



# OUR TIMES

NOVEMBER 1966





# EVENTS and TRENDS

## "THE NATIONS WERE ANGRY"

NINETEEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO an old prophet, sitting alone on a barren, rocky, wind-swept, island in the Mediterranean Sea, was given a panoramic vision of history revealing events that would take place down to the close of time. In describing what he saw of conditions that would prevail as human history closed, he wrote, among other things, that, "the nations were angry..." (Revelation 11:18).

"The nations were angry." How graphically the words describe the internal conditions of many nations, their relationships with other states, and the condition of the world as a whole.

**Internal Tensions** Africa is a continent beset with internal ragings that sometimes seem about to explode in one vast holocaust. Over the past ten years twenty-eight new African nations have emerged, many of which are lacerated by slashing tribal conflicts, in which life oftentimes loses all sacredness. And the anger may be all the more dangerous in South Africa because it is pent up like a raging lion in a cage.

Indonesia offers another example of the flaming anger within nations. Over a period of weeks some months ago an estimated 100,000 people died violent deaths when the majority turned against the Communists in that country.

Few outside of China can speak with authority regarding conditions within its borders. But the purging of old leaders, the near-mob rule of the Red Guards, the efforts to uproot centuries-old customs and culture, the reported intimidating of those with ideas contrary to the regime, all suggest that there are opposing passions burning inside that enigmatic nation.

"Rancour, riot and revenge" is the way one observer summarized the racial situation inside the United States, in which negroes angrily clamour for a larger place in the sun. Recently there has been a growing acceptance by the negroes of the idea of the use of violence. This has been given a psychological boost, no doubt, by that sinister term "black power" which carries with it ominous connotations.

**International Tensions** One may turn to almost any part of the globe to find examples of "angry nations" facing each other in

tense readiness, or already tearing at each other's throats. Almost any of the confrontations is a cause for concern lest the present manifestations of anger burst out in even more serious forms.

The persistent irritant of North and South Vietnam is grating on the taut nerves of the world more and more, and could bring on a sudden flare-up which might engulf us all in World War III.

Chinese and Russian soldiers face each other across the rivers which mark the borders between the two countries. According to *U.S. News and World Report*, there are forty-four Soviet divisions on the Russian side of the border, with twenty-four Chinese Communist divisions on the other side of the border. Five of the Soviet divisions are mechanized ones that were rushed from East Germany.

In an English radio broadcast from Peking recently Chinese premier Chou En-lai said: "The coloured peoples of the world outnumber the whites twelve to one. Let's wipe them out."

The apparent collision course presently set by Rhodesia and the other Commonwealth countries is a cause for anxiety.

One nagging source of the angry discontent which gnaws at world peace is what one United Nations official termed the "tensions of inequality." Multitudes around the world resentfully compare their own poor lot with that of more fortunate peoples, and ask why they should not have better living conditions.

"Peace will always be insecure in a world where men do not work together to help fulfil their desires," said President Lyndon B. Johnson. "If the strong and the wealthy turn from the needs of the weak and the poor, frustration will be followed by force. No peace and no power is strong enough to stand for long against the restless discontent of millions who are without hope."

"The nations were angry," nor must we expect that anger to subside. Rather, Bible prophecy suggests that it will rise in intensity until all nations plunge into "the great day of battle of God the Sovereign Lord" (Revelation 16:14), in which God manifests His power and sets "up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed: ... and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).



# OUR TIMES

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VOLUME 8, NUMBER 11

THE WORLD



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Editor: THOMAS A. DAVIS

Assistant Editor: GEORGE C. THOMAS

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

International Correspondents:

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

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*It is reported that the violent anti-Communist reaction in Indonesia a year ago has resulted in an "unprecedented mass movement to the churches." This is probably because "the hundreds of thousands of killings have compelled people to re-think the meaning of their lives," according to Dr. Marcel Pradervand, general secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.*

*The doctor reported baptisms of groups from 250 to 450 in size.*

\* \* \*

*Recently, Mrs. Mary Walker, "the oldest student in the United States," was honoured during her 100th birthday in her home town of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mrs. Walker had never gone to school until she enrolled in an adult basic education class at the age of ninety-eight.*

\* \* \*

*After an initial cost of more than Rs. 952,000 crores two American astronauts are expected to land on the moon, probably by the end of the 1960's.*

\* \* \*

*A top-level government commission named two years ago to study India's educational pattern has called for "a tolerant study of all religions" in the country's future educational set-up. The commission further called for a "drastic reconstruction, almost a revolution" in the present educational system to make it "science-based and in coherence with Indian culture and values."*

### PHOTO CREDITS

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*A bright-eyed boy of four gets hold of a picture of, say, the crucifixion. He dashes to his dad who is analysing the newly-passed bill on page nine of the newspaper.*

*"What are they doing, daddy?"*

*Father takes one look at the picture.*

*"These are bad men, son, and they are killing Jesus."*

*"Why are bad men killing Jesus, daddy?"*

*"They didn't like Him. That's all, son." Dad's voice grows exasperated. That was his son's nineteenth question. The little chap pauses. He can't resist one more.*

*"Did Jesus die, daddy?"*

*Dad keeps the paper down, stares at the boy, and says, "Look here, son, one day I'll tell you the whole story. Everything. But not now. I am too tired. Now run along. Please."*

*"I'm going to take a gun and shoot all those bad people," shouts the four-year-old as he walks out of the room.*

*Father sits there stunned. Now he feels sorry for so carelessly spurning an opportunity to share some time with him.*

*He remembers sitting on his grandmother's lap as a child listening to stories from the Bible. Religion, more than anything else, gave him moral strength.*

*His spirit was young then. Guile had not begun to mar his actions. He discriminated against none. He was beginning a new life in a complicated world, and for this adventure he needed one attribute most, which his childhood innocence claimed as a birthright: FAITH.*

*When he grew up he learned more. He had a prospering business. Others served and honoured him. He was an accomplished man and no longer felt he needed faith of a simple kind. It was substituted by PRIDE.*

*But now a son was growing up. He needed faith! Or else, in this befuddled world, he might only develop a warped personality.*

*Two other children of our day were not privileged to develop faith. Sir Winston Churchill's family was a proud household. Without doubt Sir Winston was a giant among men. With utmost reverence for this man and without rancour, and without even trying to hurt his indestructible contribution to the world, we note that among those who, because of an uncontrollable thirst for alcohol, have repeatedly gone to jails or institutions are his own son and daughter.*

*When your son asks about God next time, pause to tell him there is One. Tell him about Jesus and the cross. Let not your years of accumulated poise and pride stand in the way of his acquiring faith. Better still, teach him by example that pride is wrong, that faith is needed in all stages of life.*

*A man's gift to posterity is his children. But lack of religion in the home can dilute that legacy.*

*—G.C.T.*

## Editorial

### FAITH AND PRIDE





# THE SEA SHALL BECOME AS BLOOD

“The second angel emptied his bowl into the sea, which turned into a fluid like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing in it died” (Rev. 16:3, Phillips).

So reads the description of the second of the seven last plagues which God has warned shall be poured out upon the world at the end of time. These plagues are the literal judgments of God which ensue when He withdraws His mercy from a rebellious world and leaves it to take its wayward course to inevitable disaster.

Recently reports have appeared telling of sailors, using the world's sea lanes, who have seen vast areas of spoiling fish. These floating islands of dead fish are indeed a strange phenomenon. One such phenomenon took place in an area called False Bay on the coast of South Africa.

Thousands of dead fish were washed up on the foreshore at Gordon's Bay. The stench was very obnoxious and lorries were needed to cart them away by the ton to be buried. At this time there had drifted into False Bay a ten square mile mass of red plankton. Scientists associated the red plankton with the sudden death of the fish.

Now comes yet another, more comprehensive and very startling report. Wakefield Jones writing in the Pretoria News on March 18, 1965, describes this “red tide” as “half plant and half animal” and calls it

“the ocean killer.” The following excerpts from this article are very informative.

“The trouble is due to a microscopic creature that is half plant, half animal. . . . Scientists call them dinoflagellates—from the Greek meaning terrible and flagella or whip-like bits . . . sometimes 35 million organisms to a pint of sea water. . . . In their urgent need of oxygen they take every bit out of the water, leaving none for fish and other marine life. . . . A change in the weather is often enough to start the breeding mechanism.” In favourable conditions “the dinoflagellates multiply rapidly, splitting in half in every half-hour. As the creatures multiply and die, concentrated toxins are emitted which kill everything in the vicinity.

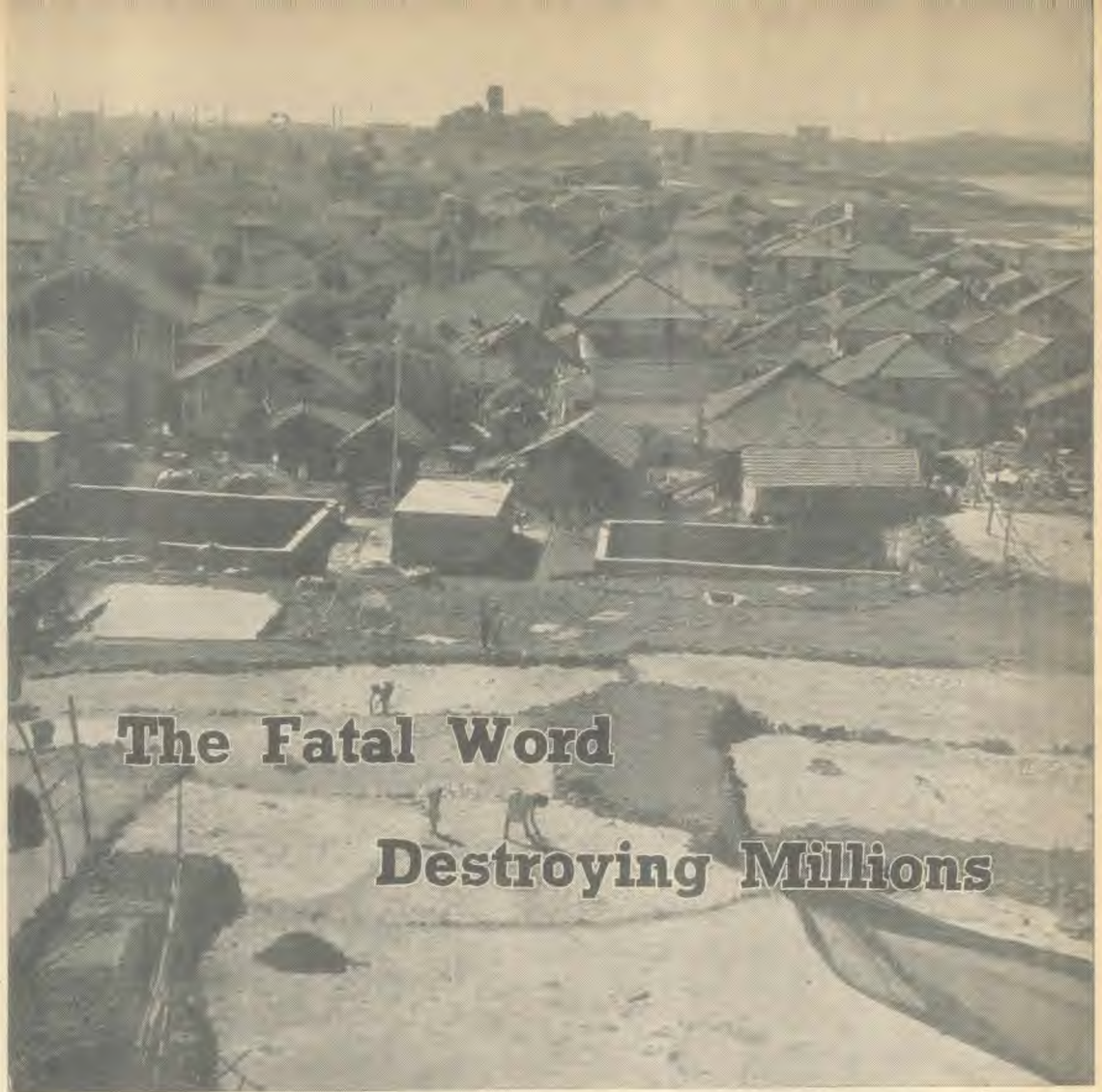
“Soviet coastal tourist areas have been affected by the acres of dead fish washed up on beaches—the comrades have packed their bags and left. So keen are the Russian marine scientists to get to the bottom of the red tide mystery that more than 100 Soviet trawlers have been set up as floating laboratories.

“Small reddish specks within the dinoflagellates give the red tide its name. But for the poison released, the creature would be just another marine organism.

“Robert Ingle, director of research at Florida's Division of Salt Water Fisheries, has confirmed the presence of an irritating gas which begins with the red tide's arrival. The gas causes sickness among residents of coastal resorts.

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## The Fatal Word

## Destroying Millions

Too many of us postpone living. That word which on the one hand signifies hope and promise and on the other hand expresses delay is the most ominous word in our vocabulary. "Tomorrow" is frequently the motto of the lazy and the foolish. Only he who accepts the Scripture dictum that "now is the accepted time; . . . now is the day" has discovered the key to the meaning of time.

Christ urged men to begin real living by accepting Him now. "He that believeth on me hath everlasting life" (John 6:47). "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (Verse 9).

Thus our Lord declared that the highest quality of existence is available now—that heaven and eternity may commence right at the immediate moment for the one who commits himself fully to God.

One of the pivotal words of Scripture is

*today*. "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." "This [today] is the day of salvation." "This [today] is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Hebrews 3:7, 8; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Psalm 118:24). The great snare in the philosophy of "tomorrow" is that there may be no tomorrow. The Bible declares of thoughtless men that "their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever." (Psalm 49:11.) Could all sense the brevity of life, their perspective would be truer and their aims and pursuits more accurate, worthwhile, and rewarding.

The poet Robert W. Service suggests:

"Just think! some night the stars will  
gleam  
Upon a cold, grey stone,  
And trace a name with silver beam,  
And lo! 'twill be your own."

How distant is this possibility? How "long" is man's span of existence in this life? How enduring will be our "tomorrows"?



There are some forms of life, that of insects with neither mouths nor stomachs, which live for less than a day. In comparison with these our lives are not short. If we were to reach the age of seventy, we would live more than 25,000 times as long as such insects—we would have 25,000 “tomorrows”!

But wait a moment. Let us work it out. How much time do we actually have, how much *free* time, in which to choose to do what we like to do, rather than what must be done? That is, how much time do we have in which we may really *live*? None of us would measure our lives just by the time spent in doing the regular daily chores.

Suppose we are one of the privileged persons who will reach seventy. Not all do, but just suppose. Of those 25,000 days approximately one-third would disappear in sleep and another third in earning our daily bread. This leaves us with the equivalent of about 9,000 days. A sixth of the original figure will be devoted to such necessities as eating, drinking, dressing, and bathing; another sixth to fulfilling our social obligations, however unwillingly. This now leaves us with but thirty-six months of free time to enjoy. We are not deducting such amounts of time as are consumed by sickness and other eventualities, and furthermore this final figure represents the free time for those who reach seventy. Most do not attain to this age and therefore cannot count on even a thousand days of free time. Besides, for many reading this, at least half of life has fled.

Let us ask those who are twenty-eight years old or more, “Which period of life went quickest for you, from eight years to eighteen, or from eighteen to twenty-eight?” Invariably the answer is the latter. The years accelerate as they increase, and the saying is true which claims, “The first twenty years is the longest half of your life.”

When as a child I laughed and wept,  
Time crept.  
When as a youth I dreamt and talked,  
Time walked.  
When I became a full-grown man,  
Time ran.  
When older still I grew,  
Time flew.  
Soon I shall find in travelling on,  
Time gone.  
O Christ, wilt Thou have saved me then?  
Amen!

“What is your life?” asks the Bible. “It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14). First Chronicles 29:15 declares, “Our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.” Job exclaimed, “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle” (Job 7:6). And the Psalmist says, “We

spend our years as a tale that is told” (Psalm 90:9).

Someone once asked a Christian pastor, “Will you tell me what life is?” He paused just a moment and then deliberately walked away from his questioner. When his friend met him the following day, he said to him, “Yesterday I asked you a question and you did not answer it.” “But I did answer it,” replied the pastor. “No,” returned the other, “you were there one minute, and then you were gone.” “Well, you asked me what life was, and that was my answer. Could I have answered your question better?” The pastor’s action was apt. It was a complete summary of our life here below. We come and we go. We appear for a brief moment, and then we vanish. “One short life, ’twill soon be past; Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

Of course we are not conscious of growing older. Somehow we feel that we are ever the same and ever will be. This, however, is only an illusion. For example, while you are reading this, apparently still, the earth is revolving around the sun and bearing us through space at an amazing rate. Similarly, as I write this page and you read it, we are being borne toward eternity at lightning speed. Our pulses each moment beat the funeral march to the tomb.

An aged and somewhat eccentric Christian knocked at the shut door of the shop of a friend. When finally the door was opened and he was admitted, he asked, “Were you expecting me?”

“No, I wasn’t,” was the answer.

“But what if I had been Death?”

Most of us will not be expecting Death when he visits us. Therefore we must be prepared. Only one preparation will suffice for eternity—that summarized by an old poem which exhorts us to “trust and obey.” Both that poem and the Bible assure us that “there’s no other way”—*no other way*. But the point where religion hurts is requirement, chiefly the all-comprehending requirement of un-

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*Often we find ourselves absorbed in inconsequential problems with no time for eternal matters*





# YOU CAN HAVE PEACE—

For twenty-one years since World War II the world has lived uneasily. More than once in these twenty-one years total war might have broken out. A war to end war; for who can fight, when there are no survivors?

For twenty-one years there might have been peace. They might have been years of prosperity, a time for the building up of a broken civilization, the repair of a world shattered by the biggest, bloodiest, most needless massacre in human history. But real peace has not come.

Today there stands poised a destructive force beyond computation. Any one unit is large enough to make the whole destructive power of World War II seem a plaything. The whole: beyond the power of the mind to understand. Think of a holocaust—men and women dying, children lost, frightened, robbed of their lives before they begin. Double it. No, treble it, and then treble it again. The picture is still too small. The living envy the dead: they find no repose, for there is none.

For twenty-one years diplomats and politicians have been seeking agreement, agreement to outlaw war, that we and our children may live in safety and confidence.

"And that aggression between the parties signatory to this agreement shall henceforth be outlawed. Differences between us shall be settled in the World Parliament appointed, which Parliament shall meet at least once in every twelve months. Arms and armaments shall be dismantled, the first inspection to commence six months from the date of this agreement. . . ."

They have looked, and found nothing. They have negotiated, to no avail. They have compromised, and the compromises have been rejected. There is no war. There is no peace. There is no rest from the vigil, for the enemy waits.

Can there be a God who will let the world go on like this? Does He care that men's hearts are failing them for fear of tomorrow? Does He know that today men are desperate to find the solution to the crisis of our time?

Just before He ascended to heaven Jesus said to His disciples: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you" (John 14:27).

Peace, in this world. Peace, for a time such as this. Peace, when men are afraid of their own shadows.

What is this peace? What is this thing so fervently grasped at, yet so hardly attained? Certainly it is not just the cessation of fighting. There has been no fighting in Europe for twenty-one years, but neither has there been peace.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

Here is the important point. Christ does not promise peace as the world tried to offer it. "My peace I leave with you." The peace of Jesus.

In what, then, does this peace consist? It is not merely an end to battle, to the strident tones of war.

It is not even an end to the fear and misery of fighting. For it is a greater peace than these.

Jesus goes on: "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come unto you" (John 14:18).

In this lies the secret. It is an inner peace. A knowledge that, in spite of what may be going on around, we are safe. It is a surety that Jesus is taking care of all our needs.

Here then is the contrast. This peace—this attainable peace—is in contradistinction to the alliances and treaties of men. It is more permanent, for it is made with an eternal God who does not sleep, nor go back on His word.

"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself" (John 14:3).

This is the core of Christ's peace. Whatever may happen now, whether it be war, or whether it be the absence of war, we have an assured future. We do not need to worry; we can leave it all in the hands of an all-wise and all-powerful God.

Here is the peace we desire. The political scene is unimportant. The treaties of men do not matter. Our peace is not of this world. It will not fade. The treaty will not be broken, nor will the terms be distorted to suit the changing desires of men.

The terms are clear.

"My peace I leave with you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. . . . I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you. . . . He shall cover thee with His feathers. . . . Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day. . . . A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. . . . Because thou hast made the Lord . . . even the most High, thy habitation" (John 14:27, 18; Psalm 91:4, 5, 7, 9).

How do we acquire this peace? It is simple and yet it is the most difficult thing. All that is required is complete trust in God: childlike faith in a God who still cares for individuals in our fear-ridden world. Complete faith in a God who knows and loves each person. Utter trust in a God who is waiting for you and for me to place our lives in His hands, to know this peace, this durable peace, this everlasting peace.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

—W. M. WALTON

# NOW



There appeared recently in the magazine section of one of our week-end newspapers an article entitled "The Mystery of the Frozen Dinosaur Eggs." In this the writer told of the countless thousands of dinosaurs and other monsters who once inhabited the earth and of their sudden extinction. In certain parts of Europe, Asia and America vast burial-grounds of dinosaur bones have been found, showing that these strange creatures existed—and perished—in great numbers. Their remains have been found in widely-separated areas.

The writer of this article mentions the

## why a mystery?

numbers whose bones litter parts of the Gobi Desert in central Asia which have supplied Chinese chemists with their dragon's teeth for centuries. He tells too of the large quantities of dinosaur eggs which have been discovered in France. Vast numbers of these eggs have been found in huge nests, and though now fossilized it is evident that these eggs were at one time deep-frozen, and preserved in frozen mud. The limestone, sand-stone and clay of the regions where they exist suggest that these areas may at one time have been marshy ground.

Having presented us with all this—and more—interesting information regarding these prehistoric creatures and their fossil remainings, the writer of the article engages in some speculation as to how and why they ceased to exist. It truly is a puzzle—unless one has the key to unlock the mystery—as to why these eggs never hatched, and are now found petrified and in great heaps. The speculations of this writer suggest certain ideas which have long been accepted as a workable hypothesis by creationist scientists who believe the Biblical record of the great cataclysm known as Noah's flood.

He suggests that a sudden period of intense cold destroyed these ancient denizens of the earth, and this lasted for a considerable period of time. Thus not only were the living monsters destroyed, but the chance of their eggs hatching was also eliminated. He postulates that such a sudden wave of cold could have been caused by the earth changing its axis following a collision with an asteroid. He states, quite correctly, that such a change of axis—however caused—would have changed the seasons and climate of the earth and produced conditions necessary to destroy those ancient, giant creatures. He also mentions the belief held by some that the earth once turned on a vertical axis. In that case there was a uniform climate all over



the earth without seasonal variations as we know them.

That this was indeed the case is evident to Bible-believers who read of the Edenic conditions prevailing on the earth between its creation and the great deluge of Noah's day. It is borne out by the existence in arctic regions of great deposits of coal—the remains of extensive forests. Indeed in the coal-beds of Novaya Zemlya in the arctic region fossilized remains of tropical tree-ferns and other flora typical of our torrid zones have been found.

The incredible quantities of mammoth elephant remains found in the frozen tundra of Arctic Siberia and Alaska confirms this conclusion. Untold thousands of these carcasses exist in a well-preserved state in the frozen mud of that region. They are exposed from time to time as the erosion of river banks wash them from their icy beds. These huge beasts are still in a state of remarkable preservation. Their flesh is still fresh and in some instances undigested vegetation is found in their stomachs and unchewed in their mouths.

All this is evidence of two great facts. First of all it is clear that creatures which now favour tropical and subtropical climates, existed in fantastic numbers in what is now the frozen Arctic, secondly they came to a sudden end in a cataclysm of such proportions as staggers the imagination. They were destroyed and almost instantly frozen and buried in the mixture of mud and ice in which their remains are now found. That what we now know as the frigid zones of the Arctic and Antarctic once enjoyed a sub-tropical climate seems to be beyond doubt.

What caused this sudden destruction and almost simultaneous freezing and burial of these mighty creatures of a dead world? The writer of this article

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With man-made satellites out in space and encircling the earth every ninety minutes, man has at last broken away from the gravitational hold of this planet and has established his first foothold in space. Space flight, which only a few years ago was confined to science fiction, is today taken seriously and scientists speak with certainty of the day not far distant, when man will land on other planets.

As we sit on the exciting edge of cosmic discovery, the most intriguing question coming into our minds is, "What shall we find on these other planets?" "Will they be inhabited? What sort of beings could they be?"

Many astronomers, after surveying the skies through powerful telescopes, supplemented by other modern scientific equipment, say there is every reason to believe that there is life on other planets. The late Sir James Jeans, one of Britain's leading astronomers, concluded that "there must be myriads of worlds capable of supporting life as we know it here." While Sir Harold Spencer Jones, the Astronomer Royal, says:

*"With the universe constructed on so vast a scale, it would seem inherently improbable that our small earth could be the only home of life."*

#### *Our world a cosmic dot*

Notice that he refers to our planet as "our small earth." We can begin to appreciate the smallness of our world as we think of the universe about us. Let us in imagination look with the astronomer through a powerful modern telescope into space. First, we see the sun which is the heart of our solar system. It would take 1,300,000 worlds like ours to make one of its size. Then we fix our gaze on the family of nine planets that are continually revolving about it. First comes Mercury and then there is Venus. Our little world comes next in relative distance from the sun, and beyond us is Mars. Then come Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. Pluto is approximately 4,000 million miles from our earth.

So far we have only been looking at our own solar system. This earth with the other eight planets revolving about the sun are really only next-door neighbours. We live as it were in the same street. We must remember that our sun is not the only sun in the universe. It is only one of forty thousand million suns that go to make up what is known as the Milky Way System, a lens-shaped assemblage of glowing suns or stars. Suppose every one of these suns had a family of nine planets like our sun. There would be 360 thousand million planets in the Milky Way System. And if only one planet in every nine were inhabited, just think of the hundreds of millions of inhabited worlds in the Milky Way!

But even this isn't the end. Our Milky Way System is merely the doorstep in the universe, for astronomers tell us that it is only one of at least 200 million other galaxies which they know exist. And they also say that they have no idea of how far the universe extends beyond the 200 million galaxies they can see!

As we begin to realize the vastness of the universe about us, we must surely agree with Sir Harold Spencer Jones that, "it would seem very improbably that our small earth could be the *only* home of life.

*Ours is a fallen world. It is possible that there are millions of spheres peopled with unfallen beings.*

## Are Other Worlds Inhabited?



Now let us take God's Word and see what it has to say on this very fascinating subject, for we must remember that the Scriptures spoke of "the circle of the earth" (Isa. 40:22) centuries before man discovered the fact. The Bible is God's Book of true science, and man's scientific discoveries merely verify what Scripture has declared for centuries.

In Hebrews 1:1,2 we learn that God through Christ "made the worlds." Notice the plural, "worlds." And Ephesians 3:14,15 says: "for this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Scripture here indicates that we on this planet are but members of the "whole family in heaven and earth." Now let us turn to Isaiah 45:18 where God tells us why He created this planet.



is indeed sufficient evidence both in the sky above us and in the Scriptures that other worlds are inhabited.

### *Only one planet in rebellion*

But though this earth is not the only planet that is inhabited, it seems that it is the only planet whose inhabitants are in rebellion against God. Notice what the Scriptures reveal to us about the inhabitants of other worlds.

"Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein; and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee (Nehemiah 9:6).

The family of heaven worships God. This world alone has disputed His claim to worship. This world alone is a planet in rebellion. Consequently these other worlds, unlike this world, have never known fear or pain. Their inhabitants never looked on the face of death. The tragedy of evil which has overtaken our human race is the result of rebellion against God.

This earth is the only sheep in God's great flock which has wandered away. Ninety-and-nine in the fold, and only one went astray. But in one mighty demonstration the God of the whole universe revealed His great love for that one little planet that was lost. "For God so loved the world"—this world—"that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16). Nineteen centuries ago the Son of God stepped down from the right hand of His Father and visited this planet. He came to "seek and to save" the little planet that was "lost." (Luke 19:10.)

Among the unnumbered universes, this earth is like the tiniest grain of sand on the face of the desert. The nations of this world "are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance" (Isaiah 40:15). And man is nothing. But measured by the cross of Calvary, man is of great value. Calvary declares the value that the God of the universe places on you and me.

Christ visited this planet to die upon the cross and begin the work of bringing the inhabitants of this world back into harmony with God and reuniting them with the rest of His great family of created beings. To complete the work, He has promised to return and receive them to Himself. (John 14:1-3).

### *Space flight for all*


Scientists today are busy designing and experimenting with space ships and space suits which, they hope, will make it possible for humans to escape from earth's gravitational pull and launch freely into space, where they may set their course for any planet they choose.

Will man's plans for space travel ever materialize? Of one thing we can be sure. Man will never set foot upon any inhabited planet of another world, for God would never permit this rebellious human race to destroy the peace and joy of God's beautiful universe. The inhabitants of the earth are infected with the disease of sin and God would not permit them to contaminate the inhabitants of other worlds. Until man has been decontaminated of sin, God has placed him under quarantine.

The Bible does however predict that a sizeable segment of the human race—those who have permitted the precious blood of Christ to decontaminate them of sin—will be privileged to engage in space flight in the not-too-distant future.

This, however, will not come about through atomic-powered rockets, but through Christ's return with divine power. The apostle Paul describes this wonderful event with these words:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,  
To page 19



"For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it *to be inhabited.*"

God tells that He "formed," or organized the earth "to be inhabited." He also indicates that if this world were not the abode of life, its creation would have been "in vain"—or useless. Would it not naturally follow that if such be true of this little speck of cosmic dust, then much if not all of God's creation would likewise be in vain if not inhabited? Is it reasonable to restrict life to this planet alone? Did God make many houses and put inhabitants in only one? Little wonder that Bernard DeFontenelle, a prominent astronomer, has said that "to think that there may be more worlds than one is neither against reason nor Scripture." There





## Change Your Outlook

As Jesus Christ went up and down the land of Palestine preaching to His generation, the heart of His message was "the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). This was the message of John the Baptist before Him. "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:1, 2).

The call to repentance has been the message of prophets and apostles all through the ages. What does it mean to repent? An attitude so much emphasized must be important. And it should be understood in terms meaningful to this generation—in terms of life as we live it.

Why is repentance necessary? How does one develop or experience it? Is it a once-for-all experience? Is it a state in which one must keep one's self in order to be eligible for citizenship in the kingdom of heaven?

In most people's minds repentance means to be sorry—to display an attitude of regret, remorse, and sadness. Now, if this is all it is, how can it be associated with good news?

Again, how can one be sorry for something that

he is glad he did? Suppose you had a "good time" last night. It just thrilled you through and through. And suppose you tell me about it today and I say, "Shame on you. Don't you know that was a very sinful thing to do? If you ever expect to get into the kingdom of heaven you are going to have to be sorry for that. Come on, be sorry now," Will you find tears of penitence rolling down your cheeks on the basis of this kind of message?

Another question, how can one get to the place where he cannot repent though he seeks it with tears? It is said concerning Esau, who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, "For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected; for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears" (Hebrews 12:17).

While repentance may include tears, there is something far more important about it. Actually it means "to have another mind." To experience repentance is to experience a change of mind and outlook—to see things in a different light. Phillips translates Mark 1:15 this way: "The time has come at last—the kingdom of God has arrived. You must



change your hearts and minds and believe the good news."

Consider also the words of Jesus in Luke 13 concerning the tragedy of the falling tower: "You remember those eighteen people who were killed at Siloam when the tower collapsed upon them? Are you imagining that they were worse offenders than any of the other people who lived in Jerusalem? I assure you they were not. You will all die as tragically unless your whole outlook is changed!" (Luke 13:4, 5, Phillips).

Repentance involves getting our eyes open to the truth about things, the truth about God, the truth about ourselves, the truth about the issues of life, and then doing something about it.

Paul was sent to the Gentiles "to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light" (Acts 26:18). When people get their eyes open, their attitudes change. This change of attitude is repentance.

It is only as I see what I did last night in a new light that I can change my attitude toward it and be truly sorry. If I discover that what I did deeply hurt someone I dearly love, I can say, "I'm sorry," and really mean it. I discover that something has interfered with a relationship which is very meaningful to me.

While repentance is characterized at times by sadness and tears, it is also characterized by good judgment and wise moves in the right direction. This comes as a result of knowing what is truth—of learning what the facts really are.

One preacher has put it this way: "There came a day when the truth stepped up to Christopher Columbus, so to speak, and said, 'Christopher, the world is round. The new route to India lies to the west. Repent and believe.' And so Christopher Columbus began to repent. That was his virtue. That is why he was a great man. He began to repent of the conviction that the world was flat. He began to repent of the security he had in Spain, and he set forth not knowing whither he went."

As Christopher Columbus and his crew sailed out of the bay, I am certain a large group of men stood on the dock cheerily waving them farewell and muttering to each other under their breath. "There goes a big fool. There goes a condemned man. He is going to fall off the other edge of the world, which any man in his right senses knows is as flat as a chappati. And he is condemned spiritually because he is obviously flying in the face of the will of God who made the world flat."

They were in no mood to repent. They were so sure of all the things they knew. And they proposed to cling to the precious little securities near and dear to them.

Today truth steps up to a teenage transistor-radio enthusiast and playboy and says, "Look, friend; success as a lawyer, a doctor, or an engineer depends on an education. It requires hard work and self-discipline, but it pays rich dividends. Repent, boy, and believe the good news. Plan and work accordingly." Now, if he gets his eyes open to these words of truth, if he awakens to the realization that one must deny present ten-rupee pleasures for future one hundred rupee pleasures he will repent. He will change his attitude and do something about it.

Now, why is repentance so necessary? The answer is found in the words of Ezekiel 18, verse 30: "Repent and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin." The necessity for repenting, for changing our minds and hearts, is clearly evident in the fact that the direction in which we are going will lead to our ruin.

The only kind of repentance that counts is that which effects a real change in the life. Many are sorry for their sins and even make an outward reformation because they fear that their wrongdoing will bring suffering upon themselves. This is not repentance in the Bible sense. They lament the suffering or the consequences rather than the sin. Such was the grief of Esau.

The redemptive attitude toward wrong is to admit it. Face the truth

about it and about yourself. Face the truth about God and what is right. Give up false ideas on what ever hinders right actions. Change your whole outlook. Believe the truth and act accordingly.

Now, obviously, this is difficult, especially for an adult. It is hard for a grown man to change his outlook. He knows too much. He knows too many things which are not so and he knows some things which are so; but he has lost the capacity to believe that there are other things which are more so. When a man has been mistaken, it is hard on his pride to admit it.

To believe some things, one must change his point of view. One may need to change his mind about a great many things. And change is often painful. Changes often involve giving up something we dearly love. One must even be willing to give up something good for something better, and often this we are not willing to do.

Then, of course, there comes a time when habit becomes so fixed that it is practically impossible to change. The older we get, the more true this is.

What hope is there then? How can one repent and believe the good news of the kingdom of heaven? How does repentance come about? Is repentance a hurdle we



### WHY WONDER?

*If radio's slim fingers  
Can pluck a melody  
From night and toss it over  
A continent or sea;  
If petaled white notes  
Of a violin  
Are blown across a mountain  
Or a city's din;  
If songs like crimson roses  
Are culled from thin, blue air,  
Why should mortals wonder  
If God hears prayer?*

—ETHEL ROMING FULLER



must make successfully before we can approach the kingdom of heaven?

Here we come to the "good news" aspect of repentance. First of all, according to the Scriptures, repentance is a gift of God. Listen to the apostle Peter as he tells the people of his day the good news. In Acts 5:30, 31 we read, "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."

The good news is that repentance is a gift of God worked out in our lives under the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ. The agent that effects this change in our minds and hearts is the Holy Spirit.

God in His goodness, tries to show us wherein we are headed in the wrong direction. He also points out the fact that if we really want peace, we will follow in the right path. He is also good enough to show us the results of the wrong or wicked way. When we learn to appreciate God and His goodness, when we learn to know Him as He is, when we realize that He is deeply hurt by our doing things that lead only to heartache, and when we begin to see that He has something much better planned for us—it is then that we have a motivation for repentance.

Repentance brought about by fear is not genuine repentance. Sometimes God uses the motive of fear to keep us from destroying ourselves until He can teach us that He loves us and that "the wages of sin is death." But He wants us to understand that the real reason for changing the direction of our lives is not only to avoid destruction, but to find fulfilment and true self-realization.

Understanding repentance in its true light we discover that it is not a prerequisite to coming to Christ, but it is the result of fellowship with Him. He opens our eyes to the truth. It is not merely a duty we must perform in order to find entrance into the kingdom. It is a privilege. It is the redemptive attitude toward wrong which comes

from Christ's attitude—an attitude that is caught rather than taught.

Jesus Christ not only enlightens our minds and changes our attitudes, but He supplies the dynamic—the inner resources necessary to effect the change called for.

Repent ye, therefore, and believe the good news.

—PAUL C. HEUBACH

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## THE SEA

*From page 5*

"Marine scientists in Russia and America are very concerned about the red tide. Once it used to start in the spring, reaching its height during August and September. But now it has started to appear all year round. Scientists at the Marine Laboratory of the University of California say the creatures are swept by the currents from Russian waters—where heavy all-year-round concentrations have been found—into the Gulf Stream and the warmer waters of the California coast. But scientists want to know how these creatures can also survive and multiply in colder waters, what causes the red tide and how they can control it . . . for the red tide is among the most troublesome problems of the age."

It does not strain the imagination to see in this "red tide" the physical and scientific beginning of what could speedily become the total fulfilment of the second plague—a sea red and jellified as a result of the death of every living thing in the wake of the red tide. These minute organisms multiplying by doubling themselves every half-hour is a ratio of increase which is incalculable and staggering in its far-reaching possibilities. And when God's mercy is withdrawn from our wicked world, releasing all restraint upon the forces of destruction and evil, it would need a very short space of time to render the oceans red and jellified as a result of the scientific operation of the red tide only.

When one considers that the sea constitutes approximately two-

thirds of the earth's surface, it can easily be realized that the stench of the rotting oceans could precipitate dreadful diseases on every continent of earth with no solution nor escape as was possible in False Bay by simply burying the dead fish.

The atmosphere of the world at the present time is polluted in varying degrees by the poisonous by-products of nuclear explosions, such as strontium 90. These poisons are steadily filtering back to the earth. Amongst other dangers, exposure to concentrations of these poisons causes blisters on the skin which erupt into vicious sores. The first plague is a scourge of sores which will break out upon the godless. As regards the second plague, the sea, being two-thirds of the earth's surface, is naturally receiving a much greater dosage of fallout pollution in addition to the poisons which the rains wash off the earth into the sea. Could it be that these radio-active pollutions serve as a nutrient to the red tide, causing it to thrive and multiply so unaccountably?

We do not wish to be alarmists. But Christians are called upon to be watchmen to the world. A watchman is no watchman if he does not sound an alarm at the sign of danger, whether the threatened danger eventuates or not. Therefore we should awake to the significance of what is happening in the oceans, and know that this scientific phenomenon conforms literally with the precise conditions needed to fulfil the second plague. The question comes, could the increasing manifestations of the red tide perhaps be the beginning of these conditions which constitute the second of the seven last plagues? If so, then how late is the hour? Very late indeed, my friend. There is no time to lose before making things right with Him who has promised His followers that, "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. . . . There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling" (Ps. 91:7, 10).

—DOREEN M. TAINTON



(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 <sup>h</sup> 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

One day near sunset a mountain climber discovered that he had lost his way. It was cold and snow was falling. Finding himself without shelter he decided to make a fire. Gathering some twigs and branches, he heaped them up. Then he opened his match box to find that he had just one match. If that one match failed he knew he would probably die of cold. With his overcoat he shielded the heaped up branches and struck the match. It lit. With great care he brought it close to the dry branches and to his delight he soon had a fire burning.

That one match made the difference between life and death to that man. This study may mean the difference between eternal life and eternal death to you!

## 1. What accusation by the Jews indicates that Jesus loved sinners?

Luke 15:2. "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them." (2 US Hebrews 7:25.)

Regarding God's love for sinners an unknown writer says:

"We only see a little of God's loving;  
A few rich treasures from His bounty store;  
But out there—beyond our eyes' horizon—  
There's more—there's more."

## 2. To what extent is Christ able to save those in sin?

Hebrews 7:25. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him." (3 US John 16:8.)

Mahatma Gandhi had disobeyed his father and went to him trembling to confess his guilt. The confession was written and handed to the father who was confined to bed. In his autobiography Gandhi tells of his father's reaction. "He read it through, and pearl-drops trickled down his cheeks, wetting the paper. For a moment he closed his eyes in thought and then he tore up the note. He had sat up to read it. He again lay down. I also cried. I could see my father's agony.... Those pearl-drops of love cleansed my heart."

## 3. What divine influence works in the hearts of men to convict them of sin?



No.	Title	First Text	Code	No. of Texts
25	The Unpardonable Sin	Luke 15:2	US	11

# THE UNPARDONABLE SIN



John 16:8. "And when He [the Holy Ghost] is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." (4 US Matt. 12:31.)

#### 4. What sin did Jesus say cannot be pardoned?

Matthew 12:31. "All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men." (5 US Isaiah 30:21.)

"For a man guilty of the sin against the Holy Ghost probation has closed and there is for him no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 8, p. 1118.

The sin against the Holy Spirit is occasioned by an attitude in which the sinner refuses to respond to His voice in the heart. In such cases the heart becomes less and less susceptible to its influence. In time it is no longer heard. When this happens the sinner can no longer be forgiven because he can no longer be sorry for his sin. And only the repentant sinner can be forgiven.

#### 5. With what patience does the Holy Spirit strive to direct us away from sin?

Isaiah 30:21. "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." (6 US Genesis 6:3.)

#### 6. Is there a limit to the length of time in which God pleads with men to repent?

Genesis 6:3. "My spirit shall not always strive with man." (7 US Acts 17:30.)

"There are those who say 'Tomorrow  
Will be time enough so wait.'  
But how loud will be the wailing  
When the Master says 'Too late!'"

#### 7. If we are not totally aware of sin how does God deal with us?

Acts 17:30. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at." (8 US Acts 17:30, second part.)

#### 8. When the concept of sin is clear what should be our response?

Acts 17:30. "But now [God] commandeth all men every where to repent." (9 US Hebrews 4:7.)

"Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life." Mrs. E. G. White.

"Renunciation without aversion is not lasting." Nishkulanand.

#### 9. When is the most opportune time to repent.

Hebrews 4:7. "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (10 US Proverbs 28:9.)

"If we put off repentance another day, we have a day more to repent of and a day less to repent in." Mason.

#### 10. What is one reason that leads to the unpardonable sin?

Proverbs 28:9. "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." (11 US 1 John 1:7.)

"The law warns of danger like an illuminated signboard; 'Quicksand beyond this point, stay out.'" Robert D. Moon, *Love's Conquest*, p. 31.

#### 11. What practice is necessary to avoid the danger of committing the unpardonable sin?

1 John 1:7. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (US//)



## AN AIR-PILOT SPEAKS TO A HUNTER

G. C. SMITH

*I cannot kill a splendid thing that flies:  
I, too, have met the north wind, razor-keen;  
And, isolated where the daylight dies,  
Have watched the shadows closing like a screen  
Above the earth, leaving me face to face  
With the unrivalled majesty of space.*

*Comrades, we share the miracle of flight,  
Adventuring to heaven's outer bars;  
Brother to comets, kindred of the stars,  
We trace a path of life upon the night.  
I cannot wound a throbbing, flying thing—  
I know the terror of a broken wing!*



## ARE OTHER WORLDS INHABITED?

From page 11

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 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).

To some, such an experience may appear fantastic and the subject of ridicule. But if man with his finite capacities hopes soon to penetrate farther and farther into space, is it not reasonable that God, who made the millions upon millions of blazing suns, together with their satellites, should be able to travel among the heavenly bodies He has created?

While scores of thousands of people have submitted their names for the first flight to the moon, few, comparatively few, are making application to make the flight to glory when Jesus comes. Why shouldn't there be many more people who want to go to the city of God? Scientists inform us that there is no life on the moon, no atmosphere, nothing except uninhabited regions in which no man could survive even for a few moments without modern scientific gadgets to assist him. But concerning the place Jesus has gone to prepare, the Scriptures declare: "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). What a day that will be when the whole family of the universe will be one again! Not only the angels of heaven, but the unfallen beings of other worlds will rejoice to see the one lost sheep brought back into harmony with God and His great family of created beings.

Will you not prepare now for this wonderful journey? You can actually begin the journey now by coming to Christ and by grace bringing your life into harmony with His.

—F. J. C. PEARSE



## THE FATAL WORD

From page 7

conditional surrender to the Most High in all things and at this moment. Today, not tomorrow, is the right time for obedience.

Consider the emphasis that the Bible as a whole places upon this matter. And as we do so, let us remember the searching question of Christ, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). On almost the first page of the Bible is found mention of God's requirement of obedience: "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying ..." (Genesis 2:16). Also in Genesis 3:11: "Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"

Says Dr. Andrew Murray, "Note how obedience to the command is the one virtue of Paradise, the one condition of man's abiding there, the one thing his Creator asks of him. Nothing is said of faith, or humility, or love: obedience includes all. As supreme as is the claim and authority of God is the demand for obedience as the one thing that is to decide his destiny. In the life of man, to obey is the one thing needful."—*The School of Obedience*, pp. 13, 14.

Turning to the last leaf of Scripture, we find the verse "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14). Midway between these texts stands the cross of the One who was "obedient unto death" and by whose obedience "many [shall] be made righteous" (Philippians 2:8; Romans 5:19). Even the great epistle of faith, Romans, begins and ends with a note to obedience. (Romans 1:5; 16:26.)

It is noteworthy that at each new beginning in Scripture the

necessity for this virtue is stressed. First we have Adam (Genesis 2:16), then Noah, the new head of humanity whose obedience is four times mentioned (Genesis 6:22; 7:5, 9, 16). And then also in Genesis is the record of Abraham, "the father of the faithful," who "by faith" obeyed. (Hebrews 11:8.)

With Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt, came the proclamation of the Ten Commandments at Sinai. Later when Christ came to deliver men from an even greater bondage, He began by showing in the Sermon on the Mount that true religion consisted of obedience to the spiritual requirements of God's law. (Matthew 5:18, 19.) The company of people gathered out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people by the last gospel message are described in Revelation 14:12, and of them it is said, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

The reason for this stress upon obedience is not difficult to find. Harmony in the universe of God is dependent upon conformity to law. All nature is governed by strict principles, and when man, a moral being, was formed, co-existent with him was a moral law. A finite creature in an infinite environment, man needed the guidance of his Creator, and his happiness inevitably depended upon his subservience to this guidance. Obedience was to be the highest form of worship and the surest evidence of discipleship.

Those who would defer their obedience to God until tomorrow should consider the prayers of the psalmist: "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, ... that I may know how frail I am." "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalms 39:4; 90:12).

Said one man, "I have but one candle, and when that is burned, I am through." Unlike the candle, the flaming wick of our lives may be extinguished not only unexpectedly but finally. As a philosopher of long ago pointed out, it is not for most men the thought that



death means annihilation which causes pause, but the probability that it does not. (Epicurus.) "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). This life is the sowing time, and all must face the harvest. The solemn truth is that what we make of ourselves in this life we are to remain in eternity. Death, which closes our probation, works no change in our character. At that time God's decree is, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still" (Revelation 22:11).

In this connection it should be remembered that "there is one case of death-bed repentance recorded, . . . that none should despair; and only one that none should presume"; and that "those who plan to repent at the eleventh hour die at ten-thirty." A warning to all, given in love by Christ, is the story of the wealthy farmer. We read.

"The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:16-20). After relating this parable, Jesus, thinking of those who defer godliness till "tomorrow" and who make this world their home, added. "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (verse 21).

How may one be rich toward God? "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold" (Psalm 119:72, 127). "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he

it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him," said Jesus in John 14:21.

But how hopeless is the attempt to truly obey if the heart is yet unchanged! And how impossible it is to change the heart any other way than by contemplating the love of God as revealed in the Christ of Calvary.

—DESMOND FORD

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**WHY A MYSTERY?**

*From page 9*

speculates that this happened through a collision between our planet and a body from space which knocked the earth twenty-two degrees from perpendicular on its axis. He concedes, however, that it has never been explained why. We believe that the writer—and a large majority of scientists and others with him—ignores the fact that there is an explanation for all these phenomena which puzzle them so much. That explanation is found in the Bible.

The record of the first chapters of Genesis gives all the information needed to explain these "unexplained" mysteries. There we read that God destroyed the world by a flood and these creatures are evidence of the truth of that statement. Why should scientists, philosophers, and writers for the popular press speculate concerning that which has been so vividly and historically recorded by the only One who knows what happened to the ancient world? Whether an asteroid collided with the earth and knocked it on to an axis that pro-

duced these phenomena is not material. Whether this happened as the result of a world-shattering earthquake or by some other means makes little difference. What is evident is that such a change took place.

Whatever means God may have used to produce the result, it was clearly an act of divine intervention to destroy a world that had plunged to the depths of rebellion and degradation. The primeval earth with its uniform climate and luxuriant flora and fauna perished by a cataclysmic flood which wiped out the gigantic creatures whose remains are now being unearthed, and froze those in the Polar regions before burying them in mud and ice. God used this to give the earth and mankind another chance. True science recognizes and accepts that fact. The fossil remains scattered all over the earth, the frozen dinosaur eggs of France and the fresh-frozen mammoth elephants of Siberia testify to this as fact.

Man in his continual rebellion against God refuses to acknowledge this, and postulates theory upon theory to explain the phenomena without God. How appropriate and pertinent are the words of the apostle Peter: "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished" (2 Peter 3:5, 6).

Added to this is the thought-provoking prophecy: "But . . . are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (Verse 7). Another day of judgment and destruction faces the earth and mankind. No Noah's ark will preserve man and animal life for the future, for everything will be consumed in the fire that purifies the earth. (See verses 8-13.) But God will then create "a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." And those who choose Christ as Lord and Master now will share the glorious promise of eternal life in that world made new.

— G. S. STEVENSON



# THEMES FOR THOUGHT



We often refuse to admit facts, not because there is evidence against them, but because there is a theory against them.

—President Radhakrishnan

*Simply clipping a tiger's claws will not make him lose his taste for blood. Good resolutions and reformation cannot change the man inside.*

—Adapted

Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much.  
Wisdom is humble that he knows no more.

—Anonymous

*Experience is not what happens to you; it is what you do with what happens to you.*

—Aldous Huxley

Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have.

—H. J. Schachtel



# HEALTH AND RELIGION



The close relationship of buoyant health and a vibrant Christian experience is frequently overlooked. Yet this relationship is clearly taught in the Scriptures, and with a little observation one can see that physical well-being and religion are inseparable.

For instance, when man came forth from the hand of his Creator, he was a perfect being—perfect physically, mentally, and spiritually. All of man's physical, spiritual, and mental powers were in harmony with the laws of God. But with the entrance of sin this harmony was disrupted, and man's physical body suffered the penalty—disease and death. His mental faculties were no longer in perfect accord with his Maker; his imaginations became evil. Likewise, the natural desire to serve his Creator was gone; his spiritual nature was changed.

When Christ came, He made plain that He was going to restore man entirely. He would bring release from physical suffering, would set at liberty those minds held captive by Satan, and forgive sins.

Since the fall of man was complete in nature, then man must be saved physically as well as spiritually. That this is the work that Christ carried on is evidenced by the record which states, He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil" (Acts 10:38). He commanded His followers to do as He had done. They were to follow in His footsteps.

By looking closely we can see that Peter, James, John, and Paul all included a programme of health in their ministry. Peter says: "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness" (2 Peter 1:5, 6). Peter well knew that an intemperate man is apt to be impatient. And this axiom penned by Peter is just as true today as it was the day it was written. An intemperate man is apt to be peevish, hasty, and impatient; he cannot control his emotions.

The apostle Paul places the care of the human body on a high plane. To us he says, "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? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

John, the beloved disciple, in these very beautiful words brings to us a message of health: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2).

There is a divine reason for this emphasis on taking care of the physical health. The connection between the mind and the body is so intimate that whatever affects the one also in turn affects the other.

That the mind can interfere with the proper functioning of the blood-vessels, as well as with other organs, is now a well-established fact. Digestion, breathing, heart rate, and intestinal function can be upset by an upset mind.

There can be no doubt that by upsetting the physical nature Satan gains the victory over many an unsuspecting Christian. In fact, it was through the avenue of something pleasing to the eye and taste—appetite—that Satan overcame the first pair. Satan still uses this potent weapon. Look about you at the millions of people controlled by perverted appetites. They are under the influence of alcohol, drugs, sedatives, or the like, much of the time.

One writer has put it this way: "The body is the only medium through which the mind and the soul are developed for the upbuilding of character. Hence it is that the adversary of souls directs his temptations to the enfeebling and degrading of the physical powers. His success here means the surrender to evil of the whole being. The tendencies of our physical nature, unless under the dominion of a higher power, will surely work ruin and death."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 130.