



The Bible and

OUR TIMES





The vast mushroom cloud of the first hydrogen bomb explosion at Eniwetok Atoll. © Keystone

RIPE FOR PANIC

By A. S. Maxwell

★ "GENERALIZED anxiety," says a writer in *Look* magazine, is so strong today that, in the opinion of some, the United States is "ripe for panic."

Contributing to this state of mind, he says, is "the widespread fear of Russia, of the A-bomb, of another war, and the anxieties that many people feel because they know that, in our age of complex organization, they as individuals are pretty helpless to control their own destinies."

Perhaps it was because President Eisenhower realizes that there is some truth in this diagnosis that he delivered his recent televised address in which he bade everybody not to be afraid.

Freely he admitted the dangers that exist. "Actually," he said, "we see threats coming from all angles, internal and external, and we wonder what is going to happen to us individually and as a nation."

Specifically he mentioned five immediate causes for fear. "We are concerned about the men in the Kremlin. We are concerned about the atomic age.

We are concerned about the loss of our international friends in exposed areas of the world. . . . We are worried about Communist penetration of our own country. We are worried about the possibility of depression, and the loss of jobs among us here at home." But, he added, "the greater any of these apprehensions, the greater is the need that we look at them clearly face to face . . . so that we do not develop the jitters or any kind of panic, that we do not fall prey to hysterical thinking."

"Sometimes," the president confessed, "you feel almost that we can be excused for getting a little bit hysterical because these dangers come from so many angles, and they are such different kinds, and no matter what we do they still seem to exist," yet he exhorted his listeners to think all these problems through with care, holding fast to the fundamental principles of truth and freedom which inspired the Founding Fathers.

The president's address was both wise and

timely. The peril of panic in this period of multiplying anxieties is not to be lightly dismissed. Strong and stalwart though most people think they are, how many would remain cool, calm and collected were a hydrogen bomb suddenly to wipe out a nearby city, or clouds of radioactive particles were reported to be moving toward their homes? It would not be hard to think of many a dire emergency which at any moment might test our mental equilibrium and moral stamina to the limit.

Significantly, a tendency to panic is one of the predicted signs of the last days. In response to the request of His disciples for indications of the approach of His second coming, Jesus said: "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, while on earth the nations will be in *dismay with bewilderment* at the roar of sea and waves, *men swooning with panic* and foreboding of what is to befall the universe. For the orbs of heaven will be shaken; and then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. . . . Whenever you see all this happen, be sure the Reign of God is at hand." Luke 21:25-31, Moffatt.

This does not mean that everybody will panic as the last stupendous events of history burst upon mankind. Some will remain calm. Some will keep their heads. Some will see the divine meaning in these awful portents and know that "the Reign of God is at hand."

What we need today, as President Eisenhower said, is greater spiritual strength; and that means we must rediscover the Source of that strength, which is God. Too many have shut Him out of their lives.

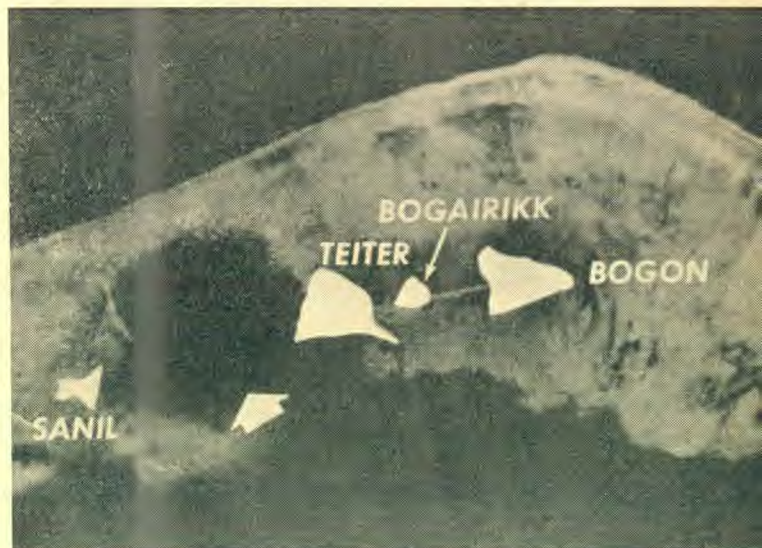
If we would have the "stamina and courage and gallantry" of our forefathers, we must turn again to God with like humility and sincerity. We must learn to read the Bible again, as they did. We must begin to pray with living faith, as they did. God must become real to us once more, as He was to them, our constant Guide, Counsellor, and Friend. Then His peace will be our peace, and we shall be able to say with David of old, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." Psalm 46:1, 2.

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Here is the antidote to panic. As the Psalmist wrote, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

The man who says of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust," will be able to claim the promise: "He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." Ps. 91:1-7.

This may seem to some to be an old-fashioned faith, covered with the moss of centuries. But it has carried many a child of God triumphantly through the worst of trials, through "dungeon, fire, and sword." And it will nerve the saints of these latter days to stand unmoved while the heavens fall. Deriving their spiritual strength from divine resources, they will remain loyal, true, and faithful to the end. When earth's night is passed, they will be there to hail the dawn of the Reign of God.



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The dark patch on the left hand side of the picture indicated by an arrow marks the site of the H-bomb test island which completely disappeared. In its place is a submarine crater a mile wide and 175 feet deep. The light area is the coral reef below the surface of the sea from which the tiny islands protrude.

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FREEDOM

through

TRUTH

gave us one infallible recipe for it. Early one morning, when teaching the Jews in the temple, He uttered these striking words: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

We may be sure that the Lord primarily meant freedom of the soul from such mortifying emotions as fear, anxiety, uncertainty, and guilt. He assured us that the truth, if believed and cherished, would bring freedom from all these.

What Is Truth?

First, however, we may ask: "What is truth?" "We have the truth," screams the Communist; and reacts with disdain toward those who dare dispute it. Communistic truth, it is claimed, brings freedom from oppressive capitalism—but as we have seen, it does not bring freedom of conscience, or freedom to direct one's life according to one's inclinations and convictions.

"But we have the truth," asserts the sincere Catholic. Yet while enforcement of Catholic truth certainly brings freedom for itself, it recognizes no "inalienable right" of non-Catholics to enjoy similar freedom.

The answer to our question is threefold. First we have the assurance of Jesus: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." John 14:6. Jesus is the truth. He is the source of it, the embodiment of it, the perfect Example and Teacher of it. What a supremely delightful world it would be if all took care "to walk even as He walked." Discourtesy, callous indifference to the needs of others, tyranny in all its many forms, and sin, would vanish. It would be heaven on earth, with all the basic freedoms of man assured and respected by everyone.

Secondly, we have another statement of our Lord: "Thy Word is truth." John 17:17. "Thy



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Pilate asked Jesus "What is truth?" but he did not wait for an answer.

★ PERHAPS never before has the cry for freedom been more vehement or universal. The Atlantic Charter of 1941, framed and signed by Churchill and Roosevelt, recognized, and sought to guarantee, the eight basic freedoms of mankind. Demand for "freedom from foreign tyranny" is too tragically familiar to British ears. Men desire freedom to live as they want, to do what they want, to worship as they want, to be governed as they want; they desire freedom from fear, from unemployment, from poverty, from war, and freedom to enjoy a reasonable share of the fruits of the earth. Freedom! a much used, and abused, word. The strange thing is that those most clamant in their demands are often the ones least ready to grant freedom to others.

Our Lord was interested in freedom, and He

Word"—God's Word, commonly known as the Bible, is the truth. Anything which conflicts with it in any way, is error. Following Jesus, who is "the Truth," and guiding our lives by the Bible, are really one and the same thing. The Word of God declared God's will for man, Jesus Christ exemplified it, and provides the power for us to do likewise.

"Thy Law Is the Truth"

Thirdly, we have the assurance by the Psalmist: "Thy law is the truth." Psa. 119:142. God's law, the Ten Commandments, "is the truth." This may seem strange to some who regard the law with disfavour, yet it is synonymous with Christ and His Word. The law is a crystallization of God's will for us. It is a brief yet perfectly comprehensive outline of the way to live aright. And the purpose of the life of Jesus was to "magnify the law, and make it honourable." Isa. 42:21.

The truth then, which the world needs for its desired freedoms to be realized, is perfectly declared in these three statements. Supremely it is a Person—Jesus Christ. It is expressed in the Bible, and wonderfully summed up in His law. (Exod. 20:3-17.)

Does Truth Matter?

But does truth really matter? Is the claim valid which suggests it is unimportant what we believe provided we are sincere?

Extreme examples serve to clarify the answer.



By R. D. Vine

We refer to a revealing article by John Gunther, on ritual murder in Basutoland. Killings of the most appalling nature have been, and still are, the order of the day. "Medicines" that will guarantee advancement, success in political and business enterprises, victory in tribal war, and healing, are derived from innocent persons who are killed in the most revolting way, and whose remains are used as a kind of sorcerer's charm.

Such horrifying practices are believed to be right. In vain have the British authorities sought to stamp out such butchery. It continues and even increases because the Basutos feel they have the truth on the matter.

All over the "dark continent" native medicine men still ply their trade, sincerely believing they

have the truth, and inspiring their devotees with a slavish faith in their powers. Here in an African village is a very young native boy who is desperately sick. His distracted mother at last appeals to the medicine man. He hastens to the stricken home, and diagnoses the trouble as devil possession. The devil, he says, must be beaten out if the child is to recover. Faith is strong; belief is sincere—so a heavy stick is speedily brought. The sufferer's back is bared, and the stinging strokes are viciously applied. The heart-rending cries of the piccaninny are unavailing. Since the next day brings no improvement, the stick treatment is repeated. But "the devil" maintains a tenacious hold. There is no sign of recovery. The sickness worsens, the child's slender hold on life is weakening. The fierce sores which cover his beaten back have well-nigh destroyed whatever natural resistance he may have had to his disease. The sorrowing mother again calls the medicine man, for the condition is now desperate. The answer is clearly a more severe beating than ever, for it is obvious that the previous ones were too light to achieve their purpose. The whimpering child, racked with pain, and now but feebly protesting, is once more subjected to a merciful beating. The whimpering ceases, and the little body goes limp as the child dies. Mother, amid sobs, thanks the medicine man for doing his best, and he passes on to his next patient.

This true example is not unique. It is perfectly typical of customs where Bible Christianity has not yet penetrated.

Truth Is Vital

Is truth important? Does truth really matter? The answer is obvious. Our whole lives, our characters, our habits, our personal relationships, are moulded by what we believe. African natives perform their revolting practices because they believe them to be right. The inquisitors tortured and slew, because they felt they had the truth. Theirs was a religious urge. Millions of Jews were slaughtered in the last war because a pagan nationalistic religion, which was sincerely believed by a great many, demanded it. Right now, millions are subjected to calculated cruelty through the demands of a materialistic faith which is sincerely cherished by its pitiable dupes as the truth for these days.

Freedom from such inhumanities, and from the fear of being subjected to them, can come only

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Why Be BAPTIZED?



Above.—A baptism in the highlands of Peru.

Below.—South sea Islanders assemble for a baptismal ceremony.

TRUTH is progressive. It leads the follower to new heights which he, in his search, had not expected. If we progress with each new revelation of the truth of God we are led from stage to stage through different climaxes to one supreme decision.

Baptism is the crown to the struggles. It is the seal of sincerity and the symbol of a changed life. It is the gateway to the church of God.

This is how the apostles regarded it. They preached the Gospel, and when it was accepted they conducted a baptismal service for those whose faith took hold of the reality of God. At Jerusalem a few weeks after Christ's death Peter preached a rousing sermon that made the hearts of thousands of all nationalities leap with the awakened consciousness of their guilt in murdering the Son of God. Three thousand expressed their faith in Jesus as Saviour and enthroned Priest: and then to seal the decision a gigantic baptismal service was conducted. We read of it in Acts 2:38, 41: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for

the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. . . . Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Repentance was first. Baptism followed. That day a multitude was added to the church. Baptism was the outward sign, which all could witness, of an inner crisis successfully resolved in the decision for Christ.

While a baptismal service for three thousand people is an extraordinary and beautiful sight, a service for just one need be no less so. In fact, we have a record in the book of Acts of such a service in the story of the conversion and baptism of just one man, and this man was from Ethiopia. He was reading from Isaiah, but could not grasp the significance of the prophecy of suffering in the fifty-third chapter. Philip met him in the desert and explained to him the meaning of the passage. He expounded the story of the cross. The Ethiopian eunuch expressed his belief in the Saviour and

asked to be baptized. So Philip baptized him. (Acts 8:36-39.)

Philip was following the same procedure as did Peter: first he explained the prophecies in reference to Jesus: then on a clear expression of faith he baptized. This was his usual custom.

The Conditions for Baptism

Undoubtedly the outstanding personality of the New Testament apart from Jesus is the apostle Paul. He was at the heart of the early church: he systematized its theology and arranged its organization. Paul was a pathfinder, but in his exploits he found that all paths led back to Jesus and His commands. Paul baptized his converts, and he himself had been baptized at the start of his spiritual pilgrimage. Two passages, again from the apostle's history book, show us clearly what his practice was. The first is the story of the midnight song at Philippi and the jailer's conversion. Notice these facts that gleam out from the record.

i. Paul made it clear to the jailer that belief in Jesus was the only way to life.

ii. He explained to the jailer and his family the meaning of salvation.

iii. Then he baptized them.

"And he took them the same hour of the night,

By E. W. H. Vick

and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway." Acts 16:33.

The same things had happened in the apostle's own experience. His conversion was followed by a period of quiet meditation and guidance at the hands of Ananias of Damascus who finally said to him: "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16. Then he was baptized.

The perusal of these passages from the New Testament indicates that instruction and personal decision preceded the ceremony, and that there was complete agreement as to procedure. Paul was baptized, and he baptized others in accordance with a well-defined principle. So did Peter, so did Philip, so did they all. Would they have done it so uniformly had not Jesus instructed them?

Jesus gave the orders; the apostles followed them. They are as explicit as they are simple. Teach what I command you, make disciples, bap-

tize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. This was why the apostles acted as they did. So, the baptismal service was introduced because Jesus commanded it: and in conducting such a service we are doing what our Saviour said we should.

Nature of Biblical Baptism

Is there any instruction about how we should conduct a baptismal service? If the Bible does not tell us specifically how, then it is not important; if it does, then it is a matter that can by no means be passed off lightly. The word "to baptize" is an interesting one. It is used apart from the New Testament in connection with dyeing cloth. Its basic meaning is "to immerse."

Not only does the meaning of the word point to immersion as the method of baptism, but so do the writings of the evangelists. Notice carefully the record of Jesus' baptism. "And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him." Matt. 3:16.

Please underline mentally two important points. First, that Jesus came up out of the water. Secondly, that the approval of God was demonstrated in a visible sign. God was setting His own seal upon the moment of His Son's dedication.

The first point is confirmed in Mark 1:5: "And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins."

The baptisms were conducted in the nearest river. That explains how Jesus could come up "out of the water." Jesus' example sets the pattern for the Christian. Jesus was baptized by immersion. Can we do less than to follow His example?

"But," you say, "I am aware that Jesus was baptized in this way. No-one can deny it. It is so plain. But do you conclude from this fact that this is the only way?" We shall let the Scripture answer by turning to Ephesians 4:5: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." Here is the unequivocal statement that just as we have only one Lord, there is just one form of baptism.

New Testament students will be well aware of the work of those two great scholars of the last generation, W. J. Conybeare and J. S. Howson. These men wrote jointly a standard work on the epistles and life of Paul. Here is their statement on baptism from that work:

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By C. S. Dixon

"The Lord Himself shall descend."

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★ FROM earth's earliest days till now there has been a longing in the heart of man for God to intervene in the affairs of this world, to right its wrongs and restore the peace of Eden.

"Behold, the Lord cometh . . . to execute judgment," cried Enoch, and he was but the seventh from Adam. (Jude 14, 15.)

All down the intervening years the same cry has echoed and re-echoed across the centuries.

"I know that my Redeemer liveth," said the patriarch Job, "and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." Job 19:25.

"Our God shall come," wrote the Psalmist,

"and shall not keep silence." Psalm 50:3.

Through the prophets of Israel the great and growing hope was seen to involve not one coming but two. God would come first as a Sacrifice to pay the price of sin, then as a triumphant Conqueror and

BEHOLD

The

King. He would be "wounded for our transgressions" and "bruised for our iniquities," but in a brighter day He would "swallow up death in victory; and . . . wipe away tears from off all faces." Isa. 53:3-6; 25:7-9.

I Will Come Again

When the Sacrifice Himself appeared He understood full well the dual nature of His advent. To the high priest who condemned Him He said: "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Matt. 26:64.

As He bade His disciples farewell, He gave them His solemn promise that He would return. "I go to prepare a place for you," He told them. "And if I go . . . I will come again." John 14:1-3.

Their saddened hearts leaped for joy. Instantly the hope of the ages was re-kindled within them. From patriarchs and prophets they picked up the haunting, thrilling words, "Behold, He cometh!" and proclaimed them anew with a certainty that shook the world.

"Behold, He cometh with clouds," cried the

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apostle John, "and every eye shall see Him." Rev. 1:7.

"The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven," declared the apostle Paul. (1 Thess. 4:16.)

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise," wrote the apostle Peter, "... the day of the Lord will come." 2 Peter 3:9, 10.

This was the Gospel those first disciples preached—the good news of a living and returning Saviour. Upon this wondrous proclamation

HE COMETH!

Hope of the Ages

they built the Christian church. If they emphasized one truth above another it was that Christ is the hope of the world and that, to fulfil that hope, He must return in glory.

The Hope Abides

Nineteen centuries have passed since then. Yet the hope abides. Today more people than ever are convinced that Christ is coming again, and coming soon. Not only has this been the burden of *Our Times* for the past seventy years, it is now the ardent conviction of more than a million Seventh-Day Adventists, scattered among every nation on earth. Every week, over a thousand broadcasting and television stations, the tidings go forth, "Jesus Is Coming Again."

Thousands of Christians of many denominations—Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians—have the same conviction in their hearts that Christ is the only hope of this fear-ridden, sin-dominated, destruction-threatened world; that He must come again or all is lost. And everybody knows that "Christ, the Hope of the World" is the theme chosen for the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches to convene in Evanston, Illinois, this August.

What better hope could there be? Christ is the Great Physician we need to heal the world's diseases; He is the Master Carpenter who

By A. S. Maxwell

alone can rebuild the ruin caused by sin; He is the perfect Lover to bind men's hearts in abiding brotherhood.

Because His name is "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace," the government *must* some day be laid upon His shoulder. Only so can our world know righteousness, justice and peace, "henceforth even for ever." Isa. 9:6, 7.

"Even so, Come"

May the blessed hope of His soon return glow anew in our hearts this day. And from all around the globe let the cry be raised in ever-increasing crescendo, "Behold, He cometh!"

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Rev. 22:20. And when He comes, may every one who reads these words be amongst the privileged company who shall exclaim: "This is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: . . . we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Isa. 25:9.

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"This is our God; we have waited for Him; and He will save us."



Know Your Bible

THE RESURRECTION

What triumphant announcement followed Christ's death?

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said." Matt. 28:5, 6.

"The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the cornerstone of Christian doctrine. It is mentioned directly 104 times in the New Testament. It was the most prominent and cardinal point in the apostolic testimony."—*The Doctrine of Christ*, by W. W. Prescott, page 75.

Did Jesus predict His resurrection?

"From that time forth began Jesus to show unto His disciples, how that He must . . . be killed, and be raised again the third day." Matt. 16:21.

Did His enemies remember His predictions?

"Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while He was yet alive, After three days I will rise again." Matt. 27:62, 63.

What precautions did they take to prevent it?

"So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch." Matt. 27:66.

The enemies of Jesus remembered His prophecy, but they forgot His power. However, by sealing the entrance stone and setting a guard they unconsciously established strong evidence for the veracity of the resurrection.

"While the literal bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the corner-stone of Christian doctrine, it is also the Gibraltar of Christian evidence and the Waterloo of infidelity and rationalism. If the



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Scriptural assertions of Christ's resurrection can be established as historic certainties, the claims and doctrines of Christianity rest upon an impregnable foundation."—*The Doctrine of Christ*, page 70.

How does Luke describe the evidences?

"He . . . had given commandment unto the apostles whom He had chosen: to whom also He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Acts 1:2, 3.

How many witnesses are mentioned?

"He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present." 1 Cor. 15:5, 6.

"The resurrection of Christ is 'at once the most important and best authenticated fact in the history of the world,' says Dr. Charles Hodge, and he gives the following resumé of the evidence of its occurrence:

- "1. It was predicted in the Old Testament.
- "2. It was foretold by Christ Himself.
- "3. It was a fact, admitting of easy verification.
- "4. Abundant, suitable, and frequently repeated evidence was afforded of its actual occurrence.
- "5. The witnesses to the fact that Christ was seen after His death on the cross, were numerous, competent, and on every account worthy of confidence.
- "6. Their sincerity of conviction was proved by the sacrifices, even that of life, which this testimony entailed upon them."

How does the resurrection verify the claims of Jesus?

"Declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." Rom. 1:4.

What was our glorified Lord's testimony?

"I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Rev. 1:18.

What transformation did His resurrection effect?

Before: "And they said unto Him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him. But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel." Luke 24:19-21.

After: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36.

By J. A. McMillan

"It is impossible to account for their changed attitude unless Christ really rose from the dead."—Dr. Amos R. Wells in "Why We Believe the Bible," page 120.

"As we trace to its source the great religious impulse which has rescued the world from ruin and turned it into a path of sustained progress, we find it inspired by a serene conviction that Christ had trampled death under foot by returning alive from the grave; and this conviction we have traced to Jerusalem, and to within a few days of His death."—*The Doctrine of Christ*, page 72.

Was our Lord actually physically raised from the dead?

"Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see: for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have." Luke 24:39.

"And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and of an honeycomb. And He took it, and did eat before them." Luke 24:42, 43.

What blessing comes from believing?

"And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and My God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:28, 29.

What are the blessings which are available to the believer?

1. A new life. "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection." Rom. 6:4, 5.

2. Justification: "Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." Rom. 4:25.

3. A Living Hope: "God . . . hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3.

4. Complete Salvation: "If thou . . . shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, Thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9.

5. Abiding Faith: "Whereof He hath given assurance [offered faith, margin] unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead." Acts 17:31.

6. Eternal Life: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. . . . For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in His own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." 1 Cor. 15:20-23.

"Through His empty grave we see not only the smile of a pardoning God, but a bright vision of a new earth and heaven."—*The Doctrine of Christ*, page 73.

Freedom Through Truth

(Continued from page 5.)

when truth—the one and only truth of God's Word—is accepted and cherished.

How Freedom Comes

Some seek freedom from guilt by explaining

away their sins. Others by suicide. The truth of God gives freedom by revealing Jesus as the Saviour who died that we might be forgiven, and that He might provide the power to subdue our evil passions. (1 John 1:9.)

Many seek freedom from fear. Temporary escape is provided by life's momentary pleasures. But fear of the future maintains a mortifying hold. Such fear can be dispelled only when the light of God's truth pervades the heart. "Fear not, little flock;" is the Lord's admonition, "for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32. And again: "Let not your heart be troubled. . . . I will come again," is the Lord's own promise in John 14:1-3. To the one who knows the truth of God, this present life with all its burdens, is but a brief waiting time before the great eternity of matchless bliss. Such truth as this completely frees the burdened heart from fear.

And what of man's natural craving for freedom from fear of poverty? We could quote many tried and tested passages from God's Word. Suffice it to say that God is mindful of our material needs, and provides an absolute guarantee of sufficiency if we meet His requirements. One such promise was part of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. Millions of Christians the world around can testify that even in a material sense the truth of God gives real freedom.

Unhappily we are living in days when truth is slighted, belittled, denied, ignored, and trampled on. Thanks to the "pleasing fables of men," many in our day "turn away their ears from the truth." 2 Tim. 4:4. The status of Jesus Christ who declared Himself to be "the truth," is reduced to that of merely a good man. The Bible is relegated by multitudes to the scrapheap of myths and legends. The Ten Commandments are presented by others as sub-Christian—a moral code which is unsuited for our modern age. But freedom from what men fear can only come from adherence to them.

Whatever opinions we may have on the matter, the fact remains that truth is absolute and invariable, and that God's supreme purpose for the world will be carried through. It is significant that those who are championed by the Lord in the last great day, and who inherit the unending joys of Christ's reign of sanity, peace, and love, are described as "the righteous nation that keepeth the truth." Isa. 26:2. May we be among them.

Why Be Baptized?

(Continued from page 7.)

"It is needless to add that baptism was (unless in exceptional cases) administered by immersion, the convert being plunged beneath the surface of the water to represent his death to a life of sin, and then raised from the momentary burial to represent his resurrection to the life of righteousness. It must be a subject of regret that the general discontinuance of this original form of baptism . . . has rendered obscure to popular apprehension some very important passages of Scripture."—Page 345.

That speaks for itself, does it not? It points out to us that baptism must be conducted in the biblical manner if it is to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus.

In the epistle to the Romans, baptism is compared to marriage. This too is a very fitting comparison. Two young people, or older ones for that matter, are cast in each other's pathway and find themselves attracted to each other so much so that they make an important decision. In due time the bells ring and flowers betoken their joy. But the essence of the marriage service is the repetition of a promise that has already been made. The ceremony is their opportunity to bear witness to the world of their intentions to link their destiny with each other for ever. The record is put into the state records. So with baptism. The decision to follow Jesus is made. Baptism bears witness publicly of the intention to carry that decision, with all its implications, through to the end. It is recorded in heaven and in the church records.

What Will You Do?

Is baptism, then, necessary for salvation?

The apostles gave baptism a very important place in the lives of their converts. Many passages place it beside the confessions of faith. The two go together. If one is willing to follow Jesus, he would most certainly be willing to follow Him in baptism. To answer this question fully we shall turn to two passages from the lips of Jesus and let them speak for themselves: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16.

Come with me for a moment to the banks of Jordan. Two young men, each thirty years old stand side by side there. The younger one has just left the bench of a carpenter. He has hung up His apron for the last time. He has bid farewell to

His parents to take up His life work. And now He comes to John to be baptized, and they are discussing the question. "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered Him." Matt. 3:15.

As your life is placed in His hands and the old ways are left behind, He will say these words to you. What joy and satisfaction there is for you if the last part of the verse is your response: "And he suffered Him."

Your BIBLE QUESTIONS Answered

What was the thorn in the flesh to which Paul refers in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9?

PAUL speaks of this thorn in the flesh as a bodily condition which was a trial. In Galatians 4:14, 15 we read that some of the brethren would have been willing to pluck out their own eyes and

give them to him. From this it has been thought that he had chronic eye trouble which was so prevalent in the Holy Land. It is also possible that he had a permanent after-effect of the blindness that he suffered at the time of his conversion on the Damascus Road. When Paul prayed for healing God answered, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness." What an assurance we can gain from this experience! Sensing his weakness, Paul was conscious that the power of Christ rested upon him.

Does the Bible say that in the hereafter we shall have wings?

No, the Bible does not mention our having wings in the hereafter. In 1 John 3:2 we read, "It doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear we shall be like Him," and this is speaking of Jesus. Now after the resurrection Jesus appeared to many of His followers and was recognized. His resurrection experience is the great example of the experience awaiting every child of God. God's plan for the eternity of man is simply the restoration of His original plan as seen in our first parents in Eden.



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THE CHILDREN'S



Pages



Hitch Your Wagon To a Star

By Beth Briggs

BOBBY'S mother looked out of the window soon after the first stars had come out in the evening. She saw her little son looking first at the sky, and then at the red wagon his father had given him before he went away. There was a puzzled look on the boy's face.

Mrs. Gordon stepped out into the garden where Bobby was.

"What are you thinking about, Bobby? And why are you looking up there?"

Bobby turned to his mother. He felt sure she could tell him what he wanted to know.

"Mother, I heard the teacher tell the class to 'hitch your wagon to a star.' How could I hitch my wagon to a star? The ladder isn't high enough to reach up there."

Mrs. Gordon put her arm around the boy's shoulders. "Darling, it doesn't mean to hitch a real wagon to a real star. Do you know that in the Bible Jesus calls the good people sheep and the bad ones goats?"

"Yes. Teacher told us that," said Bobby.

"Well, it's like that with the

wagon and the star. We might say a wagon means our ambitions and the things we want to do here on the earth, and a star means beautiful things, things that Jesus tells us to think about. It means that we are to think about lovely things and do lovely things. In one way that is hitching your wagon to a star."

"You mean to do nice things for other boys and girls?"

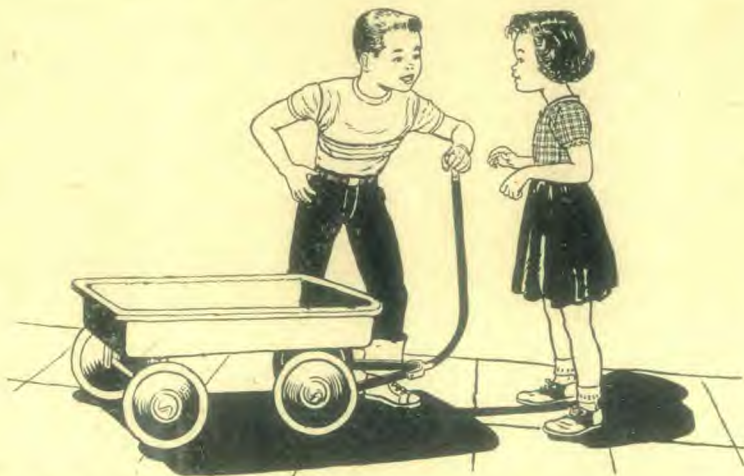
"That's right. It helps us to live our lives above the things of

selfishness and sin." Bobby seemed to understand, and pulled his wagon into the garage for the night.

The next morning Mrs. Gordon heard voices in the garden. When she looked out she saw Bobby and the new girl from across the street. The child, with her mother and father, had moved there only a few days before. Mrs. Gordon wasn't sure that Anna was the best playmate for Bobby, because the girl seemed so dirty and uncared for most of the time. Bobby had few playmates his own age, and he had been happy when Anna came to live near him. Mrs. Gordon hadn't told Bobby not to play with Anna, but she had kept him busy with other things to keep him from thinking about her.

"Oh, dear," sighed Mother, "I don't want Bobby playing with her. I'll call him in and ask him to do something for me." She was about to call him when she heard his voice.

"You see, Anna, hitching your wagon to a star means to say nice things and to do nice things for others. So I'm going to let you play with my little wagon. I like it better than my other things, but you can play with it."



"You see, Anna," Bobby was saying, "to hitch your wagon to a star means to say and do nice things for others."



A SUMMER POSY.

See how nicely you can paint this picture and send it with your name, age, and address to Auntie Pam, The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts., not later than June 10th. In case OUR TIMES arrives late, still send your entry. All attempts will be considered.

Mrs. Gordon stopped. She had told Bobby to do nice things, and now she wanted to keep him from doing what she had told him to do.

"Why," she said to herself, "I haven't been hitching my wagon to a star at all. I'm very much ashamed. Someone told me that Anna's father had hurt his back and can't work, and that her mother has to work for all the family. How can Anna be clean all the time when her mother works and her father is sick? And here I haven't done a thing to help them."

She opened the door and stepped out onto the porch. "Hello, Anna," she said, and then smiled at Bobby. "How is your daddy today, Anna? Is he at home?"

"Oh, yes, he is home," answered Anna. "He is too sick to go anywhere."

"Perhaps I could go to see him," Mrs. Gordon said. "Would you both like to come along?"

So Anna led the way through their front door.

"Oh," said Anna's father, "It's our neighbour from across the street."

"Yes," Bobby's mother said. "I came over to see what I could do for you. Your house seems clean and in order. Maybe I could prepare a little lunch, and then the children and I shall eat with you."

"You shouldn't do that," said Anna's father, but his face looked very happy.

After a few minutes, Mrs. Gordon hurried back across the street and got some things. When the lunch was all ready Mrs. Gordon called the children and they all ate together.

After she had washed the dishes, with Bobby and Anna helping, she prepared some things for evening dinner and left them in the refrigerator. She then washed some clothes for Anna and dressed her in a nice, clean dress.

Later that night Anna's mother came over to Bobby's house.

"I want to thank you for helping so much today. I was

surprised to come home and find the things ready for dinner, and Anna's things all washed. I get so weary it is hard for me to keep things as they ought to be."

"I didn't do very much," said Mrs. Gordon. "I should have gone over to see you before, but we just don't think sometimes. Now I want to help you while Anna's father is sick. I should like to have Anna stay with me in the daytime, too, while you work."

"If you're sure she won't bother you—"

"She won't bother us. She's a quiet girl, and Bobby has wanted someone to play with for a long time. It will keep me from getting lonesome, too, while Bobby's daddy is away."

"But how can I thank you?" asked Anna's mother.

"You don't need to thank me. Thank Bobby, he was the one who made me think about things. May I take Anna to Sabbath school with Bobby and me this week?"

"Why, yes, of course. That would be fine."

"Bobby and I will be glad to have her go with us," added Mrs. Gordon.

When Anna's mother had gone home, Mrs. Gordon looked out of the window again. Bobby and Anna were taking turns riding in the little red wagon, and Bobby was laughing and happy.

"He hitched his wagon to a star," said Mrs. Gordon softly, "and taught me how, too. It is as the Bible says, 'A little child shall lead them.'"

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STRAWS IN THE WIND

Graven Image of Science

⊕ A *Daily Mail* editorial significantly describes the hydrogen bomb as the "man-made fires of hell." It goes on: "Human beings, in their arrogance, are tampering with the innermost forces of life and nature. The scientists are not infallible. . . . The H-Bomb is the culminating weapon of the scientific age, and if man continues to bow down before the graven image of Science, it will one day destroy him."

Sick in Mind

⊕ "About one in fifty of us, it has been estimated, will die in a mental hospital," asserts Kenneth Robinson in *Tribune*. "Roughly one in twenty will become a patient at some time or another. More than two out of every five hospital beds in Britain are occupied by mental patients."

Too Much Power

⊕ "Man is becoming more and more to feel that the powers which he can unleash at the touch of a button are, Frankenstein-like, too much for him," said the Rev. Hugh Blair of Belfast. "Man," he added, "has found the key to the powers of nature, only to find that world about to destroy him."

A Gigantic Evil

⊕ Gambling, declared the Rev. E. Benson Perkins, new Mode-

erator of the Free Church Federal Council, is "a gigantic evil full of subtle inducement to almost

In the Hour of Need

Here beside me 'midst the shadows,

Lord Thou keepest watch with me;

I am not alone or friendless,
For my heart is stayed on Thee.

Naught can keep me from Thy presence,

None can pluck me from Thy hand;

I am Thine, and Thou, my Saviour,

Strong amidst the strife will stand.

Thou hast conquered sin for ever,

Thou hast pain and death o'erthrown;

Thou did'st suffer, Thou art risen,
There is life in Thee alone.

What is beauty, fame, or fortune?

What is pleasure, ease, or pride?

In the hour of need they fail us,
Thou art comfort, Friend, and Guide.

—James E. Odey.

everyone, based upon principles of selfish gain and superstitious luck which are definitely opposed to Christian truth. The seeming

innocence of bazaar raffles, and even as some think, of football pools, disguises the subtlety of this gross evil. The only right attitude is one of entire abstinence from gambling in its every form."

Repress Protestantism

⊕ The Catholic Archbishop of Barcelona, in Spain, lists in his latest pastoral letter the errors of Protestantism and urges that "the parish priests must watch carefully for any illegal activities initiated by Protestants and must take suitable steps to repress them." Elsewhere he admonishes Catholics: "Make use of the law; that is the ultimate authority to which we have recourse, to prevent the spread of errors and heresies."

Greatest Nation

⊕ In his book, *The American Road to World Peace*, Sir Alfred Zimmern describes the United States as "by far the greatest power in the world."

World Jewry

⊕ The *American Jewish Year Book* puts the total of Jews in the world today as 11,627,000, of which there are 3,424,150 in Europe, 5,860,030 in North and South America, 1,609,520 in Asia, 675,500 in Africa, and 58,250 in Australasia. In the Israeli state there are 1,463,000 Jews. Two million are in Soviet Russia.

