



OUR TIMES

FEBRUARY 1966



THE WORLD'S WATER CRISIS

AS WE WRITE THESE WORDS we have before us a map of the world on which certain areas are shaded. These shaded parts represent regions of the world where fresh water is practically non-existent, very scarce, or in short supply. At least one-half of the land area on the map is shaded and some of the most densely populated countries are included. A little interpreting of the map also tells us that not only the traditionally "dry" countries suffer a need of water, but that some of the so-called "wet" ones are having their problems too.

Water has been called "the life-blood of the earth" and while there is as much on it now as there ever was, there is far less fresh water. At the same time there is a much greater demand for fresh water because of the needs of industry and the ever-growing world population.

"Few problems are as truly international in scope as the world's shortage of fresh water," wrote Walter Fowler in *The Times of India* of June 27, 1965. "Almost every nation has water-short areas, or is facing the prospect of water shortages in the near future."

In the words of U. S. President Johnson, "There is no newer or more vital frontier for any of us than the one we must cross to a lasting abundance of fresh water for all mankind."

Let us take a look at a few areas around the world to bring the problem up close.

The vital needs of our own country of India is so well known that it is hardly necessary to review them. Community prayers for rain, round-the-clock *kirtans*, and other practices hopefully calculated to persuade the clouds to release their moisture demonstrate the pathetic problems we face.

Israel reports that it is already using eighty-five per cent of its available water. By 1970 it will have developed all of its water resources, but the need will keep on growing beyond that. In addition to this the quality of the available water is deteriorating.

In Latin America we are informed that as many as thirty-three million city dwellers have been without water from a community water supply.

Mainland China is having water problems. For example, the northern part of the Yellow River area has fifty-two per cent of the total area's cultivated land but only seven per cent of the total water resources. In another section only forty per cent of the wells are reported to be supplying sufficient water for the areas they are supposed to serve.

Take a look at North America. Anyone who has

stood on the shores of the Great Lakes and looked out to their watery horizons might think that as soon would the Indian Ocean fail as those mighty inland seas of fresh water. But the fact is that they are failing, for of recent years there has been a very serious drop in their levels.

In one part of the United States twenty times as much water is used than accumulates as a result of natural rainfall. In one mid-western city in that country residents queued up some months ago to buy water at Rs. 2.50 a gallon. In another city a leaky faucet could land the owner in jail for thirty days.

The plight of New York City, with its eight million inhabitants, highlights the serious fresh water shortage developing in North America. A mounting water shortage has become so serious that there is a danger that its reservoirs may be dry by the time these words get into print.

Of course efforts are being made to meet the mounting crisis before it becomes catastrophic. The most promising approach so far is a method to remove the salt out of sea water. This will probably solve the fresh water problem in certain places. Writing of this method one engineer stated: "Such a [desalination] plant might be built and operated economically in any semiarid area of the world where large populations live near an ocean."

But what of the countless millions of India, Africa, North and South America, and Asia who are suffering or will suffer from lack of fresh water but who do not live near oceans? Could enough costly plants be built and thousands upon thousands of miles of expensive pipelines be laid and hundreds upon hundreds of pumping stations be built to bring water to them? One has but to glance at a world map and reflect for a moment to realize how impossible the suggestion is.

A recent book by two hydrologic scientists made the following straightforward and realistic statement regarding the fresh water emergency: "After 5,000 years of solving mistakes by fleeing from them, that solution is no longer possible because there is no place to which to go. *It seems evident that man is approaching a crisis which, unless adequately prepared for, could bring disaster within the lifetime of people already born.*"

Next month in this column we shall summarize what we have written in this series and draw some important conclusions.

—T. A. D.

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VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2

THE WORLD



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Latin America has the world's highest rate of population growth. Between 1925 and 1962 its population nearly doubled, the present figure being 218 million.

*

Professor Hans Neuberger, of Pennsylvania State University, has suggested that one reason for "the general unrest among people may well be a direct result of electromagnetic insults to their nervous system." He had in mind the electromagnetic radiations from radars, TV and radios which, in his opinion, may have an adverse effect on human health.

*

Despite the rapid population growth in developing regions and countries, Europe remains the most densely populated continent with an average of eighty-nine people per square kilometre. Asia, though comprising enormous wastelands, is next with an average of sixty-four persons to the square kilometre.

*

In a recent speech President Johnson listed six areas for international research co-operation:

New ways to raise the world's millions up from poverty.

New policies to conserve and develop world resources.

New methods to rid the world of destructive disease.

New ways to increase commerce among nations.

New safeguards against the over-riding danger of war.

New avenues to world peace.

PICTURE CREDITS

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THE MYSTERIOUS MAGNETISM

One of the most fascinating stories in the absorbing romance of astronomy is that one which tells the manner in which the planet Neptune was discovered. In calculating mathematically the motions of the planets, astronomers found they could chart with precision the movements of all the known planets, except the planet Uranus. For some unknown reason it persisted in deviating from the path their mathematics told them it should follow.

Finally, two mathematical astronomers, working independently and unknown to each other, concluded that some unsuspected body out in the endless reaches of space was deflecting Uranus from its orbit. Then, in 1846, in a feat of mathematical genius that has been called one of the greatest triumphs of mathematical astronomy, they calculated just where the unknown mass would be. When telescopes were trained upon the predicted area, the planet, subsequently named Neptune, was found.

Each person in this world may be likened to a planet hurtling through the dark unknown of time in an orbit of sinful selfishness—with all the term implies—which orbit will at last hurl him into the “blackness of darkness forever.”

But there is a strong heavenly influence, the love and power of God, which is seeking to pull each of us out of the path in which, because of our evil tendencies, we are bound. With yearning love He is seeking to attract each of us into an heavenly course.

This sweet Influence is often manifested by an undefined, inexplicable dissatisfaction of life as it is.

Multitudes do not recognize the Source of this dissatisfaction, this longing. But if we surrender to its attraction God will manifest Himself to us through Christ, and will change our lives so that He becomes the Centre around which our days revolve.

“Every desire for truth and purity, every conviction of our own sinfulness, is an evidence that His [Christ’s] Spirit is moving upon our hearts. . . . Whenever men make an effort to reform, from a sincere desire to do right, it is the power of Christ that is drawing them. . . . The sinner may resist this love, may refuse to be drawn to Christ; but if he does not resist, he will be drawn to Jesus.”

Editorial



FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND WANT

YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN can live in a world where there will be no more wars, no more bloodshed, and where there will be freedom from fear and from want. Our Lord has gone to prepare such a home. Before Jesus left this earth, He said: "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 to 3).

Heaven is a place and not a sweet visionary dream of Christians. "I go to prepare a place," said the Holy One from heaven.

A city is being prepared for the people of God. The Apostle Paul has written about it. "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. . . . These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. . . . But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he *hath prepared for them a city*" (Hebrews 11:8 to 16).

This city is called the New Jerusalem. (Revelation 21:2.) It is now in heaven. (Galatians 5:26.) High up above the stars God is making ready this city. Said Jesus: "In my Father's house are many mansions" (John 14:2). A mansion is a place in which to live. There are multitudes of worlds in God's house, or His universe. Astronomers look through powerful telescopes and see stars too many to number—giant suns around which revolve worlds even as the planets circle our sun. The Bible speaks of these many other worlds. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God" (Hebrews 11:3).

There are many mansions, or worlds, in God's unbounded and immeasurable universe, but He has

gone to prepare a place so we can be where He is—"that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3). Christ is with the Father on His throne (Revelation 3:21). Of the location of God's throne we read: "The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all" (Psalm 103:19). "Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars (margin, "the head" stars), how high they are!" (Job 22:12).

The whole universe of God revolves around one great centre. Dr. Burr has expressed it in this way: "There must be at least a universe system—a system composed of all bodies that people space, and in which each body revolves about the gravity centre of the whole material universe."

In this centre is God's throne, and He is building the New Jerusalem so that we can be where He is.

Someday, after God has consumed this world of sin, the Lord will make here a new heaven and a new earth. Both the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul attest this declaration. "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 to 13). "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:1, 5).

The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, will eventually be brought to earth, and the righteous will come down with it, and they will live upon this earth made new. We read in Revelation 21:10: "He carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

There will be no waste and barren land when the earth is brought back to its Edenic state. The prophet Isaiah, a Hebrew writer who lived about 700 B.C., declares: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose . . . for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water" (Isaiah 35:1, 6, 7).

After the earth is made new, no longer will three-fourths of it be covered by water. Said John the disciple of Jesus: "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no

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PATIENCE—

DURING WORLD WAR I Allied troops in the Saint-Mihiel (France) sector had been given orders to advance. The artillery was to bombard the area first, then the infantry was to move in. The command was given not to go beyond a certain point.

But the infantrymen advanced so rapidly that they soon were in the zone of their own artillery fire. Many were needlessly killed. Others hobbled back to first-aid stations. Still others were carried on stretchers. They had not been attacked by the enemy. They had not been wounded by enemy fire. They had ignored orders. They had become victims of their own impatience.

One of our biggest problems is the problem of impatience. It plays havoc with our lives. It creates tensions in our homes. It becomes a serious threat to our personal well-being. It demands short cuts to goals that can be attained only by a tedious and winding way.

Impatience plunges teen-agers prematurely into marriage long before they are prepared for this serious responsibility. Impatience compels youth to leave school before completing adequate education. They desire to achieve quickly. Too late they realize that success has been hindered by the very course taken to reach it.

Sometimes we even become impatient with God. One day a friend found Phillips Brooks, the noted American preacher, irritably pacing in his study. When he asked Brooks what the trouble was he received the reply, "The trouble is that I'm in a hurry—and God isn't."

On one occasion the great Englishman Thomas Carlyle said, "God is in the world and does nothing about it." He was annoyed by the slowness of God.

Patience is the hall-mark of sainthood. Note the first part of Revelation 14:12—"Here is the patience of the saints." A hall-mark is the official mark that London goldsmiths use to attest to the purity of metal. Patience is the official mark attesting to the purity of sainthood.

You will agree that patient people are not plentiful. In fact, they are rare. I was walking along the sands of the shore of a lake one day with a naturalist friend of mine. He spotted a bird that I had never seen before. It looked like a camouflaged battleship in miniature. The type of marking was much like that used on war vessels. He told me the bird was a ruddy turnstone. Then he went on to say that they are seldom seen in flocks. They usually are seen alone. Patient people are much like the ruddy turnstone. They are rarely found in flocks.

Patience is gained only by great effort. It isn't like a flower dropped from heaven into the bosom of the child of God. It must spring up and grow laboriously and tediously in the soil of the heart. It is gained through great effort and trial.

Four Ways to Develop Patience

There are four significant ways by which one can develop this hall-mark of sainthood. To begin with, the psalmist counsels, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him" (Psalms 37:7). Patience is developed by learning how to wait. Waiting is not easy.

In the natural world all gains are made slowly. The Scripture observes regarding the farmer: "Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." That which endures the longest often grows the slowest.

There is a report on record of a giant California sequoia tree that was felled. It had been a seedling in 271 B.C. In A.D. 245 it was severely damaged by fire. But the wound had healed by A.D. 350. In later centuries it had sustained injury by fire twice again. In each instance the fire had left great scars. One scar was 18 feet high and 30 feet wide. Nature slowly and very patiently healed the ugly wounds, for she is infinitely patient and knows how to take her time.

Patience—Nature's Great Lesson

The important lesson that nature teaches us is patience. She takes time to heal a broken bone, seal up a wound, restore a sick body to health. Nature has a time clock that must be followed, and often it demands a great deal of waiting.

A method of developing patience is found in Romans 5:3: "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience." Patience thrives best in the soil of affliction. Although no one enjoys suffering and tribulation, it plays an important work in helping us to develop the hall-mark of sainthood. The soul must learn to relate itself to suffering and trials.

Unfortunately, we often ask God to deliver us from the very thing that would give us what we really want. Frequently we pray that God will help us to cultivate patience and in the same breath we ask Him to remove the trial that He has ordained to develop our patience.

The sword is bent to the uttermost to test its

the hall-mark of a saint



*In the natural world,
all gains are made slowly.
A trusting believer waits for God's
providential guidance.*

temper. The cannon is overfilled with a charge in order to test its strength. The wheat is threshed with the flail to separate it from the chaff. Trials are sent to test and strengthen our patience. If you wish to develop patience like that of the saints, ask God to give you trouble and the ability to endure it.

There is still another means of developing this holy trait. "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience" (2 Peter 1:5, 6). This text is a portion of Peter's Christian ladder for the development of a strong spiritual life. Inspiration enabled him to place the attributes in their proper order.

Here we are told that a patient man must first be a temperate man. Temperance means much more than total abstinence from alcoholic beverages. A man must be temperate in all phases of life in order to become patient. He must be temperate in the amount and kind of food he eats; he must be temperate in the rest he gives his body; he must be temperate in the amount of work he does. Intemperance in any of these leads to impatience. It is impossible for an intemperate man to be a patient man. Patience of the saints is achieved through moderation in all things good.

The Secret of Being Patient

Finally, and supremely, the quality of life that will help attain to patience is the love of Christ in the heart. From that magnificent love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, we read, "Love suffereth long." There is nothing that makes the growth of patience in the life easier than the love of Christ in the heart.

How differently we view the unfavourable conduct of others when there is love in our souls. Parents are more patient with children. Husbands and wives are more patient with each other. It is easier for one to make allowances for human frailty. How differently we view the unfavourable conduct of others. Love suffers long, long, long, long.

These four qualities are needed to bring about the hall-mark of sainthood: the ability to wait, the ability to endure tribulation, the ability to be temperate in all things, and greater than these three, an abiding love of Christ in the heart.

The hall-mark of sainthood is patience. "Here is the patience of the saints." Those who eventually are saved in the kingdom of God will be men and women who have learned to wait, to endure, to be temperate, and to love. These are the qualities that will not only bring patience to your life but tranquility to your soul and serenity to your heart. Patience will transform your life and your home. Therefore let us follow the Saviour's counsel recorded in Luke 21:19, "In your patience possess ye your souls."

—John W. Osborn

A PAIR of unblinking eyes glistened as they watched the antics of a tin dog on the table. When the toy was wound with a key, it would jump about and wag its tail. After the little girl had watched the metal figure perform its one trick for the twentieth time, she begged for something different.

"Please make it lie down and roll over," she begged.

"But it can't do that," I tried to explain.

"Why not?" was the inevitable query.

"Because it is a mechanical toy. The cogs and levers inside the tin dog make it do just one thing. That is all it can do."

"Oh!" came the bewildered sigh; "I'm glad I'm no tin doggie. I can do what I want to do." And with this she climbed down and went back to her play.

But I did not forget the childish expression, and I found an opportunity to use it a few weeks later when a businessman began to discuss the causes of crime and war. "If there is a God," he harangued, "then He is responsible for all the misery in the world. He allowed it to come. It's all His fault."

Then I told him the story of the tin dog. "If God had not given us the power of choice to do good or evil, we human beings would be nothing more than clock-work dogs. God would decide the tricks we would play, and we would be able to do no others."

"But that would have saved us all the sorrow, wouldn't it?" countered my friend.

"Perhaps it would," I agreed. "But it would also have destroyed all the happiness and joy, for man and God. The Bible states that man was made for the pleasure of his Creator. (Revelation 4:11.) Man was given the power to reason and to choose of his volition; he was not a mechanical toy."

For some time we discussed the principles of free will as bestowed upon man by the Father in heaven. God, who sees the end from the beginning, entrusted His creatures with creative minds. He gave human beings free will. The wish of Heaven has ever been that all men will turn from sin to salvation; but they must do this from their own choice. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

When the human race was formed in the image of God, it was necessary to leave the doors of good and evil open. This was the risk the Father had to take to create men and women who could love and honour Him. "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live," is God's message in Deuteronomy 30:19. If there had been but one way for man to go, he could not have taken any responsibility himself.

To every man there openeth
A way, and ways, and a way,
And the high soul climbs the high way,
And the low soul gropes the low;
And in between on the misty flats,
The rest drift to and fro.
But to every man there openeth
A high way and a low,
And every man decideth
The way his soul shall go.

God foresaw the wrong decision that our first parents would make; but He had prepared a way of salvation if they should choose to return. If they deliberately broke the divine commands and turned to follow the evil one, they would also have to bear the consequences. But in His infinite love God prepared the way of salvation to redeem those who would repent and return to Him.

Although they were faced with the responsibility of choosing between allegiance to God or servitude to Satan, Adam and Eve were not left without instruction in righteousness. When the serpent tempted Eve concerning the forbidden fruit, she replied: "God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Genesis 3:3). Obedience to the Creator was a reasonable requirement, the fulfilment of which would have brought perfect happiness.

Why was it necessary for God to permit sin? If men were to exist in this life only, perhaps it would have been wise for the Father to create human beings like mechanical toys, for then they would have been preserved from evil and its attending sorrows. But in His infinite wisdom, He was looking ahead to His completed plan for the universe. Through all eternity He longed to have creatures who would love Him and honour Him, and this could be possible only as they were given intelligence, reason, and the gift of free will.

There is no slavery of mind or body in the universe as God created it. Man can serve his God wholeheartedly, voluntarily, and freely, or he can reject the grace and love proffered him. The Spirit of God entreats men to follow the way of life. Through the revelation of divine love in nature, in the Bible, and in the conscience of the individual, God calls a wandering world to Himself. "I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves and live ye" (Ezekiel 18:32).

When my friend and I had discussed these problems at some length, he turned to me with another question. "What are you going to do about the earth-

Why God Made Us Free

God condemns no man
for failure to think with the crowd.
Each individual is to enjoy the
full liberty of reasoning
for himself. Every man is
to use his own judgment,
since every man must give account to God.

quakes, pestilences, and calamities that sweep the earth? Isn't the God who created the world responsible for such catastrophes?"

"It might seem so from hasty conclusions," I replied. "But let's consider the point more closely." We then began a further study of the results of sin on this planet. When man forfeited his dominion to the powers of evil, Satan claimed the rulership of this earth. For six thousand years the forces of sin have battled against the government of God. Every man must struggle "against the rulers of the darkness of this world" (Ephesians 6:12) if he would be victorious over sin. Paul further likens the power of Satan to a ruler of the earth when he calls him "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2).

The fury of degenerating nature has been used against man as the reign of sin has continued upon the earth. It is true that God has allowed certain destructive forces to come as judgments against sinners. Some calamities may come as object lessons to a careless and godless generation. But the powers of darkness bring disasters upon human beings in an effort to destroy souls. John, seeing the conditions just before the final crisis in the world, writes: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Revelation 12:12).

If God were to withdraw His guardianship from us momentarily, all the inhabitants of the earth would be destroyed by the Prince of Evil. The prophet describes the angelic beings as holding the winds of strife from the earth until those who seek after God shall be redeemed. See Revelation 7:1 to 3.

When Satan desired to test Job with every calamity, God did not bring the evil upon His servant, but He permitted the evil one to strike. We, like Job, cannot always see behind the experiences that come to us. We cannot fathom the mysteries of this life, but we can say with Job: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15).

Instead of rebelling against the bitter sorrows that

finite minds cannot understand, it is for us to walk humbly with our God, knowing that "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28). If we patiently wait upon the Almighty and trust His leadings, He will one day answer life's greatest questions for us.

God has endowed us with the power of decision; we choose our course and thus chart our destiny. We must accept that responsibility. God's Word is the compass to guide our ship to the harbour, but every man is the captain, and must decide the set of the sail.

If you are a father or a mother, you could not imagine anything more distressing than to have a son or a daughter who had no ability to make decisions for himself. It might be easy for you to control the youth with your mature judgment; but there would be no happiness in watching mental and spiritual growth, there would be no love, no honour, and no independence. In like manner, God looks upon His earthly children. They must be free to love and obey Him, and His heart yearns to have them return; He gives every man the power of choice, and in His faithfulness awaits man's return.

Modern thinking has turned frequently to the theories that man's fate is sealed without his consent or action, or that this universe is a giant machine that moves inexorably with no consideration for men. Such a philosophy is not from God. The worth of one human soul cannot be estimated in merely human values. The death of Christ has shown the value that God places on man. We are infinitely precious in His sight, and He is moving heaven and earth to save us. We should therefore not be sceptical about the divine purpose in our lives. Rather, we should recognize that the Lord has great things in store for His children. We are not mechanical toys. We are the sons of God. "And it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that . . . we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

—Merlin L. Neff



A few years ago a man stood on one of the streets of the great city of Chicago and cried out before a great crowd of people: "IF THERE IS A GOD THEN LET HIM STRIKE ME DEAD WITHIN THE NEXT FIFTEEN MINUTES!"

Then, very calmly he took his watch out of his pocket to count the minutes as they ticked off into the eternal past. Five minutes went by. Nothing happened except a few excited people fainted and others gasped in horror. Ten minutes ticked away. Still nothing happened. The man stood apparently very calm and quite alive.

Eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen minutes ticked away, and the crowd grew larger, louder, and more excited. Still the man who challenged the existence of God stood before the people untouched by any natural or supernatural power. The earth failed to swallow him up. No bolt of lightning struck him dead.

Finally the full fifteen minutes went by without any spectacular or supernatural display of power from God. Then, very proudly and boastfully, the man said, "As you all can see, I have proved that God does not exist. He is only the product of man's imagination. There is no God."

Now, I would like to ask you, "Did this man really prove the non-existence of God?" As you and I consider this matter very seriously, we ought to take into account a few pertinent questions.

1. "If God does exist how would He go about proving it?"

2. "Would He have to strike people dead with bolts of lightning or cause the earth to open and swallow them just to let them know that He was around?"

3. "Was this man's test legitimate or fool-hearted?"

4. "Just what did he prove, if he proved anything?"

Before endeavouring to answer the above questions, let us consider the reasoning of some other people. Some feel that before they can believe in the existence of God, they must first get a look at Him with their own two eyes. "I only believe what I see," they say. "I have never seen or met God. Therefore, I do not believe that He exists."

Does this line of reasoning make sense? Is it logical to accept only that which we can see with our own eyes and nothing more? Let us see. How many of us have seen our own brain, or stomach, or heart? Do these organs exist inside our bodies? Silly question, of course they do. How else could we think, eat, and live? But we have to admit that the processes of thinking, eating and living are only evidences, strong as they may be, of the existence of these organs. When we think we are not looking at our brain. When we eat we are not getting a view of our stomach. As we go on living we are not constantly seeing our heart and its function.

If we are ready to accept as existent only those things which we can see, then we must admit that it is not possible to say unequivocally that we do not have in our bodies such organs as the stomach, the brain, and the heart. While we freely admit that there is an abundance of evidence to substantiate such a belief, yet, this is not in any way seeing them. And if only seeing is believing, then we cannot believe, no matter how convincing the evidence.

"But," you say, "many people have seen these

THE MYSTERY

organs in others who are built just like we are." Be that as it may. This is still just more evidence, and not actually seeing them in you. We have to admit that this is very convincing evidence, but still it is only evidence and not actually seeing.

Now I believe that inside my body there is a stomach and a heart. Also I believe I have a brain. I do not believe this because I have seen them. I believe it because of the over-abundance of evidence presented in the many books I have read, and in the very process of living and the actions involved. Reasonable thinking demands that we accept as fact some things we cannot see. It is not absolutely necessary to see a thing with our own two eyes before believing it exists. How many of us have seen New York City? Not many of us. Do you believe it exists? Of course you do. Why? Because of what you have been told about it, the pictures of it you have seen, and what you have read about it. All of these are sufficient evidence to warrant belief in the existence of New York City.

Having thus established that it is not always necessary to see a thing with our own eyes before believing in its existence, let us now go back to our question regarding the existence of God. Does He really exist? If so, why did He not strike that man dead who wanted such a thing done to prove His existence?

We shall attempt to answer only one of these questions here, does God really exist or not.

In attempting to handle such a question, we must ever keep in mind one important fact. The existence or non-existence of God, or anything else for that matter, does not in any way depend on our belief or disbelief. Believing there is a God does not bring Him into existence. Neither does not believing He exists destroy Him. We cannot change facts by our beliefs. If we were walking through the jungle and met a tiger, we could not close our eyes and say, "There is no tiger in the path," and expect

OF GOD



to open our eyes and see none. He would doubtless still be there, if he hadn't run off.

Many of you have no doubt seen and handled flour. Also you have seen, handled, and even eaten those delicious things called *chapatis*. Now what would you say of me if I told you that I had seen with my own eyes a bowl of flour turning itself into *chapatis* without the help of any intelligent being? Or, that I had seen a cat sitting before a fire cooking a few *chapatis* for itself? Foolishness, you would say. It takes a certain degree of intelligence even to make *chapatis*. They cannot make themselves. Neither can an animal cook them. The existence of *chapatis* on our dinner table is evidence of some intelligent being out in the kitchen preparing them. We do not have to see the person to know that he or she exists. And the taste of the *chapatis* determines just how good the cook in the kitchen is.

Suppose that in one hand I hold a plain stick of wood. It has no fancy design or shape. In my other hand I hold a carved elephant of the same kind of wood. This carving is very beautifully done and displays fine workmanship. Now would you believe me if I told you that this carved elephant developed from a plain piece of wood without the help of any intelligence whatsoever? Suppose I were to tell you that I even saw it forming from a stick of wood in my compound? Would you believe it? I doubt that you would. You would say, and rightly so, that it requires skill to make such a beautiful article. And you would be right. Nothing so neatly done could just happen all by itself. Clear reasoning demands that we acknowledge the existence of an intelligent, skilful maker of such a beautiful carving.

All the buildings, roads, furniture, instruments of work and pleasure testify to the existence of intelligent beings that made them. It took intelligence to think of and make the camera, the gramophone, the car, the watch. None of these things came into being without someone first thinking about them. Then putting his thoughts into actions, those intelligent persons made for our use these wonderful objects. And every improvement was the result of study and research and not of a natural progressive evolution on the part of the object.

The world you and I live in displays many of the most spectacular evidences of the existence of God. While I have never seen Him face to face, yet I know beyond any shadow of doubt that He lives, and that He has a very personal interest in you and me. The man who challenged God to prove His existence by striking him dead failed to understand the true character of God. God does not prove His existence by the display of such kind of power. He does not need to. You will better understand why God did not strike that man dead when we come to next month's article, the character of God.

Now let us look around to see the many, many evidences of a Supreme Intelligent Being we call God.

Looking up into the heavens we see the myriads of stars that twinkle through the night. In ancient times men had the idea that they could count the stars. But today we know that such a thing is out of the question. With our new and improved telescopes we are learning that this universe is far greater than

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THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING what was on the mind of the tattered old Italian peasant as he dug in his yard that day in 1748. Perhaps he was seeking some kind of edible root, maybe some fat worms for fishing bait. It could be that he was merely passing away the time by puttering around with the earth he loved so well. It is a safe assumption, though, that he had no idea that he was going to trigger a massive anthropological and historical search which, in the end, would result in the ghostly return of the city of Pompeii.

The wrinkled old peasant struck a hard object as he dug that day and was more than puzzled when his increased labour turned up what was unmistakably a portion of an ancient wall. He passed on his discovery to more learned contemporaries, and after a frenzy of amazement, excavation, and confirmation, the world received the historic announcement that the city of Pompeii, destroyed in the year A.D. 79 by the monster volcano Vesuvius, had been unearthed.

And so it was that I stood amid the ruins of Pompeii, just thirteen miles south of Naples, and marvelled that the stroke of a peasant's tool had made it possible for me to ride backwards into ancient time to recapture the awesome moment in history when a city perished. As I stood transfixed by my survey of the indescribable ruin that surrounded me, I was haunted by the perilous parallel of the fate of Pompeii and the impending fate of the world today. My heart cried tears of despair as I recalled the story of how the Pompeians totally ignored the repeated warnings that bellowed forth from the volcano Vesuvius before it exploded, raining molten death upon two thousand persons and leaving Pompeii a dead, forsaken city. And I trembled with fright as I realized that today fantastic nuclear weapons hover menacingly over the entire world as a heinous force, threatening to put a terrible end to civilization. Yet we, like the Pompeians, continue to lose ourselves in the pleasures of worldly sins, paying no heed to the ominous signs of our times.

For many years the ears of the Pompeians had become accustomed to the low, rumbling sounds issuing from Mount Vesuvius. At times, the rumbling turned into a roar. Tired of being subdued, the great volcano dislodged white clouds of smoke as though to add visual notice to its vocal warnings. Pompeians were well aware of Vesuvius's behaviour in the past. They knew that the massive volcano had erupted before, destroying everything in its path. Evidence of its death-dealing blow was all about them. The massive blocks that formed the streets were shaped out of the hardened residue of the volcano's blast. Their very homes were carved out of the rock-hard substance which lay everywhere as mute testimony to Vesuvius's baleful annihilative power.

Pompeii was a prosperous city—a Mecca for the wealthy Romans, a flourishing centre of trade and pleasure. It was a delightful sun-splashed retreat with tantalizing proximity to the beautiful blue Mediterranean and noted for its ideal climate which offered year-round comfort. The Pompeians lived loosely. They clowned and cavorted, and cared not that their moral standards were at low ebb. These self-centred Pompeians were anything but wary of their impending calamity. Law-makers were far too concerned with problems of administration, merchants with selling their wares, housewives with party planning and home improvements. Youths were bent on endless pursuits of gaiety, and few if any were pondering their own salvation. Sleepy Vesuvius, awakening now and then to growl another warning, was practically unnoticed. For, after all, didn't the scientists of the day shrug off any possibility of the giant's erupting again? So why worry when there were other things to do immensely more pleasant and more rewarding.

This was the setting in proud Pompeii on August 24, in the year A.D. 79. All that morning the Pompeians went about their routines with hardly a glance at Mount Vesuvius whose bulk loomed up some five miles away. The volcano was quiet that morning,

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WHAT
Pompeii
MEANS TO
ME

CAN MAN LIVE FOREVER ?



A LONG LIST of unpleasant words begins with the letter "d". There are darkness and defeat, dismay and despair, doubt and discouragement, degradation and destruction, disaster and distress, dissipation and dissolution, discord and discontent. The most dreaded of all, however, and the theme of many a dismal dirge, is the word "death."

Is death, as some say, an entrance into a higher life? Was the poet telling the truth when he wrote, "There is no death, what seems so is transition"? Were the Egyptians and the Assyrians, the Greeks and the Romans, teaching truth when they taught the immortality of the soul? Is there an Elysium of bliss where the ghosts of the departed dwell forever in spirit form?

From the Scriptures we find three facts:

1. Man is mortal and subject to death.
2. Life and immortality have been brought to light through the gospel of Jesus Christ, giving opportunity for all who will accept the saving grace of our Lord to live forever in the presence of God.
3. Immortality is given to the righteous on the day of the resurrection at the second coming of Christ.

Man is mortal and subject to death.

In the Garden of Eden, soon after the creation of man, a test of obedience was given to our first parents. Obedience brings life; disobedience ends in death. In the test of loyalty to God's law the word of warning was given: "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). The sad story of disobedience and death has often been told. In Eden the river of tears began to flow. Through the centuries it has widened and deepened. By the side of every hamlet and village is a silent city of the dead, and every marble monument bears mute testimony to the inescapable fact of death.

Death is not life in a higher sphere. In death there is no life, for death is the absence of life. In death there is no memory of the past. The dead cannot praise God. They have no love, nor hatred, nor envy. Their very thoughts are forgotten. The authority for these statements is in the word of God. Let us read the Scriptures:

"For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6).

"His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish" (Psalm 146:4).

The doctrine of the immortality of the soul is unscriptural through and through. It is a deceptive teaching. The word "immortal" is found only once in the Bible, and the word "immortality" only three times. God only has immortality. The Wilson's Greek Interlinear, in defining the meaning of the Hebrew and Greek words which are translated "soul," "spirit," "immortal," etc., says:

"Soul. . . . The Greek word *psuche* of the New Testament corresponds to '*nephesh*' of the Old. . . . Perhaps it may be worthy of notice, that in all the 700 times in which *nephesh* occurs, and the 105 times of *psuche*, not once is the word immortal, or immortality, or deathless, or never-dying, found in connection as qualifying terms."

"Spirit". . . . The Hebrew word '*ruach*' occurs 400 times in the Old Testament. . . . The Greek word '*pneuma*' . . . occurs 385 times. . . . Like the word *psuche*, neither *ruach* nor *pneuma* are ever once connected with words which indicate that it is deathless, never-dying, or immortal."

"Immortal, deathless, does not occur once in the original, and only once even in the common version, 1 Timothy 1:17, where it ought to be rendered incorruptible. It is applied to God."

"Immortality, deathlessness occurs only three times, 1 Corinthians 15:53, 54; 1 Timothy 6:15—applied exclusively to God, and the glorified bodies of the saints."

"Incorruptible, God is, Romans 1:23; 1 Timothy 1:17; so also His word, 1 Peter 1:23, the bodies of the saints will be, 1 Corinthians 15:52; also, the inheritance, 1 Peter 1:4. The Christian's crown will be incorruptible, 1 Corinthians 9:25."

"Incorruptibility, to be sought after, Romans 2:7; brought to light and illustrated in the gospel, 2 Timothy 1:10; corruptible natures must put it on in order to inherit the kingdom of God, 1 Corinthians 15:42-54."

Life and immortality have been brought to light through the gospel.

(The fact of death is unarguable. So also is the fact and surety of the future life. For this our blessed Lord shed His blood on Calvary's cross. The plan of redemption includes salvation from sin and redemption from death. It is certain that "the wages of sin is death;" it is equally certain that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

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(Note: That this study might be of permanent value, readers are invited to underline all the texts and to follow a simple plan of annotating alongside each text in the margin of their Bibles the next text in the study. Begin by entering the following information about the study on the flyleaf of your Bible as tabled below: serial number, title, first text, code letters, and total number of texts used. Then turn to the first text and write in the margin alongside it the second text with code letters and so on in chain reference fashion to the end.)

26 J&S answered and said unto them. Ye do err, / not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.
 25 W
 2 Tim 3:16
 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.
 31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by

MARK YOUR BIBLE

Conducted by Bernard Pinghe

No.	Title	First Text	Code	No. of Texts
17	God's Temple	Isaiah 64:8	GT	14

KEEPING GOD'S TEMPLE PURE

A 1763 SWISS VASE was recently auctioned for Rs. 100,000. At one time this vase had been merely a lump of clay. It had been made valuable by a man who fashioned it with delicate skill.

1. Of what earthly substance has God made us?

Isaiah 64:8. "... O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand." (2 GT Psalm 8:4.)

The human body is made up of the following components on a percentage basis: oxygen 66, carbon 17.5, hydrogen 10.2, nitrogen 2.4, calcium 1.6, phosphorus .9, potassium .4, sodium .3, chlorine .3, sulphur .2, magnesium .105, iron .005 and traces of several other elements. There is no human power that could take these elements and produce a man!

2. How did the Hebrew poet express his marvel over God's interest in us?

Psalm 8:4. "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (3 GT Psalm 139:14.)

It is amazing what these human "lumps of clay" may become under God's kindly care. At an auction one African boy was bought for a roll of tobacco. As the slave ship on which he was being taken to America was on the high seas it was captured by the British who took the slaves to Freetown, in Sierra Leone, and set them at liberty. The boy was given an education by missionaries. Many years later, at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, he was consecrated as the first Anglican bishop of Nigeria.

3. What words of wonderment does King David use regarding the creation of man?

Psalm 139:14. "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (4 GT 1 Corinthians 6:19.)

"Written unmistakably on every cell, tissue, organ and gland of the body are the marks of a purposeful mind planning every detail for a definite function or end." James P. MacLaren, *Know Thy Body*, p. 182. Even the atheist, Voltaire, said: "If there was not a God it would be necessary to invent one."

4. Declaring that He will live in us, to what sacred edifice does God compare us?

1 Corinthians 6:19. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (5 GT 1 Corinthians 3:17.)

In 1964 the Temple of Isis, one of Egypt's most treasured monuments of antiquity, was cut into five-ton sections and lifted to a new level to prevent its being covered by the waters of the Nile after the Aswan Dam was constructed. It was a very costly project. Even greater care should be taken by men to preserve the *temple* of the body which God Himself has created.

5. What warning is given to those who in any way degrade or wrongly weaken their bodies?

1 Corinthians 3:17. "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (6 GT 1 Corinthians 10:31.)

"We are required by God to preserve every power in the best possible condition, that we may render acceptable service to our Creator." E. G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 362.

6. What caution should we exercise in the choice of our food to maintain good health?

1 Corinthians 10:31. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (7 GT Genesis 1:29.)

Luigi Cornaro, the Venetian nobleman, was very feeble when an infant. His father, three of his uncles, and his elder brothers died of intemperance and gluttony before their fiftieth year. When Cornaro was forty he was expected to die. Then he began to study the causes of ill health and started to practise good health principles. At eighty-six he wrote, "My brain is clearer now than it ever was. Nor do any of my powers abate as I advance in life."

7. What was the original diet prescribed for man by God?

Genesis 1:29. "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." (8 GT Leviticus 11:1 to 30.)

"Undoubtedly, the more open-minded we are in using the guidance of the newer knowledge of nutrition for greater efficiency in food management, the more extensively will we meet our needs through grain products, fruits, vegetables and milk." Henry C. Sherman, "The Nutritional Improvement of Life," *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, 22 July, 1946. It will be noted that the "newer knowledge" is really only the old knowledge rediscovered.

8. Although ideally God desires men not to eat flesh, what rules did He lay down when man persisted in doing so?

In Leviticus 11:1 to 30 and elsewhere He specified what could be eaten and what was not to be eaten. The clean are distinguished thus:

Beasts—must chew the cud and have the hoofs parted.

Fish—must have scales and fins.

Birds—a variety of the unclean ones are mentioned. (9 GT Isaiah 66:17.)

Sir James Cantlie, famous London surgeon, has said, "We have never yet upset one of Moses's laws in regard to hygiene, sanitation, or medical teaching. All that the scientists of today with their microscopes and textbooks did was to prove the ancient lawgiver to be right." Dr. Paul D. White, heart consultant to former U.S. President Eisenhower, has said, "It is conceivable that a few years from now we medical men may repeat to the citizens of the United States the advice that Moses was asked by God to present to the children of Israel 3,000 years ago."

9. Before God how abhorrent is the use of swine's flesh?

Isaiah 66:17. "They that sanctify themselves, . . . eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the Lord." (10 GT Proverbs 23:31, 32.)

"It is common knowledge that the meat of the pork is extremely injurious to the human body because of the dreaded trichinosis. In spite of all the strict supervision by practically all civilized governments in the processing of pork meat, this disease is still rampant, especially in the rural areas." Jacob

B. Glenn, M.D., *The Jewish Forum*, p. 40, January, 1958.

10. What is the detrimental result to those who are ensnared by the deceptiveness of liquor?

Proverbs 23:31, 32. "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." (11 GT 1 Peter 2:11.)

A report from Japan carried this story. Deck passengers of a ship were startled by terrifying cries coming from over the side of the ship. Rushing to the rail they spied a woman's body halfway out of a port-hole. Officers forced open the cabin door and found a drink-crazed husband standing on the bed vainly trying to shove his bride of a few days out of the port-hole. Such are the effects of drink.

11. What does God want us to do about other habits that enslave us?

1 Peter 2:11. "I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." (12 GT Proverbs 17:22.)

12. What close state of harmony exists between mental and physical health?

Proverb 17:22. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." (13 GT 3 John 2.)

"No one can appreciate so fully as a doctor the amazingly large percentage of human disease and suffering which is directly traceable to worry, fear, . . . The sincere acceptance of the principles and teachings of Christ with respect to the life of mental peace and joy, the life of unselfish thought and clean living, would at once wipe out more than one half the difficulties, diseases, and sorrows of the human race." William S. Sadler, *Practice of Psychiatry*, p. 1008.

13. What emphasis will a Christian place on retaining good health?

3 John 2. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." (14 GT Romans 12:1.)

"Once the needs of the body were looked upon as base and low compared with the needs of the spirit. The early Christians, . . . succeeded too well and established the doctrine that the needs of the spirit were all-important. They failed to visualize the body as the temple of the spirit and to realize that both are vital and precious." Thurman B. Rice and Fred B. Hein, *Living*, p. 3 (rev. ed.)

14. What should be our sensible response to keep the body temple undefiled?

Romans 12:1. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (GT //)

MYSTERY OF GOD

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man ever thought it could be. Science has learned that many of the stars we look at are in reality thousands of suns much larger than the sun of our own solar system. And to give you an idea as to how large our sun is, just draw a circle the size of a ten *paise* and alongside it place a mere dot with your pencil. The dot will represent the earth and the circle the size of a ten *paise* will be the sun. This is how much larger the sun is than the earth. Some scientists say that it would take 12,000,000 worlds the size of ours to equal our sun. Photographs of the sun have been taken. Some of them show great tongues of flame leaping out to 10,00,000 miles in height. Think of what such flames would look like alongside of our earth that is only about 8,000 miles in diameter. Our minds just cannot fathom such a sight.

And with all the many crores of suns and their revolving satellites, scientists have found that each one travels in a set pattern and maintains its own peculiar characteristic. In fact, so precise and accurate are the movements of the stars and planets that men will change their clocks when there is any discrepancy between the time as told by the clock and the time as told by the position of the stars. The astronomer knows exactly where each and every planet and star may be seen at any given time. They can tell you exactly what the moon will look like and in what place it will appear in the sky at any given time. They even know when eclipses will occur. They can tell you to the split second when they will begin and end. So orderly and systematic are the movements of these great heavenly bodies.

All this display of system and order can mean but one thing. It is evidence of one great indisputable fact. That fact is, there is a Supreme, Intelligent Being who is guiding and directing the orderly movements of all these great bodies of fire and material. That Supreme Being we call God. There can be no other explanation for such phenomena.

The orderly, systematic opera-

tion of the motor-car, the watch, or any other machine bears witness of the existence of its maker. Just so the orderly, systematic operation and movement of the universe bears witness of the existence of its Maker who is God.

Speaking of God and the universe, General O. M. Mitchell, former director of one of the observatories in America, said, "At His bidding every planet and satellite and comet, and the sun himself, fly onward in their appointed courses. His single arm guides the millions of sweeping suns, and around His throne circles the great constellation of unnumbered universes."

Focusing our attention to this earth which is but a speck in the

SECURITY

By Lillie D. Chaffin

*My strength is an uncertain thing,
Changing from hour to hour.
When I would be strong bands of
steel,
I crumple like a flower.*

*But He on whom I daily lean
In immaturity,
Will ever lift and gird the weak.
This is security.*

vast universe, we can also see an abundance of evidence to substantiate the belief in the existence of God. All around us are things which cannot be reproduced by all the intelligence and skill that mankind can muster. The profusion of beauty displayed in one flower cannot be duplicated in its entirety by the most masterful artist the world has produced. Man, with all his great intelligence and ability, can only make a very poor reproduction of such beauty. And a close investigation of the man-made article will reveal the many, many flaws and imperfections. But the closer we study the products of the hand of God, the more perfection we find.

Examine the finest piece of man-made artistry under the micro-

scope and you will see scratches and imperfections. Examine the handywork of God, the flower, the leaf, under the microscope and you see more and more perfection. Every tree, every flower, every cloud, every bush tells of the existence of a Supreme Intelligent Being we call God. A study of the living creatures, from the little bug to the majestic horse and tiger, reveals God. Rightly understood, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge" (Psalm 19:1, 2).

If we were to have the time to study the life and habits of all the animals, we would find that each develops habits and gathers food, etc. for its own peculiar needs. Who taught them all these things? How does the squirrel know that the time is coming when he will not find food on the ground? He gathers food and stores it away for that time. In some countries we see certain kinds of birds that go north in the summer and south in the winter. Where did they learn such habits? Who taught them? All these things tell of the existence of God and could be repeated a thousand times over. Every blade of grass, every leaf of every tree, every bird, every feather, etc. tell the same story. God does exist.

How can one admire the beauty and symmetry of the flower and say, "There is no God"? How can one observe the flight of the bird, the antics of the little animals, the power of the large ones, and say, "There is no God"? An ancient philosopher and song writer has said, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1).

We sit and eat very tasty *chapatis* and say, "The one who made these surely knows how to cook." We give the *chapati*-maker credit for having intelligence regarding such work. And we should. There is a science in *chapati* making. We see the carved work of art and praise the artist for his great ability to change a plain piece of wood into such a marvelous work of art. We give the inventors of such things as the motor-car, the watch, the radio, etc., credit for having superior intelligence. And that is as it should be. They were men and women of

great intellect. We marvel at the exploits of the modern scientist. His many wonder-drugs, etc., have been a boon to civilization. We tell of the magnificent achievement of the splitting of the atom. And we all know full well that it took a great deal of intelligence to accomplish such a task. Would it not seem very reasonable to suppose that it took a lot more intelligence to put the atom together than it does to break it apart?

When we realize how much time, effort, and intelligence were put into the colossal task of splitting the little atom, we gasp in amazement. Scientists worked for years on this project. They pooled their knowledge and resources. Finally they were able to split the microscopic atom. All this display of intelligence for the accomplishment of this monumental task testifies to the existence of the Supreme Intelligence known as God who put the atom together. How marvellous are the works of God. How much evidence He has left for us. Why should anyone doubt His existence?

The proof of His being is written on all the wonders around us. The beautiful sunset, the stars above, the plants, the flowers, etc. Everything testifies of His existence.

Is there really a God? Most certainly there is. How could we believe otherwise? Do logical thinkers accept the existence of God? In the light of all the evidence presented, how could they be logical and deny it? "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Yes, friend of mine, there is a God. And as you study further into this very important subject, you will learn that God not only controls the whole universe but He also has a very personal interest in you and your welfare.

POMPEII

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drawing in a deep breath, perhaps, to contain the tenseness and restlessness which stirred within. Then, at about one hour past noon, Vesuvius could contain itself no longer. With one mighty belch, the great volcano let loose with all the fury at its command. Children at play, merchants at their counters, women at their wash, and wastrels

at sin stood horrified at the split-second realization of what had happened. In an instant red-hot lava, boiling cinders, ashes, and deadly sulphur fumes combined into a spectacular umbrella of death which hung over Pompeii for a second before plunging earthward on its mission of disaster.

And then the panic began. Twenty thousand human beings suddenly became twenty thousand screaming wild animals bent on self-preservation. Many froze in their steps, made immobile by stark fear. Other dallied in a desperate attempt to salvage portions of their worldly goods. These—two thousand of them—perished. Others fled like terrified deer and miraculously escaped.

A sombre hush descended upon Pompeii. The city was no more. Ruin was everywhere. Just five miles away stood Vesuvius, spent and quiet, its violent mission accomplished.

"The Lord . . . is longsuffering, . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

I jerked myself back to the present, as I stood amid the ruins of Pompeii, though there was a temptation to re-journey into the past to the time of Noah. How strange that people reject God's admonitions as they did before the great Flood. How painful it is that even today, amid our tremendous scientific marvels, we refuse to learn the real lessons that are found in the history books.

Great civilizations have crumpled because people have placed sin before souls. Pompeii perished, and the whole world today totters on the brink of complete ruin because we, like the Pompeians, place our values on the sensual rather than the spiritual. While we today are revelling in the grip of a mad obsession, man's most destructive force—the nuclear weapon—is slumbering quietly. While we seek excitement in a mass drinking and gambling spree, science puts together weapons of terror more frightful than the mind can conceive. Like the Pompeians, we leave to the statesmen, the politicians, and our peers the problem of whether or not the sleeping giant of destruction will erupt again. Like the Pompeians we have had our warnings. When the first atom bomb unleashed its

man-made hell on Hiroshima, the entire world was shocked into a kind of numbness by the fury of the weapon. When the second fell on Nagasaki, it was dramatic proof—a hard, ugly fact—that the nuclear weapon can wipe out an entire city with a single stroke.

Yet, in years that have passed since we entered the atomic age, we have not changed. There have been feeble outcries against these terrifying missiles of destruction. But we have never stopped drinking our money away. Gambling is still a favourite pastime—and the certain downfall—of hundreds of thousands. Like the rumblings of Vesuvius, the warnings of the atomic age are ignored, shrugged off, and most of us are entertaining but a pitifully small concern for the things of eternal consequence.

Pompeii is an object lesson for all of us who live in the ultra-modern twentieth century. Today, museums in the Naples-Pompeii area are filled with evidences which testify to the horror of that fateful day in August A.D. 79. Lava moulds of twisted and distorted bodies tell a vivid story. Fear and agony are written clearly on the faces of those victims. The entire city was destroyed—lost for almost 1,700 years, virtually forgotten until an old tattered peasant one day happened to be digging in his yard.

We are as unprepared as were the Pompeians of yester-year. And yet the solution for us and for the civilizations that have preceded us was written before the destruction of Pompeii and even before the birth of Christ. The answer is found in the ninety-first Psalm:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust. . . .

"A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation."

We have a breathing-space today. Shall we not use it to ensure that we are abiding "under the shadow of the Almighty?"

—Elaine B. Cox



FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND WANT

From page 5

more sea" (Revelation 21:1). The term "sea" is used to designate all large bodies of water. In Genesis this thought is expressed. "God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas" (Genesis 1:10).

The whole world will someday be habitable. There will be ample room to accommodate all the vast multitude of redeemed people.

Moreover, the earth will then be free from every blight of sin. "There shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him" (Revelation 22:3). Weeds and thorns are here as a curse resulting from the entrance of sin. (Genesis 3:17, 18.) In the new earth there will be no weeds to crowd out the good plants, and no insects to destroy.

Do you love beautiful flowers? Have you visited flower shows and been awed by the profusion of colours and tints and shades? Then you will enjoy this better world that is to come. There will be an abundance of flowers in this land. The Apostle Paul had a vision of eternal things (2 Corinthians 12: 2 to 4), and he declared: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

—Robert L. Boothby

CAN MAN LIVE FOREVER?

From page 13

Immortality is given to the righteous at the time of the resurrection at the second coming of Christ.

At the second coming of Christ the righteous dead are raised to life and, together with the righteous living, are translated to be with Jesus. The greatest resurrection text in all the Bible brings to us this blessed hope:

"The Lord Himself shall descend 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: Then we which are alive and remain shall be

What Veena Learned

VEENA was nearly six years old. She lived in a house with daddy, mum, and three sisters. Two sisters were younger than Veena. Sometimes when mum rocked baby Kabita or daddy picked her up and carried her, Veena wished that she were a baby, too.

One night Veena and her family went to grandmother's birthday party. They all went to the chair where grandmother was sitting and kissed her. Then they gave her gifts and sang the birthday song for her. After that Veena and her three sisters, Nira, Ranju, and Kabita, went into another room and played games with their auntie. It was so much fun. Later they all had ice-cream and cakes.

When it was time to go home, mother picked up little Kabita. Veena looked up at daddy and told him that she wanted to be picked up, too. Daddy lifted Veena up in his arms, and she hugged him.

Her sisters and aunt looked at Veena. She did not look like a baby at all. Her long legs were dangling down because, after all, she was not a baby, but a little girl almost ready to go to school.

"Oh, dear!" thought Veena. "I'm not a baby anymore. I don't even feel like a baby." She felt sad.

"You are too heavy to hold," daddy said and put her down.

The next day Veena's auntie called to visit her.

"Veena," she said, "when I saw your daddy holding you last night I realized you aren't a baby anymore. And I'm so glad! You will start to school soon. I have some

red, blue, and green pencils for you with your name on them. You will love school and your teacher. You will have fun with your new friends. Best of all, you will learn how to read and write."

Veena thought a moment. It would be fun to go to school. It would be nice to be able to read and write.

"I'd like that," Veena told her. "Then I'll read the Bible."

Her auntie laughed. "Of course you will. And now that you are older, I can take you to town with me sometimes. We shall have good times together. I'm glad you aren't a baby."

After her auntie left, Veena went outdoors. There were pretty flowers beside the house. Not long ago they had been just tiny brown seeds to plant. Then green leaves poked their heads out of the soil where seeds had been sown. Now there were beautiful flowers on long stems near pretty leaves.

"I guess babies are like little green leaves and buds," thought Veena. "I wouldn't like to stay that way. Flowers are so pretty when they grow up and bloom. I want to grow up and be what Jesus wants me to be—a big girl!"

She ran back into the house. "Mum, I want to help you today. I can wash dishes and sweep and dust."

Mum hugged her. "Of course you can. I'm proud of my big girl!"

Veena felt happy. She was certain that growing up was going to be lots of fun.

—by Maryane Myers

caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

First the idea that the spirit can exist apart from the body is unscriptural and therefore untrue. Man was created in bodily form. When the breath leaves the body, the man dies. Existence in spirit form may be sustained from mythology, but not from the Scriptures. Second, on the day of resurrection it is from their graves that the righteous hear the voice of the Life-giver. "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" (John 5:28, 29). If they are "in the graves" they surely cannot be somewhere else.

It is at the resurrection and not before the resurrection that the righteous are clothed with immortality. "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Corinthians 15:51 to 53).

Therefore these three facts of Scripture are logical and true:

1. Death is the absence of life.
2. The dead are "asleep," awaiting the call of the Life-giver.
3. At the resurrection the "dead" are raised to "life."

The early Christians are said to have had inscribed upon the tomb of the departed the Latin word, *Resurgam*, meaning "I shall rise again." The hope of the righteous through all ages of the past has been the hope of the resurrection from the dead.

—Varner J. Johns

DECISION

*I bet my life
Upon one side in life's great war,
I must.
I can't stand out. I must take sides.
The man who's neutral in this fight
is not a man,
He's bulk and body without breath,
I want to live,
Live out, not wobble through my
life somehow and then on into the
dark.
I must have God.*

MOULD YOUR ENVIRONMENT

IN A CERTAIN suburban area a resident was busy on a vacant lot pulling weeds. A neighbour passing by asked whether there was a municipal campaign against weeds.

"No," replied the industrious suburbanite, "but it gives me personal satisfaction to do something that will improve the neighbourhood."

Pride in home, in working surroundings, and in the atmosphere created by personality is a desirable trait. We need not be victims of our environment. Those who plead failure because of an unfavourable background or adverse circumstances have missed the basic essential of success.

Personality factors such as attractive attire, a brisk step, a firm handclasp, cultured diction, and a modulated voice win favour and preference. The opposite of such traits may create aversion and disrepute. Many a person has lost opportunity for advancement because of his slovenly appearance or untidy habits.

I remember a railway crossing gatekeeper whose little shelter alongside the tracks bore evidence of the man who held the modest job. There were gay curtains at the tiny windows, red geraniums in window-boxes, and flowers growing in the curbing of the little yard. The paths the gatekeeper used

were carefully swept of cinders, and neatness and cheerfulness fairly beamed from the area this workman called his place of business. He refused to let his calling break his spirit of independence and sense of command.

Each of us has an area of influence. Each may in a sense be captain of all he surveys, within the scope of his responsibility. To mould our environment to a definite ideal that ministers to our sense of command and self-respect, instead of being a handicap to advancement, is to lay a foundation for achievement and moral valour. To let our environment shape our ideals and limit our accomplishments is to admit defeat on the threshold of aspiration.

This command of environment must begin within your own self. It involves the matter of rulership, and the ancient wise man observed that "he that ruleth his spirit" is greater than he "that taketh a city." Once we have cleared our own minds of confused and cluttered thinking, the way is clear for a move upon the organization of those aspects of the material world we call environment. It takes tact, resolution, and adjustment, all conspiring to a desired end. Once this potential is realized, we can extend ourselves into greater areas of influence.

By Harry Moyle Tippet

*Let me but do my work from day to day
In field or forest, at the desk or loom,
In roaring market-place or tranquil room;
Let me but find it in my heart to say,
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,
"This is my work; my blessing, not my
doom;
Of all who live, I am the one by whom
This work can best be done in the right way."*

*Then shall I see it not too great, nor small,
To suit my spirit and to prove my powers;
Then shall I cheerful greet the labouring
hours,
And cheerful turn, when the long shadows fall
At eventide, to play and love and rest,
Because I know for me my work is best.*

—Henry van Dyke.

