males. Young women are more likely to experience nervous vomiting. This is not serious at first. But if it continues, the loss of fluids may result in further damage to the body.

How Nervous Tensions Cause Disease



Priceless Value of a Happy Disposition

Again, the patient may show all the signs of acute appendicitis, yet the appendix be perfectly normal. The real cause of the pain may be spasm or contraction of the large bowel, resulting from extreme nervous tension. Many a normal appendix has been removed because these symptoms so closely resembled acute appendicitis.

Many people complain of gas in the colon. Usually this is due to a spastic bowel. The large intestine clamps down in one spot, refusing to allow the normal flow of materials to pass through. The fluids then press against the constriction, causing a temporary obstruction. This produces discomfort and actual pain because of the pressure. Once this spasm is relieved, there is no more trouble.

by
*Clifford R.
Anderson, M.D.*

Most of the gas that occurs in the stomach is believed to be due to a person's swallowing larger quantities of air than usual. We all swallow a certain amount of air. This is quite normal. But when we are under nervous tension, we eat fast and swallow large quantities of air. This distends the stomach so that it pushes up against the diaphragm, displacing the heart and making things harder for that organ to carry on its normal work.

These are not imaginary conditions. They are only too real, even though they do arise from nervous tension. Sometimes they lead to surgery.

Some people feel pain more keenly than others. Their nervous systems are probably more sensitive. When they experience certain unpleasant feelings their hidden fears come to the surface, making them suspect that they have cancer, or heart disease, or some other malady that may not be present. These are the effects of anxiety upon the mind.

Our emotions play strange tricks on us, whether we are naturally nervous or not. The moment we experience something unusual, we imagine the worst. This is true even among doctors. We are all rather apprehensive and overly concerned, especially when it comes to our own health.

Some people are more concerned than others, probably because of the earlier influences of life. We are all molded by the homes in which we have lived and grown up. If our parents were anxious and easily distressed, the chances are we will be the same unless we have steeled ourselves to act differently. This is largely a matter of self-discipline.

How we react will make a considerable difference to our health and also to our personality. Some people are naturally happy. This is a great advantage. A cheerful attitude always brings hope and courage, in spite of the tensions that sometimes seem to overwhelm us.

Many a person who appears outwardly gay and carefree is merely hiding some deep disappointment or lifelong regret. The lighthearted attitude is only a front. His real feelings lie hidden beneath, affecting not only his mind but also his body as well. Here is where disappointment usually shows its greatest effect.

Children who have been denied the love and understanding they deserve cannot help but feel their loss when they go to school and associate with others of their own age. Often they feel insecure. They are uncertain as they travel on through life. They are often misunderstood. Under this stress their organs may fail to carry out their normal functions.

Some children are subject to malnutrition in spite of eating what would seem to be a normal diet. Either their bodies do not absorb the food as they should, or it is utilized in some abnormal way. In any case, the individual suffers quite needlessly, and all because of chronic nervous tension.

The development of a happy disposition in the child should be the aim of every parent. A child who is constantly frustrated becomes a candidate for illness in later life. Even in the earlier years, he is likely to be ill much of the time. Later he may fall into unhappy situations, such as juvenile delinquency. Because of hidden frustrations, he is likely to make a poor marital partner.

This does not mean that the child should be protected from all competition. He has to live in a competitive world, and he must know how to meet the problems of life in a sensible manner. He must learn how to handle his emotions so that he will escape unnecessary illness during his later years.

Every child should be given the right kind of guidance. He should feel secure in the love of his parents. He should be encouraged to put forth every effort to succeed. Under such guidance he will already be well on the road to success from his earliest days. But if parents are insincere, if they really do not mean what they say, he will soon detect the fraud. He will feel disheartened at his own efforts, and become cynical toward the world in general.

Not all heart attacks or high blood pressure can be attributed to emotional tensions, but a surprisingly large number do arise from this source. The same is true of strokes, headaches, chronic skin conditions, muscular pains, and many more. Every emotion that passes over us will affect the body in some way. Training ourselves in the development of pleasant emotions will go a long way toward maintaining good health.

Complete relaxation will usually relieve the pains that arise from nervous tension. A happy disposition is the finest tonic of all. [END]

YOUR HEALTH

by Your Radio Doctor

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Clifford R. Anderson, M.D.

RHEUMATIC FEVER

Q. Quite frequently I read articles in modern magazines concerning the cause of rheumatic fever. Often the disease is presented as if it is a great mystery. This disturbs me. I am the widow of a nose-and-throat specialist who died twenty-four years ago. In his opinion diseased tonsils were the cause of rheumatic fever. I know that all the recent articles mention sore throats, but seldom is any emphasis put on the need for removing the tonsils. What is the reason for the change in attitude?

A. Rheumatic fever is one of the most serious diseases affecting the human race. It usually strikes in childhood, often leaving the valves of the heart badly deformed. Its true cause is still not known. Most doctors today believe that a certain type of streptococcus germ causes an allergic reaction in some tissues of the body, bringing on the strange and serious condition known as rheumatic fever. These germs are sometimes found in the tonsils and adenoids, especially when these organs are badly diseased. However, even after a person's tonsils have been removed, he can still develop rheumatic fever, simply because the germs may be present in other tissues in the throat. Therefore the mere removal of the tonsils will not guarantee freedom from rheumatic fever. Today the use of antibiotics, such as penicillin, is helping to cut down the incidence of rheumatic fever in children and young adolescents. Diseased tonsils are no longer removed at the first sign of trouble. Modern physicians believe that these tissues were placed in the human body for a distinct purpose, to protect the throat from the entrance of germs. That is why antibiotic treatment is always instituted first in the hope that the tonsils will not have to come out. However, badly diseased tonsils should always be removed if they do not respond to penicillin and similar medications. The use of anti-

biotics has cut down the incidence of rheumatic fever today, so that more children may look forward to a happier, pain-free future.

IRRITABLE HEART

Q. I have what doctors term paroxysmal tachycardia. I am a nurse and have worked hard at my profession for many years. But this condition is most annoying. I often awaken about one o'clock in the morning and find my heart beating very rapidly. It may continue for several hours. What should I do to keep my heart quiet?

A. An irritable heart is often a serious problem to the patient. It does not always mean one has a serious heart condition. It may be nothing more than some nervous problem that is troubling you. But it is rather significant that this comes on while you are at rest in bed. You might benefit by the use of some medicine such as digitalis or perhaps quinidine. These help to quiet the heart and keep it under control. However, there is always some risk in using such medicines. They must be administered by your doctor. Self-treatment could be dangerous. You should also have an electrocardiogram to rule out any more serious trouble.

EXCESSIVE SALIVA

Q. What causes an excessive amount of saliva day and night in a person eighty-four years of age? Does this condition cause any digestive troubles?

A. Excessive amounts of saliva may arise from a number of different causes. Drugs and poisons, such as mercury, arsenic, and tobacco, may be responsible. Local inflammation within the mouth is another cause. Irritation from badly fitting dental appliances may be at the base of the problem. The stomach and liver may also be involved in some way. Any disturbance of the nervous system, such as motion sickness, migraine, hysteria, or Parkinson's dis-

ease, might lead to this problem. Before attempting treatment, one should always try to find the cause. If some drug is responsible, it should be stopped at once. You should see your dentist to be sure you do not have badly fitting dentures or diseased teeth. He may wish to recommend an alkaline mouthwash which will help you. Some mild medicine to calm the nerves may also be advisable. You should have a balanced diet, including extra vitamins, just in case your trouble is due to some deficiency. Above all, try not to worry, for this only increases the problem. You cannot turn back the clock. Some changes must be expected as we grow older. We must accept these changes, making the normal adjustments as the years go by.

WHISKERS ON WOMEN

Q. I have a problem that is most embarrassing for a woman. Although I am not 40 years old, I have whiskers. Please tell me if it is harmful to use a surgical cream to get rid of them. I understand they can be removed by an electric needle, but this is expensive. The surgical cream gets rid of them temporarily and so would have to be used fairly often. I have a mustache, too, but that does not trouble me so much as the whiskers. What causes a woman to have this unwanted hair, and what can she do about it?

A. This is a difficult problem for many women. It is probably brought on by some imbalance of the adrenals and other glands of the endocrine system. At present, there is nothing we can do about changing the output of these hormones. One simple method is to use the creams sold in the drugstore. These "dissolve" the excessive hair. They are safe, provided they do not irritate the skin. If irritation occurs, it is best not to use the cream. Another excellent method is electrolysis. This destroys the hair roots so that the hair cannot grow again. It is costly, but very effective. If a woman really cares about her appearance, it is well worth it. Another way to solve the problem is to use an electric shaver. Some people have the idea that shaving stimulates the growth of hair. This is not true. Many women use an electric shaver for removing unwanted hair in the armpits and on the legs. This is a lot more pleasant than plucking out the hair, and there is not the same danger of irritation or infection. Unwanted hair poses a difficult problem for many people. In a case like yours it may be best to use the electric shaver or else have the unwanted hair removed by the electric needle.

Paul couldn't have found more unpromising material anywhere. Corinth was a wild and wanton city, yet for eighteen months he worked there.

"I have much people in this city," God told him, and in the strength of that assurance he defied all opposition and, when he left, the first Corinthian church was established.

He begged those early believers to stand fast in the faith, to watch, to quit themselves like men and be strong, to let all things be done with charity, and then—as an example of what they all could be—he called their attention to the house of Stephanas, a family, he says, that have "addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints."

Wonderfully and surely in the good Lord's kindly providence, going before His servant and preparing a refuge for him, the first fruits of Paul's efforts had been that friendly, loving family, the household of Stephanas. We are not told much about it, just twenty-five words in parentheses, but it is sufficient.

Here was a home where all the inmates had laid themselves out to serve, and there is no firmer basis for happiness than that. Was Paul weary? Had his words fallen on deaf ears? Did he feel in need of encouragement? There, in the house of Stephanas, he could take heart again.

There was no room for small jealousies, no quibbling over trifles, there in the house of Stephanas. There was no grumbling, no brooding over fancied slights. They had devoted themselves to service, and, as always, that service had brought its own reward, health of spirit, blessed fellowship with the saints, and every day a growth in grace that was an example to believer and unbeliever alike.

"Ye know the house of Stephanas," Paul wrote; "I beseech you . . . that ye submit yourselves unto such." In effect Paul said, If you are downcast or discouraged, go and

HOUSE WITH THE GOLDEN HEART

Paul's Choice Discovery in Corinth

by Mary J. Vine

see Stephanas. If you are finding the way too hard and the temptation greater than you can bear, go and sit down with Stephanas.

How often must they have heard, firsthand, there in the chimney corner in the house of Stephanas, those selfsame stories that even now, after almost two thousand years, are still vibrant with life and inspiration.

"Brother Paul, tell us about when you heard the Voice and saw the Light."

"Brother Paul, tell us of your escape from Damascus."

"Tell us, Brother Paul, about what happened to you in Lystra."

"Tell us about Barnabas, Brother Paul." Barnabas was a hero by any man's scale of judgment.

And the children would listen wide-eyed and open-mouthed, their whole lives dedicated thereafter. Old and young would be renewed in fortitude and purpose, Paul himself among them, there in the peace and quietude of that consecrated home.

"That day in the house of Stephanas" was no doubt often referred to as the turning point in many a difficult experience, an anchor to hold onto in many a future storm, a lovely memory to wear forever.

It is still there, for I saw it not long ago, and I saw it from the very same spot from where I used to see it as a child. The House With the Golden Windows. I saw it at sundown, just as I used to see it long ago, high up on the hillside, across the valley.

But now, of course, I knew the secret. Our teacher let the whole class into it one day when I was about six or seven, when she read to us that lovely fable by Laura E. Richards. I was thrilled, I remember, even when she read the title. "Golden Windows." Ah, now I would know. Here was something that I, also, had seen. I followed the little boy every step of the way, for I, too, had a hill to climb and a house to find, and I, too, "could well have wept, for the windows were of clear glass, like any others, and there was no gold anywhere about them." But as the poor mother said, glass was better to see through, and it was an intriguing thought that perhaps some other lonely child, up



DEVANEY

there on the hillside, sometimes, in morning sunshine, looked down on our cottage and dreamed of it as a place of splendor.

The end of the story reads like this:

"The way home was long, and it was dark before the boy reached his father's house; but the lamplight and the firelight shone through the windows, making them almost as bright as when he had seen them from the hilltop; and when he opened the door his mother came to kiss him, and his little sister ran to throw her arms about his neck, and his father looked up and smiled from his seat by the fire.

"Have you had a good day?" asked his mother.

"Yes, the boy had had a very good day.

"And have you learned anything?" asked his father.

"Yes," said the boy, "I have learned that our house has windows of gold and diamond."

As he had come home, though, he had made another discovery. His home had a golden something that was not dependent upon the morning or evening sunshine. It had a heart of gold, also.

Such a heart had the home of Stephanas.

Has yours?

The white house glimmers through the trees;

The grave and gentle candles shine; Here, surely here, at last is peace.

Perhaps he thinks the same of mine.

Perhaps he does, our neighbor across the road, and what a good thing if the impression our home gives is of a place of tranquillity and peace—a place with a heart of gold.

The household of Stephanas knew the secret of making it so. They were "addicts," Paul said, but what addicts! Addicts to service. If we strive for the same addiction, who knows, our homes may very well get the same wonderful reputation, a house of God, a house with a golden heart, something akin maybe to the gate of heaven. [END]



by J. O. Iversen

Truth for Teen-Agers

What Are You Looking For?

PIRATE ships—spaceships—jungle treks—fording swollen rivers—exploring untouched caverns—roughing your way through the high Sierras—traveling through unknown, exotic lands—the excitement of discovery—finding something new—*first!* All of these add up to the thrill of adventure, whether firsthand or through a book.

Every new day offers the unexpected, the yet-to-be-discovered. Of such is life. It's the impelling drive to satisfy curiosity that has brought us to the present, far ahead of the past.

Have you ever wondered what would have happened—

If the Wright brothers had thrown up the whole idea the first time their plane crash-landed?

If Thomas Edison had said, "Why fool around with a phonograph? I can't hear, anyway?"

If Alexander Graham Bell had got discouraged and given up his big experiment?

If Benjamin Franklin had not flown his kite?

Quitters never win, and winners never quit. It's the stick-to-itiveness of the stamp that gets that all-important letter through. It's the fellow who is everlastingly at it who comes out on top.

Most of us are looking for something, but we don't always know what or where. The stakes are big, and the grass appears greener on the other side of the fence. With a flair for danger we launch out into the unknown, hoping to be the first to set foot on some Shangri-la or to scratch our initials on a sheer mountain wall.

But with exploration of the Antarctic the last geographical frontier

has disappeared. The electron has been harnessed to run power stations. Atoms and hydrogen molecules tower over us like Frankenstein monsters. Shots have polio on the run. With jet travel we almost meet ourselves coming back. Ballistic missiles, electronics, communications—what's left to be discovered?

Over a century ago a young employee of the United States Patent Office had the same question in mind as he submitted his resignation. Reason: Everything that *could* be invented *had been!*

But things are really different now. So we put on sackcloth and ashes with Alexander the Great, and cry huge tears because there are no more worlds to conquer. We have faster cars and more casualties; more TV Westerns with do-it-yourself instructions; more cures, and more deaths. We want to explore outer space; but most of us have yet to make the greatest discovery—the discovery of *self!*

A lot of people are afraid of finding themselves. They think they won't like

ANSWERS TO "TEST YOUR 'WORD' POWER"

1. Isaiah 55
2. Psalm 139
3. 1 Corinthians 2
4. Hebrews 12
5. Matthew 6
6. 1 Thessalonians 4
7. Micah 6
8. 2 Peter 3

SCORE:

- 7-8 correct, excellent
5-6 correct, good
3-4 correct, fair
0-2 correct, more Bible study needed

what they find. They dislike having to meet strangers.

The Greeks had a word of wisdom, "Know thyself." Know yourself: what you are, what you believe, what you can do, and what you stand for. Know your purpose in life, and who directs you.

God has a tremendous plan for you. As soon as you believe that you're here for a reason, and that God has a part for you to act in life's big drama, you will be lifted above the humdrum of life to a meaningful way of living. Instead of a statistic, you will become a real flesh-and-blood human being, getting a *genuine* thrill out of life. [END]

The Book You Need Now

(Continued from page 18)

Bible: "If I were a dictator, the first book I would burn would be the Bible. I'd burn it because I'd realize that the whole concept of democracy came from the Book. 'Democracy' is a Greek word which means rule by the people, but even at the height of its ancient glory Athens was not a democracy. The Greeks gave us a word for it, but the Bible gave us the philosophy for the way of life."

Thus the Bible speaks to our day. It has a message of peace for a world feverishly arming for war. It has a message of love for a world filled with hate. It has a message of hope for a world trembling with fear and despair. It has a message of light for a confused world groping in darkness.

I have read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation forty-one times and am now on my forty-second journey through this great spiritual treasury. I agree with J. Hamilton, who said, "The word of God will stand a thousand readings; and he who has gone over it most frequently is the surest of finding new wonders there."

In my studies I have been required to read a great many books, but for sheer enjoyment and soul satisfaction nothing can take the place of the Bible in my daily reading habits.

One of man's greatest blunders has been his effort to get from material things the satisfactions for his soul that can only come from spiritual sources. J. B. Priestley, one of England's eminent writers, turned the searchlight upon this truth with illuminating clarity. "We cannot get grace from gadgets," he said. "In the bakelite house of the future, the dishes may not break, but the heart can. Even a man with ten shower baths may find life flat, stale, and unprofitable."

Ah! There's the rub. "The dishes may not break, but the heart can." And that is where the Bible plays one of its most important roles. The Bible speaks to broken hearts. In the beautiful words of Lady Jane Grey: "The highest earthly enjoyments are but a shadow of the joy I find in reading God's word."

No wonder the Bible claims for itself a special power! In Hebrews 4:12 we read: "The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Perhaps it was because of this power that our great American educator, William Lyons Phelps, said: "I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without a Bible." And John Ruskin wrote: "To my early knowledge of the Bible I owe the best part of my taste in literature, and the most precious, and on the whole, the one essential part of my education."

One of the finest tributes to the Bible ever written was penned by Francis Wayland, president of Brown University for nearly thirty years: "That the truths of the Bible have the power of awakening an intense moral feeling in every human being; that they make bad men good, and send a pulse of healthful feeling through all the domestic, civil, and social relations; that they teach men to love right, and hate wrong, and seek each other's welfare as children of a common parent; that they control the baleful passions of the heart, and thus make men proficient in self-government; and finally that they teach man to aspire after conformity to a being of infinite holiness, and fill him with hopes more purifying, exalted, and suited to his nature than any other book the world has ever known—these are facts as incontrovertible as the laws of philosophy, or the demonstrations of mathematics."

Yes, the Bible speaks to our day. I know, for it speaks to my own heart. That is why I read it first thing every morning. Before listening to the voice of man, I hear the voice of God. On January 1, 1928, I made a new-year resolution that as long as I lived I would never again feed my body any day until I had first fed my soul. I have kept that resolution for over thirty years. Why? Because I know that the Bible is God's Book, the Book that speaks to our day and to me.

It is the Book that you need—*now!*

[END]

God in the Space Age

(Continued from page 23)

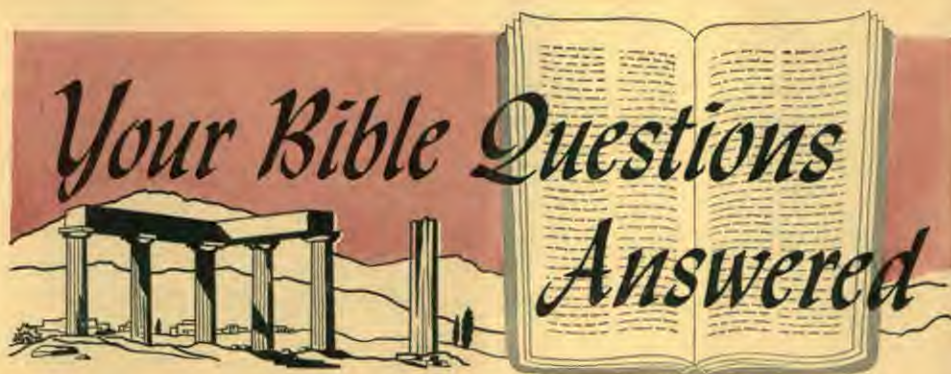
tion. The most unworthy person may come to Him for help and guidance.

Reuben K. Youngdahl tells this delightful story in his new book *Pathway to Peace*:

A group of people were standing at a rickety old dock along a river's edge waiting for a big boat to pass. Suddenly a little boy came marching up and walked out on the dock with a red flag. As the steamboat came around the bend in the river the little boy started to wave the flag furiously. A skeptical man said to the boy, "Surely you don't expect a big boat to stop at this place for a little fellow like you?" The boy replied with confidence, "I most certainly do."

Suddenly the big boat slowed down and turned for the shore. As the little fellow walked up the gangplank to board the boat, he stopped, turned to the unbelieving man, and said, "I knew that boat would stop for me; the captain is my daddy."

In this space age we can still confidently pray, "Our Father which art in heaven." The promise is "that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Matthew 6:9; Hebrews 4:16. [END]



PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

Please explain to me the fig-tree parable, found in Matthew 24:32.

S. V. H.

The parable of the fig tree was part of Christ's discourse with His disciples on the Mount of Olives. He said: "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." Verses 32, 33.

This parable is an illustration from nature. The fig tree was familiar to the disciples. It was a matter of common observation that when the new branches and leaves appeared summer was near. To us He might say, "When you see the apple trees in blossom and their leaves budding, you know that summer is near." As the new leaves and buds tell us when summer is near, the signs of which He had been speaking—wars, pestilences, famines, earthquakes, etc.—tell all who see them that His coming is near.

Verse 33 might read, "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that He is near, even at the doors," instead of "it is near, even at the doors." The meaning is the same, whether we say He is near, or His coming is near.

JOB'S TRIAL

Since reading the book of Job I have wished to understand why God tormented Job so. Could you enlighten me? I'm not questioning God, but would like to understand.

V. L.

The book of Job deals with a question that has always troubled men's minds: the mystery of evil and suffering in a world governed by an omnipotent and beneficent Creator. The question is constantly asked, Why do the righteous often suffer adversity and the wicked often enjoy great prosperity?

The action of the book of Job begins with a question that Satan asked God, "Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not Thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about

all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth Thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse Thee to Thy face." Job 1:9-11.

Satan's cynical conclusion was that there is no such thing as disinterested religion in the world. He could understand only the selfish motives for service. Could Job be free from such considerations?

The answer to Satan's question is found in chapter 1, at the close of which Job says, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." This he said after he had lost everything he had—his flocks and herds, his servants, and his children. In spite of loss and bereavement, Job held fast to God.

Still not satisfied, "Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth Thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse Thee to Thy face." Job 2:4, 5. The Lord then permitted Satan to smite "Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown." Verses 6, 7. To add to the intensity of the new test, Job's wife unknowingly urged him to do exactly what Satan said he would do, "curse God, and die." Verse 9. Still Job remained faithful. He said, "What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." Verse 10.

Then Job's friends, or "comforters," are introduced. They held the accepted orthodox view that health and prosperity invariably come to the good and that adversity is the lot of the sinner. Their accusations added bitterness to Job's cup, but he stoutly maintained his integrity and honesty of purpose under their repeated accusations. The debate led to many sharp words between him and them.

At times Job seemed to have been supported by the realization that God

knew and would work out everything for his good. "But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10.

After the friends and Job have exhausted their arguments, God appears; and instead of comforting Job, He challenges him with questions about the natural world and the heavens that were intended still more to humble him. Job is compelled to admit his ignorance, his weakness, and the uselessness of all the good things he has done. See chapter 31. The climax comes while Job is still in the extremity of his suffering. God's questions, which Job could not answer, made him realize the greatness of God and his own insignificance. "I have heard of Thee," said Job, "by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:5, 6. God's approval of Job followed, and His disapproval of the friends. Verse 8.

Job's experience teaches us that Satan's accusations were untrue. Men can and do serve God unselfishly. In God's providence a righteous man may be put to severe test; but if he maintains his hold on God through the bitter experience, he gains a new and better acquaintance with God which will make him the means of bringing new spiritual perception to others. That Job gained such an experience is evident from his confession that he was at fault in talking too much on subjects that he "understood not" and "things too wonderful for me, which I knew not" (chapter 42:3), and his willingness to pray and offer sacrifices for his friends who had caused him so much anguish. Then "the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends." Job had demonstrated his integrity. Now God could entrust Job with "twice as much as he had before," and Satan would no more be able to accuse him of serving God selfishly.

The teaching that affliction and trial

may be sent to discipline us recurs frequently in the Bible, both in the Old and New Testaments. Suffering is not evidence of God's displeasure, for "whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." Hebrews 12:6. Christ was made "perfect through sufferings." Hebrews 2:10. If we can realize when we are tried that we are "partakers of Christ's sufferings," we will rejoice. 1 Peter 4:12, 13. Paul speaks of the "fellowship of His sufferings." Philippians 3:10. Though like Job we may not understand their purpose at the time we experience them, they will be a blessing to us if we let them draw us nearer to God.

"Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept Thy word." "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes." Psalm 119:67, 71. Additional references: Psalm 73; James 1:3, 4; Revelation 7:14.

HEART AND MIND

In Matthew 5:28 we read "that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." In this and many other verses in the Bible does the word "heart" mean the mind? Can a man

have a good heart and an evil mind at the same time? What is the difference between the heart and mind?

A. H. R.

In the Old Testament two Hebrew words (*leb* and *lebab*) are repeatedly translated both "heart" and "mind." Both are the source of intellectual and emotional manifestations. "David's heart smote him," means his conscience accused him. 2 Samuel 24:10. Solomon prayed for "an understanding heart" (1 Kings 3:9), and God gave him "wisdom and understanding" and "largeness of heart," meaning breadth of comprehension. 1 Kings 4:29. The heart is the seat of intelligence and understanding: "In the hearts of all that are wisehearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee." Exodus 31:6. See also Deuteronomy 29:4.

The following are examples of the same Hebrew words translated "mind." "Call to mind" or "recall to mind" means to remember. Deuteronomy 30:1; Lamentations 3:21. "Come to mind" means to think about or consider. Jeremiah 19:5. When David said, "It was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God," he meant it was his intention or purpose. 1

Chronicles 22:7. When it is said that "the people had a mind to work," the meaning is that they had a willingness to work. Nehemiah 4:6.

In the New Testament the Greek word *kardia*, translated "heart," is used with the same variety of meanings. We find such expressions as "reasoning in your hearts" (Mark 2:6, 8), "thoughts of many hearts" (Luke 2:35), "mused in their hearts" (Luke 3:15), "think evil in your hearts" (Matthew 9:4), "believe with the heart" (Acts 8:37).

A good commentary on Christ's words in Matthew 5:28 is found in Matthew 15:18, 19, where He teaches that impure and lustful acts exist first as thoughts in the heart or mind. "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." See also Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 12:34, 35; Luke 6:45.

From the examples given above we see that the mind and the heart cannot be divided into separate compartments. It would be impossible to have a clean mind and an unclean heart, or a pure heart and an impure mind.



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THE HILLS BEYOND



MOULIN

by
Sanford T.
Whitman

He was a stranger to the hill country, this quiet visitor with the typewriter and camera. He came to the little home on the lap of the mountain on a dark and stormy night and began a vigil that was to last for months. It was winter, and as one screaming sou'wester followed another, the valley below and peak above were raked by wind, drenched with rain, and lost in a smother of flying scud.

In the scattered hours of visibility between storms, the slopes to the east were the ultimate of unloveliness. Wildly upflung, logged over, burned over, they were strewn with debris and cruelly scarred by log roads, loading sites, and cat trails. Every trickle, rill, and brawling torrent was reddish yellow with eroded clay. On those mornings when light skiffs of snow covered the upper levels, they were desolation itself.

At last the weather settled, and the visitor began the climb for his first glimpse of the hills beyond. The sight that greeted him fairly caught away his breath. A hundred miles deep it was, and almost twice that wide. Rich orchard lands fell away sharply from the lip of the ridge where he stood. Below was the great sweep of lush flatlands, the fence rows, wood lots, and riverbanks deeply embroidered in brown and green. Beyond, rising ridge upon ridge, were the timbered foothills. In the distance rose the Cascades themselves, still mysterious with the shadows of night. Above them towered the majestic sentinel peaks—Rainier, Saint Helens, Adams, Hood, with Jefferson far in the south.

Already the darkness had yielded. The light was increasing steadily. Spectacularly, the colors intensified and blended. At last the disk of the sun peeped over the rim of the world. There was a stirring of air. The deft fingers of the wind took the long skeins and plumes of smoke from early fires and wove them effortlessly into a pattern too unbelievably beautiful to be real.

For a long time the figure on the lonely height was motionless and silent.

"It doesn't seem possible," he murmured finally, "that such a world could be lying just over the ridge. That all this could be so close to yesterday."

Today the human family has come to the rude shelter on the lap of the mountain. The visible world, savagely beat upon by elements gone mad, is hardly lovely, anything but reassuring. Fear, pride, greed, hate, lust—all the evil progeny of self—have wasted and ruined us, left us forsaken and desolate. Insecurity, perplexity, dismay, and despair track us like ravening beasts.

However, the world we see is not the extent of creation. Just over the ridge lies God's glorious new world of tomorrow. Even now we may behold it with the eye of faith. Soon—so very soon!—the winter storms will have passed, the weather settled.

And then—?

What an incomparable and splendid panorama it promises!

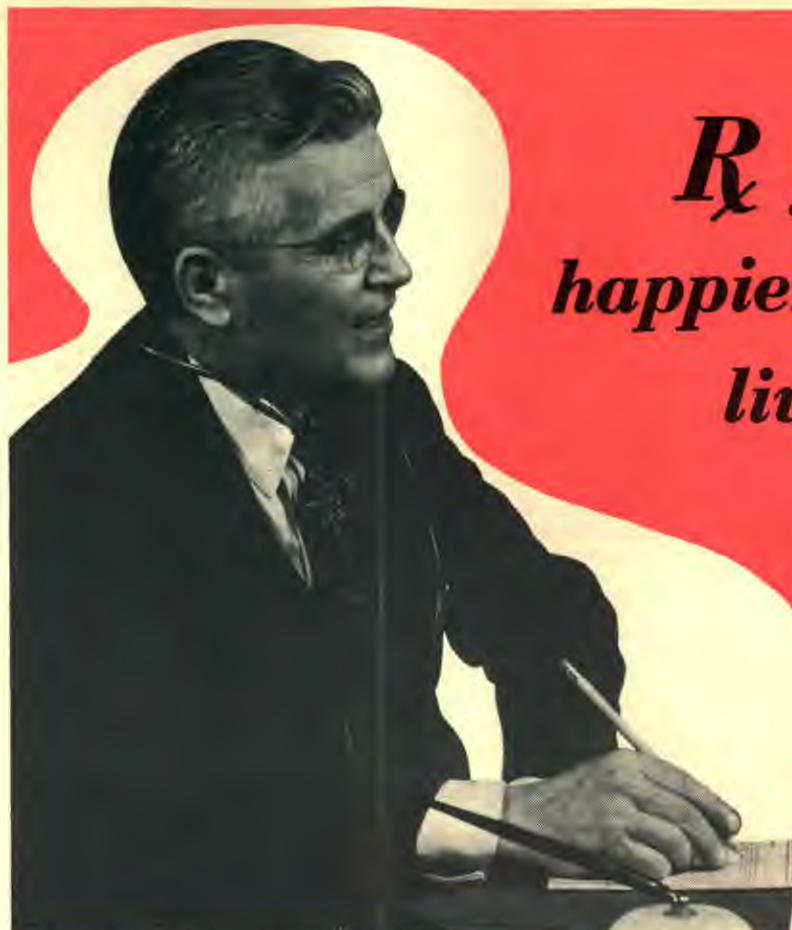
The appearing of the Lord Jesus in power and glory. Right for every wrong. Comfort for every sorrow. The solving of every problem. The drying of every tear. The mending of every heartbreak. The end of all loneliness. Health for the sick. Sight for the blind. Hearing for the deaf. Steps for the lame. For the righteous dead—life. For the righteous living—immortality. For all—beauty for ashes, heaven for earth, eternity for threescore and ten.

And beyond? Eden restored. The love of heaven in every heart. The language of heaven on

every lip. The music of heaven in every voice. The joy of heaven in every life. The peace of heaven for every hour. The vigor of eternal youth in every step. And God Himself dwelling among His redeemed ones, leading them ever along the shaded paths beside the living waters.

All this is only the beginning of an experience that can but expand and will never end. What language can tell it? What tongue can speak it? What brush can paint it? What lens can record it? What mind can comprehend it?

Yet it is all there—in the hills beyond. All and infinitely more. And it is real. As real as life. As certain as the immutable promises of God whose years end not, whose word cannot fail, whose love knows no bound.



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