



OUR TIMES

APRIL 1966



EVENTS and TRENDS

The Edge of the Precipice—7

THE WAY OUT

"IT IS OUR JUDGMENT that we are fast approaching, if we have not already arrived at, a time in the history of our world when something extraordinary, something entirely outside the stream of humanity, must penetrate into and radically influence its course to save the race from chaos and destruction."

With these words we began this series, *The Edge of the Precipice*, seven months ago. Since then we have presented at some length our reasons for making this statement. In last month's issue we summarized those reasons. We add that we could present many more; they are only some of the major ones. They were:

1) The Thermonuclear Bomb. This weapon is capable of virtually wiping out the human race, and is certain to be used sooner or later, according to those in a position to know.

2) The Population Explosion. United Nations experts say that this situation will become calamitous for the human race unless famine, nuclear war, or some new and "miraculous" form of birth control halts it.

3) Famine. Certain scientists are warning us in ominous tones that our world has never faced such a grave food crisis as it is facing at present, and that the problem is practically insoluble.

4) Global Water Crisis. Water has become a critical problem for vast numbers of the world's population, and no really adequate solution has been found.

As we have shown in past months, each of these four, so far as present conditions indicate, is relentlessly closing in upon the human race to strike a deadly blow, and any one of them poses a fatal threat. Should all four strike their hardest it is difficult to see how any but a small number of the race could survive.

"To be optimistic is to be cowardly," someone once said, referring to one's attitude toward the gloomy condition of today's world. In other words, to look at the almost unrelieved blackness of the global situation, and to imagine that there is any real or lasting brightness there, is simply the wishful thinking of one who is afraid to face the stark facts; it is

simply to follow the actions of the proverbial ostrich, and hide one's head in the sand.

The plain, unvarnished truth seems to be that man has no place to hide and that he has nothing solid or permanent to grasp to halt his downward course. Therefore, as we have observed, "something entirely outside the stream of humanity must penetrate into and radically influence its course to save the race from destruction."

Further, we are confident that there is only one "something" capable of doing this. That is *the return of Jesus Christ*. Only He, of all the great leaders the world has ever seen, can halt humanity's deadly course, because only He has the power to do so. And we are confident that His return will be soon. The signs of the times say so.

As Creator of man and the atom, when He comes He will take control and will "destroy them which destroy the earth" (Revelation 11:18). Only then will the vision of Pope Paul VI, "war no more, war never again," be realized.

There will be no lack of living-space as a result of Christ's return, for although "many are called" only a "few are chosen." Only those who conform in this life to His standards as outlined in the Bible will have a place in the commonwealth He will inaugurate. Vile and shameless people, "and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolators, and every one who loves and practices falsehood" will have no part there (Revelation 22:15, R.S.V.).

In Christ's new order there will be never a famine or a threat of famine, nor will water ever again be a problem. For the citizens of His kingdom "shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more. . . . For the Lamb [a title of Christ] which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Revelation 7:16, 17).

We have come to the end of this series. As we close we earnestly invite our readers to consider carefully what we have written in this column over the past months, and to search whether they can find anywhere else a complete and final answer to the tremendous problems we have raised, other than in the redeeming return to Jesus Christ, who created and controls all things.

OUR TIMES

APRIL 1966 VOLUME 8, NUMBER 4

ARTICLES

VISITORS FROM OTHER WORLDS	5
WINE, WOMEN AND SONG	6
STARTLING AGE OF DISCOVERY	8
MIND CURE	10
CREATED BY DIVINE ACT	12
DEFEATING DISCOURAGEMENT	14

FEATURES

Events and Trends	2	Editorial	4
Mark Your Bible	18		

Editor: THOMAS A. DAVIS

Assistant Editor: GEORGE C. THOMAS

Layout Artist: A. C. MOSES

Contributing Editors: M. E. Cherian, N. G. Mookerjee

Circulation Manager: G. W. Maywald

International Correspondents:

Kalee Paw, BURMA; R. S. Fernando, CEYLON; E. Y. Kim, KOREA;
Damin Batoebara, INDONESIA; Takashi Saito, JAPAN;
F. M. Sajid, PAKISTAN.

A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PUBLICATION issued monthly by the ORIENTAL WATCHMAN PUBLISHING HOUSE, P. O. Box 35, Poona 1, India.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: India, Rs. 4:75; Pakistan, Ra. 4:75; Burma, Ka. 4:75; Ceylon, Rs. 4:75.

SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS: Our representatives are authorized to receive cash or cheques and to issue official receipts for same. For orders sent to publishers, make cheque or money order payable to Oriental Watchman Publishing House, Salisbury Park, Poona 1.

REGIONAL OFFICES: Andhra, Kerala, Madras and Mysore—13, Cunningham Road, Bangalore 1; Gujarat and Maharashtra—16, Club Road, Bombay 8; Uttar Pradesh, East Punjab, Delhi and Adjacent States—27, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi; Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal—Morabadi Villa, Ranchi, Bihar; Assam—Nongthymmai, Shillong; East Pakistan—130/C Dhanmandi Road, Dacca; Ceylon—15/2 Alfred House Gardens, Colpetty, Colombo 3; West Pakistan—Oriental Watchman Publishing House, 32 Mozang Road, Lahore; Burma—Book & Bible House, 68 U Wisara Road, Rangoon.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address, with wrapper from magazine, or reference number on wrapper, to indicate old address.

NON-RECEIPT OF MAGAZINES: Inquire at local post office before informing us. If possible, send magazine wrapper when writing regarding non-receipt.

EXPIRY NOTICE: X on wrapper of magazine indicates subscription has expired.

Owned by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (Southern-Asia Division), Salisbury Park, Poona. Printed and published by V. Raju at and for the Oriental Watchman Publishing House, Salisbury Park, Poona 1. 1662-66.

APRIL 1966

THE WORLD



AROUND

It is estimated that since the end of World War II the West has spent in the vicinity of thirteen lakhs of crores on defence. Of this amount the United States is responsible for nearly one-third.

*

Nineteen - hundred - sixty - six marks the fortieth anniversary of one of the most far-reaching and influential inventions of all time, television. In 1926 the inventor, John Logie Baird, a Scot living in London, gave the first demonstration of TV to a small group of people.

*

A writer who travelled extensively inside the Iron Curtain expressed the opinion that communism as an ideology is distinctly on the decline in the countries he visited. He stated that many of the rising young generation are not true communist believers; they feel that communism cannot offer a total explanation of life.

*

Cities are growing at an even greater rate than the world population explosion, according to a special report released by the World Health Organization. The city of Caracas, in Venezuela, for example, increased to five time its size within twenty years. Bombay trebled its size in the last twenty years.

This rapid city growth is spawning many serious problems, some of which are, shack-towns, overcrowding and housing shortages, water shortages, air and water pollution, waste disposal problems, and juvenile delinquency.

PICTURE CREDITS

Cover: Colour transparency by T. N. P. Singh.
6—G. Dore, artist; 9—Courtesy USIS; 10, 14—G. T. Zachariah; 12—J. S. Moses, artist; 20—P. R. Shiade.

STRAIGHT LIVING

HAVE YOU ever tried to draw a long, perfectly straight line without using a guide rule of some kind? Possibly some people can do it, but if such there are they are exceedingly rare. And a very small child cannot draw a straight line even with a rule.

On the other hand, it takes no trying to draw a crooked line. One can as easily do it with his eyes closed as open.

Someone has remarked that there are an infinite number of ways to draw a crooked line, but only one way to draw a straight line.

In these observations we have an illustration of a law of life. A person has to put forth no effort at all to do wrong. It comes naturally. Man is born to sin "as the sparks fly upward." And his talents for sinning are about as varied as the infinite number of ways in which one may draw a crooked line.

But to do right, even when we want to do right, requires a great deal of painstaking care and effort. For we have all experienced what Paul writes about in Romans seven: "What I would, that do I not. . . . To will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do . . . I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me" (Verses 15, 18, 19, 21). We have thus learned that to draw a straight "moral" line we need a true guide and help from without ourselves.

The needed guide we have in the perfect commandments of God, His Ten Words. Here is the law by which our "lines" are to be judged, as we are told by the apostle James.

But even with the rule we cannot of ourselves draw a straight line; so, just as a father guides the uncertain hand of his small child, Christ takes our unskilled hands and traces for us the line that meets the standard of the perfect rule. And just as a child might ask his father to help him draw his line, so we may pray: "Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness make thy way straight before my face."

Editorial

Visitors from Other Worlds



TODAY many scientists and engineers are deeply involved in the problems of outer space and interplanetary travel. But although they have found ways of putting men into orbit around the earth, they must yet solve a great number of staggering problems before they can get a man to other planets.

Unless we can find some way to control the pull of earth's gravity, we shall have to attain a speed of at least 25,000 miles an hour in order to go to the moon or to another planet. At that speed it would take nearly ten hours to reach the moon. The sunny side would be blazing hot, over 200 degrees Fahrenheit. The shady side would be frigid cold, below 200 degrees Fahrenheit. Human beings could not continue to live on the moon.

Another near neighbour is a planet in our own solar system, Mars. At the same speed of 25,000 miles an hour it would take two months of travelling, day and night, to reach Mars. It is only half as big as the earth and very much colder because it is farther from the sun.

Should we look toward the nearest star outside our sun's system and try to find a planet around it that would be a better place to visit, our journey would indeed be long. Alpha Centauri, in the southern half of the sky, is the nearest bright star beyond our sun. Our rocket ship travelling 25,000 miles an hour would need more than eleven million years to cover the distance. Even if we could invent a conveyance that would travel with the speed of light, 186,000 miles a second, it would still take nearly four years for the journey.

Space travel by human beings therefore presents

apparently insuperable difficulties. But what of visitors to this earth from outer space?

Light is shed on this mystery in the Bible. From this ancient Book we learn that there was great rejoicing when the earth was created. God asks Job the question, "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? . . . Who hath laid the measures thereof? . . . Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4 to 7).

God walked and talked with our first parents in the Garden of Eden. He warned them against the prince of evil and offered them the fruit of the tree of life. Man was given every true pleasure and the freedom of choice between good and evil. Nothing was withheld that was for his good. But when Satan, speaking through a serpent, led our first parents into disobedience, they placed themselves on the side of the enemy of the great and loving Creator.

What happened after that is only partly understood. Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden. The tree of life later disappeared from the earth and is now in heaven. Says John the revelator, "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7).

John also gives us a picture of the banishment of Satan from heaven. "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in

To page 16

WINE WOMEN AND SONG



THE FIFTH CHAPTER of the Book of Daniel ushers us right into the dazzling splendours of an oriental banquet hall with its wine, women, and song. Seated on his dais, Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, surveys the scene spread out before him. The giant pillars and colonnades carry reliefs depicting the majesty of the king. The walls are adorned with frescoes of successful battle scenes, and the rich colours of the drapes and tapestries can be appreciated only by one who has been through an Eastern bazaar. The musicians strike up their weird music, the incense from a hundred censers rises to the gilded ceiling, while amidst these rich surroundings, a thousand of the lords of the realm carry on in their impious feast to the "gods of gold and of silver."

"Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand" (Daniel 5:1). Why this wild revelry? The decadent aristocracy are staging a defiant gesture in the face of fate as a mighty army marches on to Babylon. On the battle-field of Opis, the Babylonians had been forced to retire to the safety of their city. As the king and his nobles continue their impious feast, drinking from the sacred vessels that had been taken from the temple of God at Jerusalem, they are suddenly shocked sober by terror. The laughter and singing die away, the feet of the dancers are stilled. Belshazzar, in white-lipped fear, calls for his fortune-tellers as a bloodless hand writes a mysterious message of doom high on the plaster wall. It is "the handwriting on the wall," and when the fortune-tellers are pushed aside by the king, and God's prophet Daniel brought in to interpret the message, the king's "knees smote one against another."

The proud city of Babylon fell that night and Belshazzar the king was

slain. How did Babylon, with its huge fortification, its great walls 300 feet high, fall a prey to the invaders? The story is an exciting one.

The Medes and Persians were encamped against Babylon for several months, but no one inside the mighty ramparts thought for a moment that Cyrus would force an entry. But Cyrus was no ordinary general. To begin with, he had been named of God (Isaiah 45:1) 113 years before he was born. It was even foretold that he would change the dynasties of kingdoms 150 years before he marched on Babylon. His work in releasing the Jews to go back to rebuild Jerusalem was also foretold (Isaiah 44:28).

The river Euphrates ran diagonally through the city of Babylon. Cyrus divided his army into three parts. Where the river ran in under the walls and where it flowed out, he stationed two of these divisions and the third was employed miles up-stream diverting the waters of the river into a huge artificial lake. On the fateful night when Babylon was taken, the waters were turned out of the river and the soldiers crept in under the walls. This may seem a fairly simple ruse, and one may ask why the inhabitants were not prepared for entry through the river walls. Indeed, they were prepared. Inside the city, lining the river on either side, were great walls 100 feet high and pierced by 100 gates of brass. The night Cyrus took the city, the Babylonians were celebrating their annual feast to Bacchus, and Cyrus reasoned that perhaps in their stupor they might neglect to guard the brazen two-leaved gates. He was right—the gates had not been shut. The Bible prophet 150 years before had said, "Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; . . . I will break in pieces the gates of brass" (Isaiah 45:1, 2).

Years before Babylon fell, God showed Nebuchadnezzar that his great empire would fall prey to an "inferior kingdom." In the same message the history of the world was outlined 2,500 years in advance. Even conditions prevailing in our day were portrayed. The dream was especially given for the "latter days" (Daniel 2:28). The message, given in the form of a vision, was not understood by the king until Daniel the prophet was summoned. In Daniel, chapter 2, the story is told. The king was greatly troubled. He could not even recall the vision, much less interpret its message. The heathen astrologers were called, but they could not tell the king the substance of his dream or the interpretation.

But when God's prophet was summoned, "Daniel answered . . . there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets. . . . Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. . . . This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors, and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great

mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2:21 to 35).

Beginning the interpretation of the king's dream, Daniel pointed out the kingdom of Babylon was represented by the golden head of the image. "The God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. . . . Thou art this head of gold" (Daniel 2:37, 38). What a fitting symbol of the golden empire of Babylon, "the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency." From 606 B.C. to 538 B.C. this empire dominated the civilized world. Babylon as a kingdom has never been surpassed in glory and wealth.

But as the head of the metallic image was followed by the breast of silver, so Daniel went on to say, "After thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee" (Daniel 2:39). In 538 B.C. the Medes and Persians, led by Cyrus, captured the city in the manner we have just described.

Daniel further stated that after the silver of Medo-Persia would come "another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth" (Daniel 2:39). The Greeks under Alexander the Great defeated the Persians, and Greece ruled the world from 331 B.C. until 168 B.C. The Greeks wore brass armour and are known in history as the "brazen-coated Greeks." How fitting that God should symbolize them by the sides and thighs of brass on the image.

Regarding the fourth division of the image, Daniel continued: "The fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron" (Daniel 2:40).

In 168 B.C. the "iron legions of Rome" defeated the Greeks and Rome continued as the dominant nation in the world until A.D. 476. Jesus was born in the days of Augustus Cæsar, emperor of Rome. (See Luke 2:1.)

But even mighty Rome was to come to its end. Daniel declared, "Whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter's clay, and part of iron; the kingdom shall be divided" (Daniel 2:41).

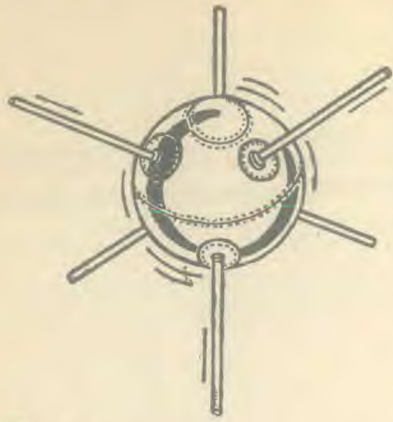
Rome was not followed by a fifth world empire. Between the years A.D. 400 and 500, it was broken up by invading hordes, and ten different kingdoms arose in the place of one world empire. The Anglo-Saxons became the English, the Franks became the French, the Alemanni the Germans, the Lombards became the Italians, and thus arose the nations of modern Europe.

God's prophet has emphatically stated that Europe would remain in this divided state until the end of time. "As you saw the iron mixed with miry clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay" (Daniel 2:43, R.S.V.).

The domination of Europe by any one power is impossible. Those seven words of Bible prophecy spell doom to any would-be conqueror. Charlemagne tried to unite Europe, Charles V and Louis XIV tried it, but each failed. Napoleon was foiled in his attempt when his army was decimated by the snows of Russia. Treaties and Leagues of Nations have also failed. No dictator of the future will ever succeed, for the clay and iron will not "cleave" together and "the scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

Daniel concluded his explanation of the Babylonian king's dream by showing that the stone cut

To page 17



Why this STARTLING AGE of Discovery?

WE LIVE IN AN AGE that largely has lost its capacity for honest, down-to-earth amazement and astonishment. Yesterday's seeming impossibilities are today's proud accomplishments. Tomorrow is just waiting to dazzle us with the achieving of some goal which has eluded man for centuries. Back forty-five years ago, in the days of the English statesman, Mr. Lloyd George, he felt that "we are rushing on at a giddy pace, covering the track of centuries in a year." If that were true of his day, what could be said of today?

We are being carried on at such a hectic pace that few of us, if any, so much as pause to take a backward glance to gauge the significance of the scientific strides we are now taking. The other week I was

flying from Sydney to Melbourne, Australia, in an Electra Prop-jet aircraft, when the captain's matter-of-fact voice coming through the public address system gave us the flight details. We were cruising, he told us, at an altitude of 21,000 feet and at a ground speed of 400 miles per hour. Glancing around me at my fellow passengers I could detect no indication of surprise at this information. But for the drone of the turbines, we all might just as easily have thought ourselves to be relaxing at home in our favourite lounge chairs, as we enjoyed the light refreshments then being served. Such speedy travel is taken as the accepted thing these days.

As I thought back a little, though, this everyday experience really is amazing. From the dawn of history the fastest man was able to travel limited to the speed of the horse. Nero could travel no faster than could Abraham who lived some 2,000 years before him. Coming forward another 1,500 years in history to the days of Columbus, we discover that man still could travel no faster, and speed of travel is a fairly good index of man's technological advance.

But in the year 1830, with the invention of the locomotive—the

iron horse, as it was sneeringly referred to—man for the first time in his long history had broken the "oat barrier." The reception accorded this revolutionary concept in the field of transportation was indeed a mixed one. Indignant letters to the editor appeared in the leading newspapers of the day denouncing this venture as "the impracticable dream of irresponsible visionaries."

One genius discovered a new disease induced by the rapid travel on the railway—a full fifteen miles per hour! He declared that it was a notorious fact that "the brains of business men were so addled by the swiftness of the journey from Manchester to Liverpool, England, that they often forgot what they went for, and had to write home to find out." Another told the harrowing story of one gentleman who became so impregnated with speed (twenty miles per hour) as the result of a prolonged train journey, that on alighting he dashed head foremost into an iron post, and shivered it to pieces. With such stories in circulation, it is not to be wondered that in 1843 a Council of Ministers came to the conclusion that railways were not a sufficiently safe means of transportation to permit of their being used by Her Majesty the Queen of England. And so the royal horses still maintained pride of position! And that was just a brief 122 years ago!

Today, piloted sky vehicles are hurtling to the fringes of earth's atmosphere at speeds in excess of 1,600 miles per hour, while satellites and sputniks have been hurled out in the void beyond at speeds varying from 18,000 to 24,000 miles per hour! And we no longer are amazed!

Five and a half centuries before Christ, a prophet of God together with many of his kinsmen, was captive in a foreign land—Babylon. To Daniel, the God of heaven gave a panoramic view of the future course which history would take right down to the end of time. Little did Daniel know or understand of the significance of the words he penned, but as an old man, his life race nearly run, the Lord said to him: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased!"



(Daniel 12:4).

You and I today look on the fulfilment of this divine prophecy. In our day knowledge of the arts and sciences has been tremendously increased. Up to the nineteenth century "the inexorable wheels of time ground slowly over the scientifically stagnant years." Man's ways of life had varied but little with the passing of the centuries. Education was but very elementary. A. M. Hodgkin, in his *The Witness of Archaeology*, has stated that "the Babylonia of the age of Abraham, was a more highly educated country than the England of George III."

History tells me that George III reigned from 1760 to 1820, and Abraham at the call of God journeyed forth from Ur of the Chaldees 1,900 years before Christ. Thus two and a half millenniums dragged by without any record of the pushing back of the horizons of man's thinking. But during the last century, "the customs and habits of many generations have been swept away like a village of log cabins in a forest fire. Upon their ashes has been erected the colossal structure of twentieth-century civilization. Scientists, chemists, explorers, engineers, with minds aflame with new knowledge, and fired with zeal for ever wider conquests, have combined to create this modern world of wonders."—*This Mighty Hour*, page 156.

Has this fact any meaning? Is it but a coincidence in the course of history that all these startling happenings should occur in the day and age in which you and I live? It is our profound conviction that we live in the days spoken of by Daniel the prophet as "the time of the end," and that the tremendous forward surge in every field of knowledge but gives added emphasis to this sobering thought.

Without doubt knowledge has been enormously increased in our lifetime, but as we pause to assess to what purpose it largely has been devoted, shamefacedly we have to admit that much of it has been prostituted to the destructive arts of war. It has well been said by J. H. Oldham: "Instead of being master of the world, man is in danger of being enslaved to the machines he has invented, and of being the plaything of forces he has brought into existence. Having set out to be the architect of his

own destiny, he has become increasingly a problem to himself."

We fail very often to assess the size of this problem. Take the matter of nuclear weapons. Right up to the end of World War II, the most destructive weapon we had was the block-buster bomb with an explosive force of six tons of TNT. But to measure the explosive force of the atomic bomb which hastened the end of hostilities, scientists had to invent the term "kiloton," which means one thousand tons of TNT. But as J. Lewis Powell, a foremost lecturer in technology, had declared, "Before anybody could write it without having to look up how to spell it, somebody invented the H-bomb which made the kiloton relative obsolete. A kiloton was now as useful as a unit of measure, as ounces would be to weigh elephants!"

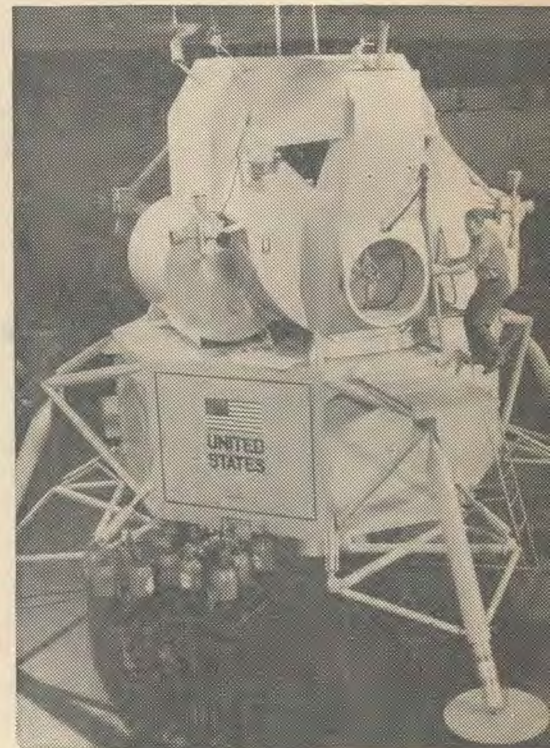
Mr. Powell went on to state that now we measure the destructive potential of our thermo-nuclear weapons in terms of megatons. A megaton, he points out, is the equivalent of one million tons of TNT, and remember that the potential destructiveness of an H-bomb consists of many megatons. Of course it is difficult for us to visualize or to gain any concept of how big a megaton really is. If you had a goods train made up of cars fifty feet in length, and into each car you loaded fifty tons of TNT, by the time the train was 200 miles in length, you would have a load of just one megaton!

But progress, if such it can be called, has not been limited to the development of the arts of war. When God told Daniel that knowledge would be increased in the last days, He had far more in mind than the tremendous technological revolution we have witnessed in our lifetime. Now, as always, spiritual values are of vastly more importance than all the materialistic concepts in the whole wide world. While it is true that we live in an age of considerable scepticism, never has there been so much Scriptural knowledge available to the inquiring mind.

Up until fairly recently there were many grounds on which some doubted the accuracy of the Bible record. But along came the great archæological era which swept away these doubts by the remark-



The Hydroskimmer rides one-half metre above water surface. It can attain speeds up to 130 kilometres per hour.



A full scale model of the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM), which is to land three astronauts on the moon by 1970.

able confirmation to the truthfulness of God's Word which was unearthed by the scientists' picks and shovels. Then, too, sections of the Scriptures, particularly prophetic portions, which up until our days remained meaningless riddles have now taken on fresh significance. Daniel was told his book would be sealed until the time of the end. Today it can be read and understood by any truth-seeking Bible student. Why? Because we

To page 17



*The condition of the mind
far greater degree*

THE RELATION that exists between the mind and the body is very intimate. When one is affected, the other sympathizes. The condition of the mind affects the health to a far greater degree than many realize. Many of the diseases from which men suffer are the result of mental depression. Grief, anxiety, discontent, remorse, guilt, distrust, all tend to break down the life forces and to invite decay and death.

Disease is sometimes produced, and is often greatly aggravated, by the imagination. Many are lifelong invalids who might be well if they only thought so. Many imagine that every slight exposure will cause illness, and the evil effect is produced because it is expected. Many die from disease the cause of which is wholly imaginary.

Courage, hope, faith, sympathy, love, promote health and prolong life. A contented mind, a cheerful spirit, is health to the body and strength to the soul. "A merry [rejoicing] heart doeth good like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22).

In the treatment of the sick the effect of mental influence should not be overlooked. Rightly used, this influence affords one of the most effective agencies for combating disease.

There is, however, a form of mind cure that is one of the most effective agencies for evil. Through this so-called science [of hypnotism], one mind is brought under the control of another so that the individuality of the weaker is merged in that of the stronger mind. One person acts out the will of the other. Thus it is claimed that the tenor of the thoughts may be changed, that health-giving impulses may be imparted, and patients may be enabled to resist and overcome disease.

This method of cure has been employed by persons who were ignorant of its real nature and tendency, and who believe it to be a means of benefit to the sick. But the so-called science is based upon false principles. It is foreign to the nature and spirit of Christ. It does not lead to Him who is life and salvation. The one who attracts minds to himself leads them to separate from the true Source of their strength.

It is not God's purpose that any human being should yield his mind and will to the control of another, becoming a passive instrument in his hands. No one is to merge his individuality in that of another. He is not to look to any human being as the source of healing. His dependence must be in God. In the dignity of his God-given manhood he is to be controlled by God Himself, not by any human intelligence. . . .

The theory of mind controlling mind was originated by Satan, to introduce himself as the chief worker, to put human philosophy where divine philosophy should be. Of all the errors that are finding acceptance among professedly Christian people, none is a more dangerous deception, none more certain to separate man from God, than is this. Innocent though it may appear, if exercised upon patients it will tend to their destruction, not to their restoration. It opens a door through which Satan will enter to take pos-



mind cure

affects the health to a
man many realize.

session both of the mind that is given up to be controlled by another, and of the mind that controls. . . .

There is something better for us to engage in than the control of humanity by humanity. . . . He who made man's mind knows what the mind needs. God alone is the One who can heal. Those whose minds and bodies are diseased are to behold in Christ the restorer. "Because I live," He says, "ye shall live also" (John 14:19). This is the life we are to present to the sick, telling them that if they have faith in Christ as the restorer, if they co-operate with Him, obeying the laws of health, and striving to perfect holiness in His fear, He will impart to them His life. When we present Christ to them in this way, we are imparting a power, a strength, that is of value; for it comes from above. This is the true science of healing for body and soul.

Great wisdom is needed in dealing with disease caused through the mind. A sore, sick heart, a discouraged mind, needs mild treatment. Many times some living home trouble is, like a canker, eating to the very soul and weakening the life force. And sometimes it is the case that remorse for sin undermines the constitution and unbalances the mind. It is through tender sympathy that this class of invalids can be benefited. . . .

Sympathy and tact will often prove a greater benefit to the sick than will the most skilful treat-

ment given in a cold, indifferent way. . . .

By the exercise of the will-power in placing themselves in right relation to life, patients can do much to co-operate with the physician's efforts for their recovery. There are thousands who can recover health if they will. The Lord does not want them to be sick. He desires them to be well and happy, and they should make up their minds to be well. Often invalids can resist disease simply by refusing to yield to ailments and [to] settle down in a state of inactivity. Rising above their aches and pains, let them engage in useful employment suited to their strength. By such employment and the free use of air and sunlight, many an emaciated invalid might recover health and strength.

For those who would regain or preserve health there is a lesson in the words of Scripture, "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). Not through the excitement or oblivion produced by unnatural or unhealthy stimulants; not through indulgence of the lower appetites or passions, is to be found true healing or refreshment for the body or the soul. . . .

Abiding peace, true rest of spirit, has but one Source. It was of this that Christ spoke when He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you" (John 14:27). This peace is not something that He gives apart from Himself. It is in Christ, and we can receive it only by receiving Him.

Christ is the well-spring of life. That which many need is to have a clearer knowledge of Him; they need to be patiently and kindly, yet earnestly, taught how the whole being may be thrown open to the healing agencies of heaven. When the sunlight of God's love illuminates the darkened chambers of the soul, restless weariness and dissatisfaction will cease, and satisfying joys will give vigour to the mind and health and energy to the body.

We are in a world of suffering. Difficulty, trial, and sorrow await us all along the way to the heavenly home. But there are many who make life's burdens doubly heavy by continually anticipating trouble. If they meet with adversity or disappointment they think that everything is going to ruin, that theirs is the hardest lot of all, that they are surely coming to want. Thus they bring wretchedness upon themselves and cast a shadow upon all around them. Life itself becomes a burden to them. But it need not be thus. It will cost a determined effort to change the current of their thought. But the change can be made. Their happiness, both for this life and for the life to come, depends upon their fixing their minds upon cheerful things. Let them look away from the dark picture, which is imaginary, to the benefits which God has strewn in their pathway, and beyond these to the unseen and eternal.

For every trial, God has provided help. When Israel in the desert came to the bitter waters of Marah, Moses cried unto the Lord. The Lord did not provide some new remedy; He called attention to that which was at hand. A shrub which He had created was to be cast into the fountain to make the

To page 15

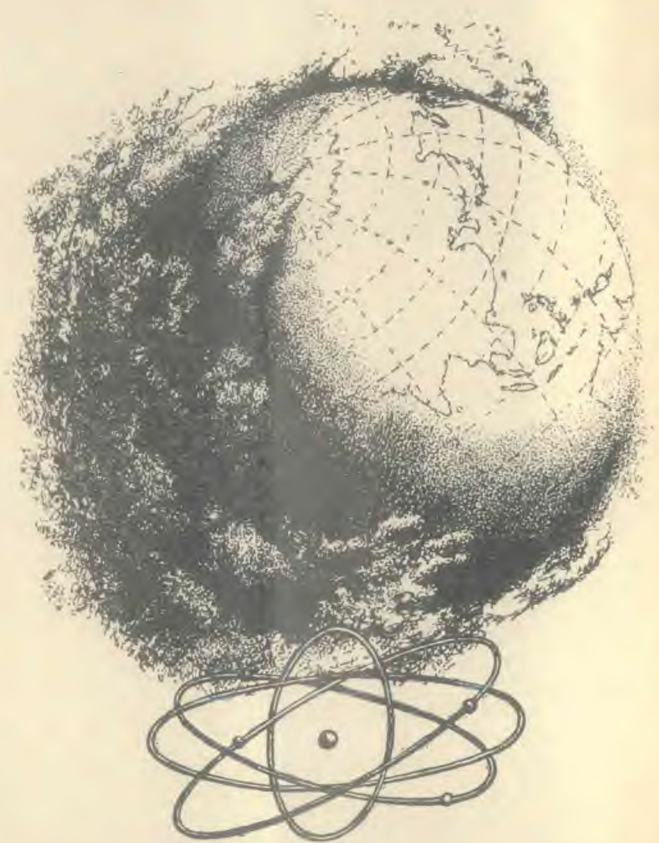
IN A STATEMENT appearing in the *Sydney* [Australia] *Morning Herald* some time ago a noted scientist declared: "Belief in God will soon be as impossible for the educated man as thinking that the earth is flat." Very well then. Let us accept this dictum for the moment, and follow its conclusions. The first fact this would force us to accept is that the universe came into existence by chance, and that life in this world is the result of an accident.

Picture this great universe rushing on timelessly, with a thousand million suns and their attendant train of planets, whirling through space at a maddening pace without a hand to guide them. There are no signals on this line, no engineer has laid the rails, no driver is on the foot-plate, no guard to apply the brakes. A universe without mind. Emptied of God. Since there is no God, there is no Lawgiver, and hence no law. But there is law. Ever since the days of the astronomer Kepler, who is called the "legislator of the heavens," there has been a constantly expanding field of knowledge in physical science. All nature from the minutest atoms with their electrons, protons, neutrons—miniature solar systems—to the starry far-flung galaxy of the Milky Way, all are governed by law.

This is true not only in the physical, but also in the moral realm. The Bible is essentially a book of morality. In the New Testament we read, "By the law is the knowledge of sin." "Where no law is there is no transgression." "Sin is not imputed when there is no law." The Bible also says that Adam was the first man, and that he sinned. 1 Corinthians 15:45. Romans 5:14. Here is a moral breach. The moral law has been broken that defines sin and makes sin known. Therefore, this law existed before sin, or before the first man. Who had the authority to impose such a law? How shall we answer? If not God, who then? The Apostle Paul goes further and states that the principles of this law are contained in that ancient code, the Ten Commandments, which has not yet become obsolete nor out of date. (Romans 7:7.)

Several years ago, a group of geologists were digging through several layers of deposits, which they believed had taken some millions of years to form, when they discovered a child's old shoe. Just as that old shoe was proof that at some period there was a shoe-last, and behind the shoe-last a shoe-maker, so these laws in the physical and moral spheres indicate that behind these laws there was the work of a law Maker. They did not come by chance.

There is a law in mathematics known as the law of compound probability, or the law of chance. It operates in this way. The greater the number of supporting facts to any proposition, the more it multiplies itself enormously against the possibility of the product of chance. To illustrate. There are nine major planets in our solar system, and many minor ones, called asteroids. We now know that these planets are all moving in one direction with a slight inclination of the planes of their orbits. For a convenient figure, we shall limit the number to ten. On this basis if chance had determined that the earth should incline its plane, it would be one in ten. If it was by chance that both earth and Mars inclined their planes, then the ratio multiplies itself by the base figure, ten times ten, or one hundred to one. If the earth, Mars, and



*Ten facts which convince me that
God exists and that this world
was*

Created by
DIVINE ACT

Mercury each inclined their planes, it would be ten times one hundred or 1,000 to one. But if it were discovered that they all inclined their planes, moving in one direction, it would be ten thousand million to one that this came about by chance. This figure is fantastic and the evidence overwhelming that there is intelligent purpose and design in this great universe.

However, this movement of the planets is but one factor. Let us apply the law of chance to ten essential conditions necessary to come into operation at one time to make life possible in our world. There are many more, but again we will limit them to ten. How is it that there is life in this world, and not on Mercury or the moon? Mercury is about 36 million miles away from the sun, and is seven times hotter than our earth. It turns only one face to the sun and its revolutionary day is the same as its year, consisting of eighty-eight of our days. One side of Mercury is appallingly hot, the other frigidly cold. Life as we know it would be impossible on Mercury.

The moon is 2,160 miles in diameter and we see but one side of its face. Like Mercury, its axis and its orbit are the same, so that its day consists of twenty-eight of ours. One writer says, "The moon's long day and long night changes from blazing heat to unspeakable cold, and . . . are said to range between some 450 degrees." There are no seas, lakes or rivers on the moon. As far as can be ascertained there is no evidence of condensation, vapours, clouds, and little evidence of atmosphere. Astronomy holds no prospect that life would be endurable on the moon. Why then do we have life on this world? From the many reasons which could be quoted we consider but ten.

1. **The Earth's Stability.** The earth travels at 1,100 miles a minute, 66,600 miles an hour in its orbit around the sun. Yet it is phenomenally stable. It never loses a minute in a millennium or a second in a century. Star time is the most reliable time known to science. It is said that the Elgin Clock Company of America sets its clocks by star time. Who times the stars? This amazing fact alone presupposes design, and is evidence of Divine purpose.

2. **The Earth's Bulk.** The earth is 7,918 miles in diameter and weighs more than six trillion tons. Its distance is 93 million miles from the sun. If the earth had greater or less bulk to any appreciable degree, the whole balance would be upset, and life for us would cease. Yet its weight, its bulk, its distance are all so correctly adjusted and determined so accurately, that we may live in comfort. How could these factors have been so well organized without a guiding Hand?

3. **The Earth's Rotation.** The Scriptures state concerning the earth that God "formed it to be inhabited" (Isaiah 45:18). It was Copernicus in the fifteenth century who discovered that the earth was round and rotated upon its axis once in twenty-four hours, travelling at 1,000 miles an hour. But supposing it was like the moon and rotated once in twenty-eight days. Our days would then be fourteen times longer than now, and the sun would scorch up plant life under the continuous, terrific heat. The cold through the long night would be intense. How is it that the earth's rotation is just the right period for life to exist and so controlled to meet our needs?

4. **Centrifugal Force.** Why does the earth move

upon its axis at about 1,000 miles per hour and not like Jupiter at 28,000 miles per hour? There is a law of centrifugal force which reveals that all particles of matter tend to move to the extremities when circling around a centre. This is the principle used in spin-drying washing machines, and in trick motor-cycle riding around a perpendicular tank. Here the law of centrifugal force overcomes the law of gravitation. The earth is slightly flattened at the poles, and bulges at the equator by some twenty-six miles. Thus the downward pull of gravitation and the outward thrust of centrifugal force at this point destroy each other and the earth is kept in perfect equilibrium. If this world moved as fast as Jupiter, the law of gravitation would be overcome, and consequently the earth's surface at the equator would be heaped up and shapeless, so as to destroy the earth's balance, and possibly render it uninhabitable. One astronomer says: "Divine wisdom alone could have framed so admirable a system."—*Orbs of Heaven*, page 100.

5. **The Earth's Temperature.** The sun has a surface temperature of at least 10,000 degrees of heat. We are far enough away to be nicely warmed, and the temperature variations of between fifty or sixty degrees are such that life is able to survive. If it varied as much as on the moon, or even 150 degrees, vegetation would be destroyed unless protected by some artificial means. Human life would become a burden and ultimately cease. Who made the sun, directed its distance from the earth, and blended its rays through our atmosphere, thus enabling life to continue?

6. **The Earth's Speed.** The earth travels around the sun at eighteen and a half miles per second. There are great variations on other planets. Mercury travels at thirty-five miles per second, almost twice as fast, while Neptune moves slowly at three miles a second. If the earth travelled at three miles or thirty-five miles a second, it would be either too far away or too close to the sun for comfort. We would be either too hot or too cold. Who gave the earth this perfect adjustment? How did it happen? Was it determined by chance?

7. **The Sun's Radiation.** The question was asked Job: "By what way is the light parted?" How is the light distributed? We cannot tell. How is it that light travels over 93 million miles of space in an unvarying straight line but may be deflected by a flaw in a window pane and fall obliquely to the floor? If the sun gave only half of its radiation we would be frozen, or if it gave forth as much again we would be ashes. Why is it so well accommodated to our way of life? Does it not reveal the fact that behind the sun is a controlling Mind?

8. **The Moon's Attraction.** The moon is approximately 240,000 miles away, and we all know its reaction on our ocean tides twice a day. In some places the tides rise as high as sixty feet. What vast power there is in the pull of the moon that lifts the ocean out of its bed. Yet if the moon's placid face were much nearer, life itself could be imperilled. Why is the moon 240,000 miles away and not 40,000? Mars has two small moons under 15,000 miles distant. If our moon was 40,000 miles away, great tidal waves 300 feet high would sweep over the earth eroding the mountains, and causing great hurricanes to sweep

To page 19

*It is the
daily nourishment from
God's word which alone can
provide strength
for*

DEFEATING DISCOURAGEMENT



ALL TOO FREQUENTLY one meets with people who, at some time in their lives, have tried hard to be Christians, and have failed.

Like the early Galatians, for a while, they "did run well." But, eventually, something or someone "did hinder" them, with the result that they no longer continued to "obey the truth" (Galatians 5:7).

The Bible, however, is God's great Book of Encouragement. When surrounding circumstances are dark and forbidding, when long-trying friendships falter and fail, when human philosophies seem cold and remote, the Bible is ever a constant, comforting, and inspiring friend.

Failure in some endeavour, in some cherished project, or even in our Christian experience and conduct, is often because we forget that the Lord's infinite resources are ever at the disposal of the truly consecrated soul. As Paul declares, "God is able to make all grace [i.e., divine power] abound

toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). God—our ever constant and dependable Ally—is able, if we are pursuing His will, to bring for us victory out of defeat. There is nothing too hard for the Lord. (Genesis 18:14.) There is nothing impossible with Him. (Luke 1:37.)

Spiritual Malnutrition

Another potent cause of spiritual debility is spiritual malnutrition. We would not expect to remain physically robust for long if we continually deprived ourselves of regular, nourishing meals.

If we never open our Bibles at home we are inviting discouragement and defeat. It is the daily nourishment from God's Word which alone can provide strength for the daily conflict with evil, for the psalmist gives, as the secret of moral victory, the simple maxim, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against

thee" (Psalm 119:11). And the practical Peter advises the early Christians, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2).

A new-born baby's one absorbing interest, during his waking hours, is in his food. It must be regular and adequate, and nature makes it entirely appropriate to his simple, but tremendously important, needs. A baby cannot miss many "feeds" without serious decline, while regular nourishment alone ensures his rapid and satisfying growth.

By this very simple illustration our Creator reminds us of our constant need of His Word. The same One who devised the processes of our growth from infancy to manhood, has also ordained the method of our growth to sainthood. We all need daily to set aside times for the reading of the Word, that we "may grow thereby." God-given growth in grace is a sure antidote for discouragement.

True Success

It is also helpful, in defeating depression, to cultivate a Biblical, rather than a material conception of what constitutes true success. The world measures success by the yardstick of finance, or social status, or both. The Bible, however, gauges character, and estimates man's worth, not according to his wealth, but according to the scope and power of his influence for good.

From the standpoint of possessions, the apostle Paul was one of the poorest gospel preachers who ever lived. Yet he was probably the most powerful.

Toward the close of Paul's life there were just a few books and clothes he could call his own. (2 Timothy 4:13.) Yet the lives of countless millions since his day have been immeasurably enriched by his godly ministry. In God's eyes Paul was a success, although he was often in chains, often in prison, continually despised and persecuted by envious contemporaries.

Further, the devil can never discourage us so long as we remain alert enough, at his first approach, to *discourage him!* Attack is ever the Christian's best defence. "Resist the devil," counsels James, "and he will flee" (James 4:7). Paul also warns us to be constantly wary, "lest Satan should get an advantage" (2 Corinthians 2:11).

It is seldom sufficient for us just to try to ignore Satan when he lurks around with some alluring temptation. For in a mere conflict of wills he is likely to triumph over us, since he is a past master in subtle assault and deceptive device.

Certainly the wisest and most effective course, at all times, is just to *pray* temptation away. In so doing we at once put ourselves on God's side, and bring Him to our side. We also know the blessedness of obeying the Lord's injunction, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy" (Luke 21:36).

Antidote to Discouragement

Finally, an active Christian is seldom a seriously discouraged one.

Our Lord Himself tells the story of three men who were endowed by their Maker, each "according to his several ability." Two of them

worked wisely and industriously with the talents they had been given, and eventually were suitably commended by their master.

But the third man, because of what he considered the poorness of his natural ability, found various excuses for doing nothing at all. His depression led to inactivity, and his inactivity served only to deepen and prolong his depression. At last, when confronted by his master, he could only retreat behind bitter and unjust recrimination. (Matthew 25:14 to 29.)

This man miserably failed to live a useful life and he failed to win an eternal reward, not through lack of talent, but through lack of faith. He allowed discouragement to conquer him, whereas, by God's grace, he could have completely conquered it.

It was predicted of our Lord that, in spite of all the hatred of vindictive men, in spite of all the cunning malice of fallen devils, He would not "fail nor be discouraged" until on Calvary He had fully accomplished our salvation. (Isaiah 42:4.)

May we, too, with that same God-given grace, learn daily, and effectively, to defeat discouragement.—Ernest Cox.

MIND CURE

From page 11

water pure and sweet. When this was done, the people drank of the water and were refreshed. In every trial, if we seek Him, Christ will give us help. Our eyes will be opened to discern the healing promises recorded in His word. The Holy Spirit will teach us how to appropriate every blessing that will be an antidote to grief. For every bitter draught that is placed to our lips, we shall find a branch of healing.

We are not to let the future, with its hard problems, its unsatisfying prospects, make our hearts faint, our knees tremble, our hands hang down. "Let him take hold of my strength," says the Mighty One, "that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me" (Isaiah 27:5). Those who surrender their lives to His guidance and to His service will never be placed in a position for which He has not made provision. Whatever our situation, if we are doers of His word, we have a Guide to

direct our way; whatever our perplexity, we have a sure Counsellor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend.

If in our ignorance we make mis-steps, the Saviour does not forsake us. We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us. In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape. There is not a sorrow, not a human weakness for which He has not provided a remedy. . . .

He who took humanity upon Himself knows how to sympathize with the sufferings of humanity. Not only does Christ know every soul, and the peculiar needs and trials of that soul, but He knows all the circumstances that chafe and perplex the spirit. His hand is outstretched in pitying tenderness to every suffering child. Those who suffer most have most of His sympathy and pity. He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and He desires us to lay our perplexities and troubles at His feet and leave them there.

It is not wise to look to ourselves and study our emotions. If we do this, the enemy will present difficulties and temptations that weaken faith and destroy courage. Closely to study our emotions and give way to our feelings is to entertain doubt and entangle ourselves in perplexity. We are to look away from self to Jesus.

When temptations assail you, when care, perplexity, and darkness seem to surround your soul, look to the place where you last saw the light. Rest in Christ's love and under His protecting care. When sin struggles for the mastery in the heart, when guilt oppresses the soul and burdens the conscience, when unbelief clouds the mind, remember that Christ's grace is sufficient to subdue sin and banish the darkness. . . .

Nothing tends more to promote health of body and of soul than does a spirit of gratitude and praise. It is a positive duty to resist melancholy, discontented thoughts and feelings—as much a duty as it is to pray. If we are

heaven-bound, how can we go as a band of mourners, groaning and complaining all along the way to our Father's house?

Often your mind may be clouded because of pain. Then do not try to think. You know that Jesus loves you. He understands your weakness. You may do His will by simply resting in His arms.

It is a law of nature that our thoughts and feelings are encouraged and strengthened as we give them utterance. While words express thoughts, it is also true that thoughts follow words. If we would give more expression to our faith, rejoice more in the blessings that we know we have,—the great mercy and love of God,—we should have more faith and greater joy. . . .

Let the fresh blessings of each new day awaken praise in our hearts for those tokens of His loving care. When you open your eyes in the morning, thank God that He has kept you through the night. Thank Him for His peace in your heart. Morning, noon, and night, let gratitude as a sweet perfume ascend to heaven.

When someone asks how you are feeling, do not try to think of something mournful to tell in order to gain sympathy. . . . Talk instead of the great power of God to bind up all our interests with His own. Tell of the matchless power of Christ, and speak of His glory. All heaven is interested in our salvation. The angels of God, thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand, are commissioned to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. They guard us against evil and press back the powers of darkness that are seeking our destruction. Have we not reason to be thankful every moment, thankful even when there are apparent difficulties in our pathway?

Let praise and thanksgiving be expressed in song. When tempted, instead of giving utterance to our feelings, let us by faith lift up a song of thanksgiving to God. . . .

Song is a weapon that we can always use against discouragement. As we thus open the heart to the sunlight of the Saviour's presence, we shall have health and its blessings. . . .

One of the surest hindrances to the recovery of the sick is the centring of attention upon them-

selves. Many invalids feel that everyone should give them sympathy and help, when what they need is to have their attention turned away from themselves, to think of and care for others. . . .

Good deeds are twice a blessing, benefiting both the giver and the receiver of the kindness. The consciousness of right-doing is one of the best medicines for diseased bodies and minds. When the mind is free and happy from a sense of duty well done and the satisfaction of giving happiness to others, the cheering, uplifting influence brings new life to the whole being. . . .

If those who are suffering from ill-health would forget self in their interest for others; if they would fulfil the Lord's command to minister to those more needy than themselves, they would realize the truthfulness of the prophetic promise, "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily." —Ellen G. White

VISITORS FROM OTHER WORLDS

From page 5

heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:7 to 9).

Those who believe the Bible know that good angels have been frequent visitors to earth. Angels drove Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden and guarded its gates lest the human race eat of the tree of life and become immortal sinners. (Genesis 3:22-24.) Angels warned Abraham and Lot of the destruction of Sodom and led Lot and his daughters from the doomed city. An angel protected Daniel in the den of lions: "Then said Daniel, . . . My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me" (Daniel 6:21, 22).

In the New Testament, an angel told Mary that she would be the mother of the Saviour. Angels announced His birth to the shepherds and sang hymns of praise. An angel ministered to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and strengthened Him. When the mob was about to take Jesus, He said to His disciples, "Thinkest thou that I can-

not now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53).

An angel rolled away the stone from the tomb on the morning of the resurrection and told His disciples that He had risen.

When Jesus rose from the grave He had conquered sin and death. He was set free from the limitations that bound Him to this earth. He could leave at will and travel to His Father in heaven. The record says, "While they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).

As Jesus disappeared into the heavens, two angels appeared beside the watching disciples and promised His return. "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Angels walk unseen on every street and linger in every home. They guard the children and help the aged. Wherever they are welcomed they bring the freshness and love of heaven. Only in eternity will we know how often angels have warned us of danger, kept us from sorrow and heartache, and even saved our lives. Said the psalmist, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them" (Psalm 34:7).

But there are also evil angels, who were cast out of heaven with the prince of darkness. Jude mentions them. "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6).

Jesus called Satan, "The prince of this world" (John 14:30). And Paul has this to say of him, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2).

Here on this earth is being fought out the great battle between sin and righteousness, between hate and love. Evil has had six thousand years to show itself worthy of a place in the universe, and it has failed. God has used that same time to show that love is stronger than death. The Son of

God, the Creator of the world, came and lived among us that He might show us the way back to Paradise. He died as a ransom for the human race, that its debt of sin might be cancelled. He has paid the price to redeem not only His people who love Him, but the earth itself from the curse of sin.

Soon Jesus is coming back to this earth, not this time to be one with us in exile, but to make us one with Him in glory. He will take us to be with Him for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4).

Then this world will be restored again to its rightful place in God's universe. Says John, "And 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" (Revelation 21:1). "And 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: and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 22:3 to 5).

Angels, our visitors from outer space, bring us hope that soon the long night of sin will end, that soon the One who ransomed us will come to claim His own, and that our earthly prison will again become a Paradise.

—Leonard C. Lee

WINE, WOMEN AND SONG

From page 7

out of the mountain without human hands, which smote the image on the feet, represented the coming of Jesus Christ to this earth, when all worldly kingdoms will pass away.

"In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed . . . but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

Concerning this event, Christ Himself stated: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (Matthew 25:31). Then

shall be fulfilled the words of Revelation 11:15: "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever."

In His parables Jesus taught that the stone the builders rejected finally became the chief corner-stone (Luke 20:17), showing that although the Jewish nation rejected Him, He actually is the very corner-stone of salvation—the only true foundation for our faith. We need to come to Christ.

"Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder" (Luke 20:18).

Jesus teaches that now is the time to come to Him. As we come to Him ("fall upon that stone") our proud spirit will be broken, and Satan's shackles that bind us will be broken. But if we neglect and leave it until too late, Christ will come (the stone smiting the image) and we will be destroyed by the brightness of His coming. This verse teaches that we either fall on the stone and are saved, or the stone falls on us and we are lost. "Whosoever will" may come to Jesus. That is an invitation for everybody. Let us not delay.

We do not live in the time of the the head of gold or of the silver, brass or iron, but we live today in the day of the ten toes—almost the end of time—just before Jesus returns. Are we ready for Jesus' wonderful kingdom of glory that will banish this old order of death and sin? It is certainly worth planning for.

When Christ hung in agony on the cross a dying thief on the next cross had faith to believe that this was indeed the Son of God. He believed that one day this Man would really own a glorious kingdom, and so he prayed that touching prayer, one of the shortest in the Bible, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." In these days of distress and uncertainty, even if we are not accustomed to prayer, surely it is time we prayed the prayer of the dying thief—"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

—John F. Coltheart

STARTLING AGE

From page 9

now live in "the time of the end," and Daniel's prophecy has a special application to this crisis hour of earth's history.

Then take the tremendous advancements which have been made in the field of transportation. Has this come about just so that many could "run to and fro" over earth's surface for no particular purpose? Not at all. Speaking to His disciples, Christ declared to them: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14). God has a particular judgment-hour message which must go to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people," and the King's business demands haste. Time is fast running out so He has provided for His messengers the means of transportation which enable them speedily to encircle the world with His message.

And it is to the same end that we today have our truly remarkable modern means of communication. God doubtless foresaw that with the national and ideological differences which would shut off whole sections of mankind behind iron or bamboo curtains, some other means would have to be devised to carry salvation's good news. And so today we have the radio and television which penetrate where other means cannot be used.

Yes, there is a profound reason for this tremendous increase in knowledge which we currently witness on every hand. This startling age of discovery proclaims to all who will heed, that time is fast running out, for when the gospel witness has been sounded to all men, "then shall the end come." God today is sounding His last message of mercy to a world which soon must face its Maker. Acceptance now of Christ as one's personal Saviour ensures an eternity of uninterrupted happiness. Neglect of His call means the darkness of oblivion. The issue is as simple as that, and the decision must be yours. "Choose you this day."

—Ross C. Piper

(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.)

2 S W
2 Tim 3:16
29 Je'-sus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, / not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.
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
19	Where Are the Dead?	Job. 4:17	VD	12

AFTER GREAT REJOICING the nation mourned. We may thus summarize the events of Tashkent on January 11. The brevity of life and the nearness of death could not be more closely sketched in our minds. Ruthlessly the inexorable hand of death struck with suddenness, and we were led to remember once again that

"The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
At late or early hour."

1. What words in the Scripture indicate that man is a finite being?

Job 4:17. "Shall mortal man be more just than God?" (2 WD 1 Timothy 6:14 to 16.)

"O eloquent, just, and mighty Death! Whom none could advise, thou hast persuaded; what none hath dared, thou hast done; . . . Thou hast drawn together all the far stretched greatness, all the pride, cruelty, and ambition of man, and covered it all over with these two narrow words, *Hic jacet* [there lies . . .] —Sir Walter Raleigh, *History of the World*.

2. Who only can death not touch?

1 Timothy 6:14 to 16. "Jesus Christ . . . King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality." (3 WD Genesis 2:7.)

"Philosophy unfolds not this secret from the past. But nonetheless it must accept the possibility of limitless extension of life in the past as well as in the future. It is just as far east as it is west. God bounds all space and all time. 'From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God'" (Psalm 90:2).—Arthur E. Licky, *Christ for Ever*, p. 24.

3 To animate the human organism made of the dust what did God add?

Genesis 2:7. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (4 WD Ecclesiastes 12:7.)

"Now we are taught that man has not a body; he is a body—'animated body.' He has not a soul; he is a soul, and 'body' is comprehended within the term soul. Both body and spirit, in inseparable conjunction, make up a man. Both body and spirit are essential to manhood . . . Now this kind of thinking has tremendous significance for our present understanding of salvation." Allan Farris, *Workshop and Work* (Pamphlet for Labour Sunday, 1958), p. 3.

4. What reverse action takes place at death?

Ecclesiastes 12:7. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: And the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." (5 WD Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.)

"This does not mean that a conscious soul escapes the body at the time of death." Edward White, states, "That the doctrine of the immortality of the soul is never once explicitly delivered throughout the whole range of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures is a fact of which every reader may satisfy himself by examination; and it is a fact which long ago has drawn the attention of thoughtful and exact inquirers."—*Life in Christ*, p. 85 to 87.

5. In death how completely does knowledge and understanding cease to exist?

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6. "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, . . . Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished." (6 WD Genesis 3:4.)

"In the Graeco-Roman centuries heathenism offered man support in the present world from the thraldom of Fate and beyond death a home in or beyond the stars, as Titus assured his soldiers at the siege of Jerusalem that the souls of the fallen warriors would enter the ether and be seated in the stars."—S. Angus, *The Religious Quests of the Graeco-Roman World*, pp. 257, 258.

6. Who originated the thought that life continues in the soul after death?

Genesis 3:4. "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." (7 WD 1 Corinthians 15:17, 18.)

In Genesis 3:4 we find the first lie uttered by the serpent (Satan)—the father of all lies.

7. On whom are we dependent to enjoy eternal life?

WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

1 Corinthians 15:17, 18. "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain . . . Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." (8 WD John 5:28, 29.)

The unbeliever in Christ is bereft of hope for a future life. Robert Ingersoll at the grave of his beloved younger brother declared, "Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to see beyond the heights. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry. From the voiceless lips of the unreplying dead there comes no word."

8. What will be the abode of the dead until they hear the call of the Life Giver?

John 5:28, 29. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are *in the graves* shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (9 WD 1 Thessalonians 4:16.)

9. At what time can we confidently expect to be resurrected?

1 Thessalonians 4:16. "For 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." (10 WD 1 John 5:12.)

10. What assurance is given to the believer in Christ that he will inherit eternal life?

1 John 5:12. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (11 WD John 3:16.)

Centuries ago a Roman general accepted Christ as his Saviour and was called before Cæsar. He was urged to give up Christianity and return to paganism. "I will banish you from the empire of Rome," said Cæsar. "You cannot banish me from Christ," the general replied, "for Jesus has promised never to leave me nor forsake me." Cæsar threatened to confiscate his possessions. "My treasure is all laid up in heaven, and even you cannot touch it there," was the general's reply. Cæsar then challenged him with a last question, "I can take your life. What can you do about that?" The general's reply was brief. "My life is hid with Christ Jesus, and that is beyond the reach of earthly executioners."

11. What sacrifice on God's part makes eternal life possible?

John 3:16. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (12 WD Revelation 21:4.)

"Beyond the might of mortal mind to measure,
Beyond the power of human hearts to give,
He gave the gift divine, the gift supernal—
Himself, that men eternally might live!"

—Helen Rogers Smith.

12. What is God's guarantee that death will not assail us in heaven?

Revelation 21:4. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, . . . for the former things are passed away." (WD //)

From page 13

across the world. Who so poised the moon in the heavens that it sheds its peaceful light in blessing upon the world? By chance you say?


9. The Air's Adjustment. It was Galileo who committed to his pupil Torricelli the commission to discover if the air had weight. Yet 3,500 years ago the Bible affirmed it. "God understandeth the way therefore to make the weight for the winds (or the air)." The air is comprised of 78 per cent nitrogen and 21 per cent oxygen, and exerts a pressure of fifteen pounds to the square inch. There are some fourteen tons pressure on the human body, yet we feel no discomfort. There are constant poisonous gases and pollutions arising daily out of the earth in the atmosphere yet the air is kept comparatively pure. What would happen if the ratio of elements were reversed? Why not? If we had 78 per cent oxygen instead of 21 per cent the very air would almost ignite. Who gave this perfect combination? Remove the atmosphere from the earth, as from the moon, and the world would be empty of life.

10. The Uniformity of the Elements. Out of the ninety elements of the soil how does nature hold so tenaciously to only nineteen of them? How did these elements appear in the right proportions to preserve and promote life? Why do animals and vegetables require the same minerals? The vegetable chooses the iron, magnesium, sulphur, calcium, etc., so essential to the life of the creature out of the ninety elements available. Who made this selection? Was it by chance or by accident?

Very briefly we have considered ten factors making life possible on this earth. While there are many others, according to the law of compound probability, the odds against these highly complex factors just happening are 10,000,000,000 to one. How much more feasible it is to believe that these provisions for man's comfort were provided according to a divine plan and an intelligent design.

No wonder Darwin said: "The impossibility of conceiving that this grand and wondrous universe with our conscious selves arose through chance seems to me the chief argument for the existence of God." What more should we say? God, therefore, must be rational seeing the universe is constructed in terms of law and reason. God must be moral because He has given us moral laws and endowed human beings with conscience. God must be personal seeing He has given man personality. He would never bequeath to His creatures that which He Himself did not possess. God must be spiritual because He bestows spiritual impulses. With the psalmist we would say, "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy glory." Let us therefore worship God as the Creator and the Sustainer of our lives.

—Walter E. Battye



Clouds on clouds,
in volumes driven,
Curtains round
the vault of heaven.

—*Thomas Peacock*