

# Signs of the Times

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## How the Stars Reveal God's Glory

*A Glimpse of  
OUR FATHER'S HOUSE*

EVERETT E. DUNCAN

**H**AVE you ever considered a few of the amazing facts implied in this simple Bible statement: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork"? Ps. 19: 1.

Our mighty sun is 1,300,000 times larger than our world. But it's just a dwarf compared with some giant suns. Take Antares, one of the largest yet found. If this immense ball of fire were as close to us as our sun is (only 93,000,000 miles away), at twelve noon it would fill our entire horizon. Some suns are even larger.

Yet there are dwarf suns not much bigger than the earth. Sirius, brightest star in the sky, has a dwarf companion only about three times larger than our world, yet weighs 250,000 times as much. A child weighing seven stone on earth would weigh ninety-three stone on Sirius B. But the prize dwarf seems to be Omicron 2 Eridani B. On this miniature fireball a seven-stone child would weigh 1,800 tons!

When it comes to speed, our sun "pokes" along at 12½ miles a second, or about 45,000 miles an hour. But enormous Arcturus, many times larger and heavier than our sun, hurtles through space at 257 miles a second. That's nearly a million miles an hour!

We read in Ezekiel 10 about wheels within wheels running in perfect order and harmony. But consider the fact that we are travelling through a complex universe of billions of suns and trillions of planets, all the while zooming along with at least six different speeds, yet never having a collision or ever swerving off our appointed course. Astronomers explain it like this:—

First, our world is rotating on its axis. Our world is also travelling in its yearly orbit around the sun. Then, our solar system of planets follows the sun through space within our Milky Way. Next, our Milky Way rotates like a gigantic illuminated wheel. Further, our rotating Milky Way is drifting through outer space much like a swarm of bees. And, finally, our island universe with countless others revolves around the "heaven of heavens," God's throne, the very centre of the combined universes. "All known objects of the heavens belong to one enormous unit," declares Isabel Lewis of the United States Naval Observatory. And General Mitchell adds, "At His [God's] bidding every planet and satellite and comet and the sun itself fly onward in their appointed courses.

Even when aided by the world's greatest telescopes, the eye of man can penetrate only an infinitesimal distance into the unplumbed depths of space. In the study of astronomy, awe and reverence grow in the presence of our God who numbers the stars and calls them by name, yet heals the heartbroken. (Ps. 147: 3, 4.)





His single arm guides the millions of sweeping suns, and around His throne circle the great constellations of unnumbered universes."

Why shouldn't there be numerous collisions among these many stars? The Bible simply states, "Not one faileth!" Isa. 40: 26. No, we are not likely to collide with any of our many neighbours. Astronomers tell us that "a collision in our Milky Way is as improbable as for a man with a rifle to hit a penny at a distance of a mile on a dark night when even the direction of the coin is unknown." In fact, there is so much space in our island universe that Bart J. Bok, Harvard astronomer who has devoted his life to studying the Milky Way, says that in it could be readily stored a million times as many stars without much chance of any of them colliding.

The size and immensity of the universe baffles the profoundest imagination. Distances between stars in our own Milky Way is almost unbelievable. God's Word challenges, "Behold the height of the stars, how high they are!" Job 22: 12. The only reason stars look so closely packed together in some photographs of our Milky Way is because they are so very far away.

From an aeroplane at night a distant city looks like a solid mass of light. As one approaches the city and the landing field, this mass of light disintegrates into thousands of individual lights. The same is true of the stars.

The average distance between stars (suns) is *seven trillion miles*. Our nearest neighbour sun is 25 trillion miles (25,000,000,000,000) away. Let me put it this way: Imagine our sun the size of a dot over an "i." Our nearest neighbour, Alpha Centauri, would be another dot ten miles away. Other stars would be microscopic dots hundreds and thousands of miles distant. This is all within our Milky Way. Distances in outer space are even more incredible.

Trying to count the stars is an outright impossibility. In our Milky Way it is estimated there are a *hundred billion* suns. These suns control a family of possibly *nine hundred billion* planets, with moons innumerable. But what about the number of stars composing the other Milky Ways beyond our own? The 200-inch telescope on Mount Palomar in southern California has already photographed thousands of other island universes drifting through space at inconceivable distances. It is estimated there are at least a billion of them. Trying to number the suns and planets out there baffles the imagination completely. Centuries ago God declared: "The host of heaven cannot be numbered." Jer. 33: 22. And ancient Job exclaimed, "Lo, these are but the outskirts of His ways; and how small a whisper do we hear of Him!" Job 26: 14, American Revised Version.

Consider a bit further the thought, "not one faileth." Astronomers say they "have never found the slightest variation in the movement of the stars, even to the extent of 1/100 of a second." Professor

Todd, in his book "New Astronomy," page 128, states: "Uniformity of the earth's rotation has been critically investigated by Newcomb, and no change in the length of the day as great as 1/1000 of a second in a thousand years could escape detection." This reminds us that when this world was created, "He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." Ps. 33: 9.

Think for a moment of the beauty and colour of the stars. Scripture tells us, "He hath garnished the heavens." Job 26: 13. And God adds: "I will show wonders in the heavens." Joel 2: 30. "Look through a small telescope," writes Dr. M. L. Neff in his book "The Glory of the Stars," page 15, "and you will see bright red stars and shimmering blue ones, . . . brilliant white stars, . . . yellow stars, . . . and vivid orange spheres." He further adds, "We rush headlong in the rut of everyday existence, failing to lift our eyes to the pageant of the stars, the eter-



nal jewels of the night. The suns of the universe blaze with varicoloured lights that vie with the rainbow for beauty." The Milky Way is a treasure house of beauty with gems of the richest hues. St. Paul testifies: "There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory." 1 Cor. 15: 41.

Rigel, one of the most beautiful double stars in the sky, is rich blue in colour. Sirius, brightest star in the heavens, is a brilliant white. Arcturus is a reddish hue, as are Betelgeuse and Antares. Some of the double stars are the most lovely jewels in the sky. There are the twin suns of Albireo—one a dazzling yellow-orange, the other a deep blue. Gamma Leporis has a pale yellow and one garnet sun. Castor is a creamy white star, while Pollux, a near neighbour, is orange in colour.

Does life really exist on these other worlds scattered throughout the vast creation of God? Could it be reasonable

to suppose that our single planet is the only one inhabited? The Bible confirms the answer: "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them." Rev. 12: 12. "Thou hast made the heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, . . . and the host of heaven worshippeth Thee." Neh. 9: 6. Further, before Adam and Eve existed, when God was laying the foundation of this planet, God tells us other "sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38: 7.

Rev. 4: 11 states, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created." Bernard de Fontenelle says, "If God glorified Himself in making one world, the more worlds He made, the greater must be His glory." The renowned astronomer Harold Spencer Jones admits, "It is overwhelmingly probable that many other stars have systems of planets like our sun." And Sir James Jeans adds, "There must be myriads of worlds capable of supporting life as we know it here!" Dr. Russel T. Crawford, director of Berkeley Observatory, wrote, "Not only do I believe that other planets of our solar system are inhabited, but I believe firmly that the worlds of other solar systems are likewise inhabited." Dr. William W. Campbell, former director of Lick Observatory, accepted the amazing findings of foremost astronomers in humble gratitude when he wrote: "In the later years of my life I have been gratified to think that there are other representatives of life scattered through the universe. Probably we could not point the finger in any direction and miss the truth if we said there was some form of life in that direction."

Yes, "the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork." This is a profound statement, and past finding out. God's great universe is unlimited by time or space. Distances are incomprehensibly vast. Hundreds of millions of island universes, like a mighty armada, cruise up and down the high seas of immensity.

Let us humbly and gratefully remember that the same God who guides all those shining orbs in the vast circuits of their appointed paths, is able to pilot us over life's tempestuous seas. If we will but trust Him and obey Him, He will bring us at last to the peaceful shores of the haven of rest.

"Ah Lord God! behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched-out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee." Jer. 32: 17.

Mildred Wood Harris summarizes it this way:—

"A thousand tapers lit the sky  
And yet I could not see,  
Beyond the smallest opening  
Of God's immensity.

"And while He guides the universe  
By miracle divine,  
And calls a million stars by name,  
He's not forgotten mine!"



# CURRENT EVENTS AND OPINIONS

## The Missing Phrase

If you are anything like us, you usually read Monday's papers with interest, for among the multiplicity of other matters which are reported, there usually appear reports of the major week-end church services. We read some of these with interest, and some with a great deal of pleasure. Some leave one with a warm glow in the general region of the heart, while others leave one cold. Recently, however, we read the resume of one sermon which had an altogether different reaction on us. Just what that reaction was we leave you to decide.

Under the title of "Where Is the Promise of His Coming?" the minister in question took as his text 2 Peter 3: 4, which he quoted as follows: "Where is the promise of His coming? for from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

We read the sermon with eagerness, expecting to find a description of the many present-day signs of the soon coming of the Lord. Alas! How disappointed we were.

"Of course," said the preacher, in part, "we are not looking for any cataclysm. But we had hoped that the Christ spirit would have come into men's hearts more than it has. We had hoped that after the brutality and bloodshed of two world wars in one generation, we might have turned our backs on that kind of thing. We had hoped that God's love would spread from pole to pole, and a new day of peace and scientific prosperity would be ushered in. But the world does not seem to be getting anywhere in a spiritual sense."

But what of the oft-repeated hope of the early Christians that their Lord would return in person? It was all a mistake, this preacher affirmed. "Their desire that Jesus should return upon the clouds and institute a new order of righteousness, was doomed to disappointment. Their hopes will never be realized." To this flat denial of the advent hope he added the astonishing statement: "Jesus is never coming back, because He has never gone away."

What he means by this, we would not profess to know, but for our part we prefer to adhere to the plain teachings of the apostles, of the prophets, and of Christ Himself. Did Jesus not say, "If I go, . . . I will come again"? John 14: 1-3. That He went has been attested by reliable witnesses, and we believe He will keep His promise to return.

Did not He describe even the very manner of His return? He said: "As the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24: 27. We believe He will return like that.

Did He not say that those living in the last days would "see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory"? Luke 21: 27. He surely did, so it must be His expressed purpose to come visibly.

To this we could add the testimony of angels, apostles, and prophets. If we cannot rely on such clear statements of fact, what reliance can we place upon the rest of the Scriptures? We must accept this or do away with the whole of the Bible, together with the divine plan of salvation, for the second advent of our Lord is one of the pillars upholding the temple of Christian truth.

But let us have a closer look at the verse quoted by the minister. We do not know what version he used, but the Authorized Version used by most Protestants, quotes this text as follows: "Knowing this first, that *there shall come in the last days scoffers*, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming?" That phrase missing from the minister's original quotation makes a world of difference to the text. Apart from anything else, it brands the preacher himself as another evidence in the already long list, that the "last days" are upon us, and that the "promise of His coming" will not fail.

R. C. P.

## More Leisure — For What

"AND what do you do with the time you thus save?" was the gentle question put by the Chinese philosopher Lin Yutang to his American host. The American was showing his guest the sights of New York, and as they drove expressed his irritation at every delay in the traffic, and his annoyance when the lights were against him. His whole effort was devoted to covering the ground in the greatest possible speed, not because he had anything important to do, but simply from habit.

If we are frustrated or resentful over a few moments' delay, let us ask ourselves the question, What would we have done with the time if we had saved it?

We could ask the same question con-

cerning the leisure time that makes up an increasing proportion of our days and our weeks. Within the lifetime of many of us, the working week has been cut from forty-eight hours to forty hours; for some it is shorter still. Never have those who do the world's work had so much time for their own interests and entertainment. Many spend their leisure hours wisely. They have built their own homes, made beautiful gardens, or followed other constructive hobbies; they spend more time with their families in family projects or outings.

But for many the time is frittered away aimlessly or spent in occupations that can only debase the character and injure the life. Drinking and gambling are the chief interests of many.

The vast mountains of empty beer bottles bulldozed into the ground at some of the great construction projects are a tragic indication of wasted leisure, wasted resources, wasted lives. So many youths, earning high wages, have formed the habit of wasting their entire wages in gambling and drink.

It is one of the paradoxes of the day that the leisure time that philanthropists and social workers battled so hard to gain for the working man, has now become one of the great problems that social workers of today must endeavour to solve.

This is no new problem. Rome went down to destruction when the populace, gaining a taste for excitement and ease, demanded "bread and circuses," and had their increasing demands met from motives of political expediency. Idleness, ease, and self-indulgence brought about the fatal corruption and decay which broke up the mighty Roman Empire from within.

The ancient city of Sodom has been for millenniums a byword for moral rotteness. It reached this depth by way of material riches, abundant leisure, and unbridled licentiousness. Almost a thousand years after the destruction of this corrupt city, the prophet Ezekiel, looking back to the causes that led to this end, said: "This was the iniquity of . . . Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her." Eze. 16: 49.

To many, leisure is synonymous with idleness. But leisure is defined as simply "time at one's own disposal." To the Christian, therefore, leisure is a golden opportunity of promoting our Lord's work. There are thousands who find wider horizons of living as they devote their leisure hours to welfare work of many types, ministry to migrants, care for underprivileged children, or teaching in vacation Bible schools.

In itself, leisure is not evil. It may be the gateway to culture and achievement, the opportunity to extend one's influence in service and blessing. So let us look at it in a positive rather than a negative way. Let us fill our moments with those things that will be a help and blessing to our fellows, rather than trying to overcome the tendency or the temptation to waste our time or to fill it with that which is harmful.

M. M. H.



SHALL WE TEAR THE OLD TESTAMENT OUT OF THE BIBLE?

# What Would Be the Result?

DALLAS YOUNGS

A **P**ROFESSED Christian said recently: "I could tear the Old Testament out of the Bible and still be saved." Of course he could tear it out—God would not stop him—but that he could so treat God's Word and be saved is quite another matter.

It so happens that God is most particular about the way men deal with His Book. As far back as Moses' day God warned against tampering with the Scriptures. "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it." Deut. 4: 2.

The last warning given in the Bible—the warning of Rev. 22: 18, 19—is a warning against tampering with the inspired Word of God. "I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Judging by the penalties invoked adding to the Word of God or deleting from it is a grave offence. For a man to add anything to the Bible is to have added to him in punishment the plagues to be visited upon the wicked. For a man to take anything from that holy Book is to have his name taken from the book of life, and his part taken out of the Holy City and from all the glorious promises of reward to the redeemed.

Why does God make the penalties so severe? The reason is this: The Bible contains God's plan for saving the lost. God's plan of salvation is perfect, complete, and lacks nothing. Nothing can be added to a perfect plan, and nothing taken away without making it imperfect.

Jesus declared in His Sermon on the Mount that not even one infinitesimal part is to be taken away from that which God has given: "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matt. 5: 18.

Our Lord, in the above verse, is talking about the Old Testament Scriptures—the writings of Moses in particular. A "jot" or a "tittle" the dot of an "i" or the cross of a "t" shall not be added to or taken away from them.

On one occasion Jesus strongly rebuked the Jews for not believing the Old Testament writings. He said: "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed



Me: for he wrote of Me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe My words?" John 5: 46, 47. We see by this that it is not necessary to actually "tear the Old Testament out of the Bible," but to just fail to believe its teachings—as did the Jews in Christ's day—is to delete it from the mind and so suffer loss.

Why has God preserved the Old Testament? Rom. 15: 4 gives the answer: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Someone has said that experience is the best teacher. That may be, but someone else said: "No one ever lives long enough to learn everything by experience." That is why God has given us the Old Testa-

ment. He wants us to learn lessons important to our salvation from the experiences of men of old—from Adam, Noah, Abraham, Job, Moses, Elijah, David, and all the worthies of the past.

Still another text on this point teaches us the same thing: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Cor. 10: 11.

Dr. Adam Clarke, in the *Preacher's Manual*, places this evaluation upon the Old and New Testaments: "The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the only complete guide to everlasting blessedness: man may err, but the Scriptures cannot; for it is the Word of God Himself, who can neither mistake, deceive, nor be deceived. . . . From this word



all doctrines must be derived and proved; and from it every man must learn his duty to God, to his neighbour, and to himself."

The relationship between the Old and the New Testaments is aptly and forcefully illustrated by Dr. Harry Rimmer, who says:—

"They cannot logically be separated, in spite of the five silent centuries between Malachi and the Revelation of St. John. To illustrate this thought, let me tell you the amusing episode of my wife's Cousin George.

"He was a most skilful and accomplished driver when he lived, and some twenty years ago he provided us with considerable amusement because of that ability. He had the trained eye of a crack driver, and could judge distance almost to a fraction of an inch. If he saw that there were two inches between his fender and that of the man next to him, George would move over closer about an inch and a half, so as not to waste all that space. His family lived out in Hollywood and he worked down in central Los Angeles, and drove back and forth to and from his work.

"One evening George was headed home, and . . . reached [a] corner at that time of day when dusk was surrendering to darkness. It was too light to use headlights, and too dark to see without them.

"When he reached the intersection he looked to the left to see if he had a clear way, and started across. Then he looked to the right, and saw that two cars were coming. His trained eye told him that he could not get safely in front of the first car but could probably pass between the two. So he took the chance, slowed down to let the leading car pass, and cut in between it and the following one. He was right, there was just room enough to make it nicely.

"But when he got between them, he found that the first car was towing the second one, and they were fastened together by a chain! By the time he got through paying damages on that mess, he had learned that it does not pay to cut between two objects that are joined together.

"Some folks still have that lesson to learn concerning the Word of God. The Old Testament and the New Testament are bound together in many ways, as by the fact of prophecy and its fulfilment. The major portion of the promises which God gave through the prophets come to fruition and find their fulfilment in the historic events recorded in the New Testament."—"Seven Wonders of the Wonderful Word," pages 35-37.

God wrote both Testaments by means of His divinely appointed secretaries (Bible writers: Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Matthew, Paul, Peter, James, John, and others). These men wrote not their own words, thoughts, or ideas, but what God dictated to them by His Holy Spirit. Peter states this plainly: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1: 21. Paul said:

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

This writer is compelled to agree with Dr. T. T. Shields of Toronto when he says: "The Bible is the supreme court of appeal. But I would go further and say it is the only court of appeal. If we assume the Bible to be true, it must be in accord with truth everywhere; for it is axiomatic that truth never contradicts itself. Therefore, the truth of the Bible will find confirmation in all true history; and in the dicta of science in so far as they are demonstrated to be true; and in Christian experience. . . . To me the Bible is one book, one and indivisible. Genesis is as truly inspired of the Holy Ghost as the Gospels. Revelation is as truly the Word of God as any other book; and even though I may not be able to understand many of its tremendous sayings as yet, I believe it to be the inspired Word of God just as truly as any other part of Scripture.

"There is one God, and He is the Author of both the Old and New Testaments.



## Prayer of Faith

MARGARET D. CLARKE

GIVE me a faith, Oh, Lord, that will let me call upon Thee as Jehovah-jireh, when the cupboard shelves are full and each child is warm in bed: give me a faith that still will call Thee "my Provider" when there is nothing left to eat and the children cry from cold.

Give me a faith to know Thy way is best when I cannot see the purpose of Thy leading.

Give me a faith to take as truth for me the words, "To those who love the Lord, all things will work for good," even though it be a cross that I am called to bear.

Give me a faith to praise Thy loving care when it would seem that things go wrong, when I have followed Thee and done Thy known will.

Give me a faith to hold Thy hand in times of happiness, so that I forget not to give Thee thanks and know that all good things are gifts from Thee.

Oh, Lord, I pray Thee, give me this faith.

ments. These two Testaments contain the record of God's dealings with His chosen people and those nations which came into more or less direct contact with His people. The Book of God is essentially a religious book. It records God's plan for saving the lost through Jesus Christ, the centre of that plan. The Old Testament particularly is replete with prophecies, most of which have met their fulfilment. However, a very few remain to be fulfilled at this present time."

As long as Isaiah's prophecy of Babylon's fall remains; as long as Zephaniah's prophecy of ancient Nineveh is extant; as long as Ezekiel's prophecy of Egypt and Tyre continues as a part of the Inspired Record, just so long must the Old Testament be recognized as inspired.

It took more than human foresight for Isaiah to foresee that the world's foremost city—Babylon, that metropolis of pride and power—would within the space of a few centuries become a heap of uninhabited ruins, wherein would dwell wild animals of the desert, and where the Arab would not pitch his tent, or the shepherd make his fold. Yet that is a fact today. (See Isa. 13: 19-22.)

By the same inspiration Zephaniah foretold the destruction and ruin of the strongly fortified city of Nineveh, the pride of the Assyrians. "Nothing then seemed more improbable than that the capital of so vast an empire, a city sixty miles in compass, with walls 100 feet high, and so thick that three chariots could go abreast on them, and with 1,500 towers, should be so totally destroyed that its site is with difficulty discovered. Yet so it is, as the prophet foretold."—Jamieson, Faussett, and Brown, *Commentary*, page 709.

Ezekiel foretold that great Egypt would become a "base" kingdom, and that "there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt." Subsequent history shows that Egypt became one of the "basest" of kingdoms and that for more than 2,000 years there has not been a native Egyptian king to rule the land.

And how else than by divinely given foreknowledge could Ezekiel have known that Tyre, that flourishing maritime seaport, would be scraped like the top of a rock, and become a place for the spreading of fishermen's nets? Yet that is a present-day fact. Alexander the Great scraped the ancient city of Tyre down to the bedrock to obtain materials to build a causeway to the island city of New Tyre. And today, in fulfilment of Ezekiel's prediction, a few fishermen spread their nets to dry on the bare rocks where once stood proud Tyre.

What shall we say? What shall we do in the light of these facts? Shall we do away with the Old Testament? Shall we in any way disparage its position of importance and influence? Shall we say it is of no value?

God forbid! Let the last warning that God has given in His Book be heeded. Let no man add to the Bible, and let no man take away by precept or example that which God has enjoined.



# WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU FALL

## Flat On Your Face

INEZ BRASIER

**R**ECENTLY I watched the fun at a school picnic. What we all enjoyed most was the sack race.

You know what such a race is like. You pull a large bag up over your feet and then try to reach the finishing line before the others do. More than likely you fall flat on your face several times, and the goal seems farther and farther away with each fall.

At this sack race a number of runners fell out on the way. When Jim fell he didn't even bother to get up. He just rolled over to the side and lay there.

But not Rod!

Rod had one leg that was a bit shorter than the other, and in that sack, well, he went flat time after time. But did he give up? No, sir! He kept on till he reached the goal, even though he arrived several lengths behind Ray and Jack, who got there first.

And then you should have heard the noise! "Rod wins! Rod wins!" shouted Ray and Jack.

"But you got there first," some of the other children protested.

"Sure we did!" said Ray and Jack. "But it was easy for us. We didn't fall down nearly as often as Rod did. We would never have kept on if we had. Rod stuck it out, and he's the winner!"

How happy everybody felt to see such generosity! And how thankful Rod was that he hadn't given up.

Nita's grades were good. In fact, they were so good in Maths that her classmates begged her to help them in arithmetic and algebra. But when she studied the foreign language all the students had to take, she "stuffed her toe badly."

She just scraped through the first year and failed completely at the first test in the second year. She fell flat on her face, even though she had done most of the first year's work over again during the summer.

But did Nita throw her books on the floor and declare she was through with school for ever and aye? She did not!

She studied that language and sat for another test.

And failed again!

Give it up now? Never! A third time she studied for that test.

And that time she got a B.

Today she has more letters after her name than she has in front of it, and teaches in a college.

You find a lesson hard? You can learn it. Is a task so difficult it seems like moving a mountain with a spoon? You can do it. Get up and get at it!

This matter of tempers. You resolve never again to lose yours. Then, oops! Down you go when you can't have things the way you want them. Well, catch

that temper and sit on it before it puts you flat on your face again.

A Bible verse says, "Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy; when I fall, I shall arise." Micah 7: 8.

It reminds me of a story of horse and buggy days. A small boy liked to catch hold of the tailboard of the neighbour's waggon for a hang-on ride. One day, as he was running to catch on, he stubbed his toe and fell on his face in a deep mud puddle. The neighbour heard the splash and looked back. He thought a sack of wheat had fallen from the waggon. Just then the mud-covered boy stood up.

"Wait for me!" he cried. "I'm going to catch on yet!" And he did.

Whatever it is we may stub our mental toes against, we need not lie on the ground, crying for help. We can get up. We can try again.

And let me whisper that trying so hard will make you a winner at last.

## BIBLE QUESTION SERVICE

By PASTOR DESMOND FORD,

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## THE TRUE CHURCH

*How can one find the true church when so many organizations lay claim to being the people of God? Such a task seems hopeless.*

R. H.

No doubt the people of God are scattered through all churches, but nevertheless we would expect one group to be God's special messengers, doing the work done by Noah in warning the world of destruction, and by John the Baptist, preparing a people for the advent of the Lord.

The Bible's last book gives us the characteristics of the true church of the last days. Rev. 14: 6-12 presents a great three-fold message which is to belt the globe before the second advent. (Rev. 14: 14.) The people gathered out by the message are pictured as a reception committee ready to welcome Christ at His coming, and they are described as follows: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14: 12. The same remnant people according to Rev. 12: 17 and 19: 10, also have the testimony of Jesus which is "the spirit of prophecy." Putting these Scriptures together to help us in our search, we find that we must discover a people (1) Proclaiming a special three-fold message to all the world drawing attention to God as Creator and Judge,

calling for separation from false religion styled as "Babylon," and warning all of a final religious crisis during which all must make their decision for either the mark of the beast or the seal of God. (2) Keeping ALL the commandments of God. (3) Living in harmony with all the teachings (the faith) of Jesus, including baptism by immersion, etc. (4) placing special stress on the prophecies and possessing the gift of prophecy.

There is only one church in all the world which fulfils these specifications and this journal is only one of its many mediums for proclaiming God's last message.

## THE LORD'S DAY

*Saturday has always been the seventh day, and Ex. 20: 10 says, "But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." Saturday is, therefore, the Jewish Sabbath. It was given to the Jews. Sunday is not the Sabbath, but the Lord's Day. We are not commanded to keep Sunday, but as Christians we do so willingly because of Christ's resurrection. What do you have to say concerning this?*

W.

Truly it would be impossible to make Ex. 20: 10 read, "But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Jews." The text declares it the "Sabbath of the LORD THY GOD." He is not Jewish. The world was not made just for Jews. Neither are the Jews the only people requiring rest. Every allusion in this commandment applies to all nations. While proclaimed before Jews at Sinai, it was given outside of Canaan in the wilderness, to show that it was for all men. The other nine commandments were also heard by the Jews and committed to them, but who would assert that it is wrong only for Jews to murder, steal, or commit adultery? The great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel" was also given to Jews as also was the Sermon on the Mount, but surely these are for all men. The Jews were the custodians of God's laws. According to the R.S.V. they were "ENTRUSTED with the oracles of God." Rom. 3: 2.

Sunday is certainly not the Sabbath, but likewise there is no ground for calling Sunday the Lord's day. Mark 2: 28; Isa. 58: 13; Ex. 20: 10, all declare the seventh day, not the first, to be the true Lord's Day. You are quite correct in saying we are not commanded to keep Sunday. In fact we are told that by such observances "full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" and "every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." "In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Mark 7: 7; Matt. 15: 13.

There is no more reason to keep Sunday holy in honour of the resurrection, than to keep Friday in honour of the crucifixion or Thursday as a memorial of the ascension. Baptism is God's appointed memorial of the resurrection. (Rom. 6: 4.)



# NEWS in brief

► THE national and state capitals in Australia now contain more than half the country's total population.

► EARTH's atmosphere serves as a storm window that absorbs the killing rays of the sun. Without atmospheric pressure—about 18 tons per person—blood would literally boil in the veins. If survival were possible, men would have no voices, for the voice is air set in motion by vocal cords and heard when the waves beat on eardrums.

► Now relegated to the scrap heap of old wives' tales is the popular belief that all sunspots are bad for overseas radio communications. The results of a ten-year study of solar radio disturbances indicates that transmitting conditions on international radio circuits actually get better as the number of sunspots increases.

► SCIENTISTS are now trying to use radar's electronic energy to preserve fresh and cooked foods so that they can be stored on a kitchen shelf at room temperature indefinitely without refrigeration. Still in the laboratory stage, the new process is expected to make normally perishable foods available in unfrozen form the year round without loss of flavour, texture, or nutrient values.

► ROCKS that move are a mystery on the flat, sun-baked surface of a dry lake known as the Racetrack in Death Valley, California. They make tracks in all directions, in complete loops, in right-angle jobs—the longest being nearly 800 feet, the shortest only a few inches. One 220-foot track boasts a rock at each end, one of which is the largest rock on the Racetrack weighing 603 pounds.

► COASTAL Bermuda grass enabled farmers from Florida to Canada last year to convert more than a million acres of once-wasted land into a rich source of livestock feed. Whereas twenty acres were needed to carry one cow on native southern grass, with the use of Coastal Bermuda and fertilizer, eight head of cattle were carried on six acres.

► THERE is evidence that the fundamental processes of life go on in the deepest parts of the ocean, where pressures reach 17,000 pounds per square inch, the temperature stays just above freezing, and sunlight never penetrates. However, the only specimens a Danish vessel brought up alive on a recent research expedition were bacteria.

► TRAFFIC in Karachi, capital of Pakistan, is complicated by a wide variety of conveyances. There are eighteen types of registered transport, ranging from new American motor-cars to pedicabs and camel carts.

► COMMERCIAL television was first unveiled to visitors at the New York World's Fair in 1939. By 1957 there were 496 television stations in the United States and nearly 43 million sets in use.

## Signs of the Times

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# JESUS Knows and Cares

SOMETHING had gone wrong with the motor-car, and none of the tourists in the machine knew how to repair it, so it had to be towed in to the nearest garage. Even there the assistant could not remedy the motor trouble. He did everything he could, but still the motor refused to start. Why wouldn't it go? The stranded tourists were anxious to be off; but that didn't help matters a bit. Time dragged. The trees were casting long shadows across the street. The tourists were nearing despair.

Then something happened. A stranger drove up. Attracted by the group of anxious-faced passengers, he offered his services. Quickly he examined the machine. Off came his coat. After a few minutes his magic finger touched the starter, and immediately the engine began to hum normally. Why? Oh, he was a master mechanic. He understood every part of that machine; and soon after he took charge, it became as useful as before the trouble arose.

How often we are stranded! We face problems that we cannot solve, temptations which we know not how to meet, obstacles we cannot surmount. How eagerly we turn from one promising suggestion to another! Sometimes—yes, you and I know—long after the house is quiet save for the monotonous conversation of the clock, we keep on thinking. Perhaps our pillow grows moist as we listen to the wind that seems to cry itself to sleep out of sheer sympathy.

And all the while our loving heavenly Father is bending over us, waiting for us to turn our problems and temptations over to Him—yes, waiting for us to give Him control of our lives. He knows all about His children here below. He knows these hearts of ours and how to comfort them. There are burdens which no human hand can help us lift, but our heavenly Father always understands.

Yes, He knows. He understands. And best of all, He cares! He will never fail those who come to Him for help. He says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." To help us better understand His tender love for us, He has given us that matchless picture of the Great Shepherd, the twenty-third psalm.

Let us gaze into it until we shall see how tenderly the Great Shepherd watches over His sheep. He provides

safe pasture for them; He leads them to quiet, cool resting places; He guards them from danger. At eventide He leads them gently to the fold. A picture comes to us from one who has recorded the evening routine of an Oriental shepherd. Says the word artist:

"He has the horn filled with olive oil, and he has cedar tar, and he anoints a knee bruised on the rocks or the side scratched by the thorns. And here comes one that is not bruised, simply worn and exhausted. The shepherd bathes its face and head with refreshing olive oil, and he takes the large two-handled cup and dips it brimming full of water provided for that purpose and gives the weary sheep a drink." And so the shepherd continues until every sheep is inspected, given needed care, and sent to a place of safety.

I enjoy reading the matchless Shepherd Psalm, remembering that the Shepherd we see in it is the Lord. You and I are the sheep of His pasture. The picture is complete. It covers the whole day. Not for a moment does the Shepherd's care cease. Today is the pasture in which we roam. Today He is caring for us. It is around today that the Lord has planted His protecting hedge. His place of refuge is in the field of today. We must not worry about tomorrow. It lies beyond today. Its

dangers cannot touch us. Only today is ours; and God will take care of today. He would have us rejoice in His care today.

How blessed the assurance that His grace is sufficient! We may be sure that He will never forget nor fail. "The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed," but even in these calamities, God will not forget us nor withdraw from us His loving-kindness. In all the storms of life He will shelter us. When we are called to pass through the waters of sorrow and affliction, He will be with us. His strong hand will protect us from fiery trials. He will guide us safely past the hidden snares of the enemy. He feels every heart-ache we know. When we are weary, He longs for us to come to Him for rest. Yes, all along the way He will supply our every need and lead us safely to our heavenly home.

Oh, wonderful story of deathless love, Each child is dear to the Father above! He fights for me when I cannot fight, He comforts me in the gloom of night. He lifts the burden, for He is strong; He stills the sigh and wakes the song; The sorrows that bear me down He shares, And loves and pardons because He cares.

*Mrs. E. E. Andross*

