

# PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of the Gold Standard



**How the Dollar Crisis  
is Forging a United Europe!**

SEE PAGE 4



the  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
a magazine of understanding

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**ABOUT OUR COVER**

A survival-oriented Europe—troubled by indecisive American efforts to strengthen the rapidly declining dollar—symbolically bails out while U.S. President Carter fights a losing battle to keep the ship airborne. The article on page 4 details how the anemic American dollar may be toppled from its position as the world's kingpin currency, and how this is forcing Europe to unite out of economic self-defense.

*Cover illustration for The Plain Truth by Ranan R. Lurie*

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Personal from...

## The Conspiracy Against the Family

Few realize it! But even in affluent America, Britain, and other Western countries, we face an enormous and growing tragedy. The institutions of marriage and family life are being formidably attacked.

A solid family structure is the very foundation of any stable and permanent society. But today in the affluent countries a conspiracy is developing which seeks to destroy marriage as an institution, as well as the FAMILY. This is another decisive bit of evidence that this world's civilization is definitely in the END TIME—the end of this world as we know it!

The threat is dual: 1) Unrealized by most, there is a widespread and aggressive conspiracy to destroy the institution of marriage. 2) Marital relationships and family life are breaking down, and divorces are increasing alarmingly.

I feel strongly the need to talk to my *Plain Truth* readership of many millions about this major threat to civilization itself—and thus to YOUR life and mine. It's time the facts were made known. Today many psychologists are saying that the institution of marriage is doomed—on the way out. And there is a definite movement to bring that about.

The conspiracy consists of a two-pronged attack: 1) a well-organized movement to subtly influence college students to prefer *alternatives* to marriage, and 2) an attempt to influence the general public by newspaper and magazine articles, television programs, the lecture platform, the women's lib movement, and student or former student rebels of the "New Left." How much of all this propaganda has been planted in the minds of the psychologists, professors, writers, publishers, women's lib crusaders, and others by trained Communist propagandists can only be estimated.

There are publishers that seek out writers and authors to supply them with material offering alternatives to marriage—such as homosexuality, group marriages, sex outside of marriage, communal families—writers who will shout the gospel that "marriage is finished, out-dated, obsolete, on the way out." This is a war which is being vigorously and fanatically waged. Every subtle method is being employed to capture the minds of those of premarriage age.

Today virtually every college and university in the United States offers numerous courses in psychology and sociology. And almost without exception, these courses make required reading books and articles that picture marriage as now outdated and soon to become a relic of the past. They represent that both men and women want variety in sex and other social relationships. They

ridicule as a worn-out, old-fashioned idea the belief that one should confine all intimate relations to one person.

One book, required reading at some one hundred campuses in the United States, has a chapter on mate swapping, including the statement: "The family that swings together clings together." The book represents mate swapping as a beneficial experience.

A few years ago, the pioneers in applying methods of scientific research to the subject of sex, Masters and Johnson, held a symposium in Chicago with some six or seven couples who freely admitted to "swinging" as a regular experience at certain chosen intervals. They exchanged their philosophies on the subject, probed by questions from Dr. Masters and Dr. Johnson (actually Mrs. Masters). Masters and Johnson checked five years later and found only one of the couples was still married.

But now what about existing marriages, home and family life? These have given great encouragement to the conspiracy against marriage and the family.

The so-called new morality—which is actually nothing but gross *immorality*—has gained considerable public acceptance since the end of World War II. This crusade of the "new morality" has brought about, first, far more openness and frankness of discussion and conversation about sex and morals; and second, a much more lax behavior, especially among the oncoming younger generation. And one of its greatest dangers is the advent of a new and almost total PERMISSIVENESS.

I think it probably started in the "Roaring 20s" in the days of the "flappers." Those, especially the girls who were in their late teens and early 20s in the 1920s, became much more permissive. They married and became mothers, but they relaxed authority and parental guidance over their children. Then World War II produced another generation—still more permissive.

Discipline relaxed and virtually disappeared in almost all of the public schools. And now, in the past decade, most of the college and university campuses have provided "co-ed dorms" where men are free to visit women in their rooms, and women are free to visit men with almost no restrictions.

Of course, the worldwide conspiracy against marriage and the attack against the FAMILY institution has not, as yet, made any sensational dent in the number of marriages taking place. But it is becoming a THREAT which I feel our readers should know about. □



## PART TWO:

# WHY HUMANS WERE PUT ON THE EARTH

*Why did God create and put mankind on this earth? What is the real purpose of human life? Almost nobody knows! Yet the Bible reveals it plainly.*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**D**id you ever wonder about the countless millions of shining stars you have seen on an otherwise black, cloudless night? Especially in an airplane at night, some 40,000 feet above the ocean, the whole vast universe above seems to burst forth like a stupendous skyrocket exploding into all the myriads of uncountable suns, which we call stars, that dot the vastness of unending space.

Many of these seemingly tiny stars are much larger than our own sun. And just as there are planets surrounding our sun, there must be uncountable millions of planets surrounding these innumerable suns.

Haven't you wondered about the origin of our awesome, vast universe? How did it come to be? Did it evolve? Was it created? Was there a purpose?

What about the other planets in our own solar system? Do they sustain life? Are there people on Venus? Some kind of living beings on Mars? Do any of the planets sustain any kind of life, or are they all

like the moon—dead, decayed, lifeless, pockmarked, wasted, empty, uninhabitable? And *if* they are in a state of total decay, why would an intelligent Creator have created them in such a manner?

Or did He?

These are intriguing questions indeed. Astronomers may hazard some guesses. The actual facts they do not have. Unmanned spacecraft, which have sent photographs back to earth from vantage points very close to some of these planets, do *not* give any evidence of conditions that would sustain life.

Pictures from the Martian surface, for instance, showed a sandy desert littered with rocks—from very minute size to perhaps a foot or more in diameter. It was a dry, barren, sterile surface. Other photographs revealed only a wasteland, crater-marked with the evidence of constant meteoric bombardment.

The other planets are harsh, airless, desolate places. Venus is so incredibly hot and *inhospitable* with its atmosphere of massive acrid clouds that it reminds one of

Dante's description of his entirely fictitious fiery inferno commonly called "hellfire."

Still man persists in probing the far reaches of the universe for some sign of organic life. Many scientists insist that some form of physical life is to be found somewhere out there. Yet all the presently existing physical evidence indicates this earth is the sole body with living matter in this endless universe—the only planet which has conditions that are actually life-supporting.

### **The Vast Universe—and Man**

Science customarily rejects divine revelation as a source of fundamental knowledge—especially basic knowledge of human origins and that of the astral bodies. But while science can tell us little or nothing about the origins and present state of these numberless astral bodies, the Bible does give us considerable insight into their existence, how they came to be in such a state of decay, their purpose and their future. Most certainly this is not generally realized or understood. Yet it



ties in directly with the existence or presence on earth of man—the meaning and purpose of human life—and actually involves tremendous significance to human destiny.

In the Bible—the Book of books—God reveals Himself as CREATOR OF ALL, not merely the earth and man, but the *entire limitless universe*. On a cloudless night one may marvel at the awesome dimensions of our star-studded sky. The Maker of mankind is also the Creator of *all that is*—all that can be seen by the human eye.

Is it possible that there is an unrealized connection between the vast galaxies (*now* apparently lifeless and totally uninhabitable) and man? Actually the true connection is the most exciting, most wonderful, hope-inspiring truth that could be revealed.

In the first installment of this series of articles (August *Plain Truth*), I explained that in the very beginning—before this physical universe was created—there existed *only* the two Superbeings—God and the “Word.”

As the *Translator's New Testament* puts it: “When everything began *the Word already existed*. The Word was with God and shared his nature” (John 1:1-2).

In briefest summary, I further explained that these two Superpersonages in space *first* created angels, composed solely of spirit, *before* any physical matter was ever produced. The Bible strongly indicates that the angels were made *before* the creation of the earth (see Job 38:4, 7)—and most probably *prior* to the material universe itself. It may come as a surprise to many to learn that angels inhabited this earth *before* the creation of man. But the Bible plainly reveals it in this and other passages.

#### “Angels That Sinned”

I also explained that these angels were *not* created with perfect character—their creation was not yet complete.

Can you imagine God's holy angels becoming *sinning* angels? Yet that is precisely what happened! Angels were created with powers of thought, of decision and of choice—

else they would have no individuality or character. Since the New Testament reveals that sin is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4), these angels (apparently only those that were placed on this earth) *rebelled against God's law*—which is the very basis of God's government.

Sin carries penalties! When the angels rebelled against the government of God, the preservation of the physical earth and all of its original beauty and glory ceased—and physical destruction to the surface of the earth resulted.

With this very brief, high-spot summary, the account of the super-sin committed by the angels brings us, chronologically, to that point in time where the first installment of this series of articles ended.

But the far-reaching implications of this angelically induced earth-wide cataclysm of destruction are *not* confined to the planet Earth and its immediate environs. The penalty of sin by the angels was *not* death—for God had made them *immortal* spirit beings who cannot die. God gave them this earth as their abode and, more importantly, its rule as an opportunity to qualify to possess and beautify *the entire universe*.

Their immediate penalty was disqualification—*forfeiture* of their grand opportunity—and perversion of mind as well. Of course, at the helm of this angelic rebellion was Lucifer—the superarchangel who had led the other angels into sin—into total rebellion against God's government. He was originally created as a bringer of light, but now he *became* the author of darkness, error, confusion, evil and destruction.

So the rebellion of Lucifer and his angels brought this extreme cataclysm to the earth. And in all probability *it did more!*

Whatever God creates (as I explained in Part One) is created in a perfect condition. It is impossible to believe that the other planets in our solar system were created as dead hulks of waste and empty decay. Every evidence from our unmanned space flights indicates that these astral bodies are in a state of total decay. Now God is *not* the author of

confusion, waste, decay and destruction. But Satan is!

It is apparent therefore, based on what is revealed in the Bible, that a similar cataclysm of destruction happened to the surface of our moon and the other planets of our solar system—perhaps extending to all of the astral bodies in the universe. And all of this was caused by the rebellion of Lucifer and his angels.

Satan and his angels were then *disqualified* to administer God's government over the earth. But it is a principle of God that a government must never be without a head. Consequently Satan was to be left here on earth until his successor, who has already been qualified to rule, *is inducted into office*.

Now notice what God did next.

#### Renewing the Earth's Surface

God did not leave the earth in a state of rack and ruin. God had planned ahead! He knew *before* the creation of the earth that angels, with *independent* powers of thinking, reasoning, choosing, forming opinions and making decisions, *could* rebel and turn to sin and destruction. He had devised a fail-safe system.

As a result of the angelic destruction wreaked upon this earth, the earth came to be in the condition described in Genesis 1:2, with water covering the whole face of an earth in darkness. Notice the brief description. “And the earth was [became] *without form, and void* [Heb. *tohu* and *bohu*, meaning “chaotic, in confusion, waste and empty”]; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

Notice that it was dark. It speaks only of a fluid surface—oceans—no dry land showing. In Psalm 104:30, we read: “Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created; and thou *renewest* the face of the earth.” And here in Genesis 1:2, God had sent forth His Spirit in order to renew the surface of the earth.

Notice verse 3: “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” Satan is the very symbol of *darkness*, evil, sin and ugliness. This

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# HOW THE DOLLAR CRISIS IS FORGING A UNITED EUROPE!

*The U.S. dollar is on its way down and out as the free world's leading currency. Its place may soon be taken by a powerful European currency unit (ECU) heavily backed by gold and the mighty deutsche mark. When that happens a United Europe in command of world trade will be but a step or two from reality—setting the stage for remarkable prophecies in the book of Revelation.*

by Gene H. Hogberg

**C**onvulsive changes are about to rock the economic system of the free world to its very foundations. Yet, tragically, few Americans, Britons or Canadians seem to be awake to the economic disaster that could be just over the horizon for their nations.

## The "Post-Dollar" Era

Within only a few months the once mighty but now anemic American dollar may be toppled from its privileged position as the world's kingpin currency.

America's leading trade partners in Europe, resigned

to the dollar's terminal illness, are already preparing for the post-dollar future. They are on the verge of establishing a powerful new Euro-

pean monetary fund, backed heavily by gold and the West German mark. This fund will be denominated in European currency units, or ECUs,

which in turn will be the forerunner of a future single European currency.

This currency, when it is established, will be in much demand around the world. Future runs on the dollar could make the monetary exchange crisis of the past several months look like child's play.

But we're getting ahead of the story. Let's back up a bit for some recent background events.



Plain Truth Photo





Gene Hogberg

### The Summit That Solved Nothing

The crisis afflicting the free world's economies has been steadily building up throughout the decade of the '70s. A major negative factor has been the quintupling of oil prices in the aftermath of the Mideast war of 1973.

In the United States, inflation, fueled mainly by a string of monumental federal budget deficits—\$120 billion in the last two fiscal years alone—is threatening to get out of hand. The nations of Western Europe, conversely, confronted with stagnant economies and growing unemployment, have never quite recovered from the worldwide recession of 1974. In Japan, a sluggish domestic market has forced that nation's awesome industrial output increasingly into export markets, principally the U.S. and Europe, raising calls for protection of home industries.

This past July, in an attempt to iron out the many problems in their complex trade relationships, the heads of

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**HEADS OF STATE** (above) from seven nations gathered at World Economic Summit in Bonn in July. West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, shown at left with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, was dominant personality at the conference.

government of the free world's leading industrial powers—the United States, West Germany, Japan, France, Britain, Italy and Canada—met in Bonn, West Germany.

The so-called World Economic Summit Conference—attended by this writer—ended with optimistic predictions for the year ahead. In the concluding press conference, however, it was very evident that the leaders of the “big three” nations—U.S., West Germany and Japan—were severely limited by political constraints on the home front.

President Carter pledged to strengthen the dollar by cutting oil imports—though he made no promise to act decisively and unilaterally if the U.S. Congress continues to hold up his long-stalled energy legislation.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, for his part, announced a modest package to boost government spending, one that he had been planning to introduce anyway. Any attempt to pump up the economy more than his stipulated one percent would have evoked cries from Bonn's conservative opposition that Schmidt was leading Germany once again down the ruinous road of “Weimar-style” inflation—which, as history shows, helped pave Adolf Hitler's path to power.

Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda only offered to keep Japanese exports next year from rising above this year's level. But since the yen is rising and the dollar is dropping, this means an even greater Japanese trade surplus than last year's record \$17 billion. To actually cut exports would mean increased unemployment—a political risk that Japan's big-business-oriented Liberal Democratic Party, which has been slowly losing strength over the years, feels it cannot afford to take.

### Dollar Crisis Ignored

For a day or two after the Bonn summit, the mild euphoria that such conclaves engender seemed to have pumped a bubble of new confidence into the West's fragile economic system. “Bonn has successfully bought time,” intoned an editorial in the *Times* of London.

But hardly was the ink dry on the summit's evasive, nebulous final communiqué when it became abundantly clear that nothing had really been resolved. The reason: No action had been taken with regard to the most critical problem in the eyes of America's trading partners—what to do about the plummeting value of the U.S. dollar—a crisis which affects the entire free world, since the dollar, weak though it may be, is the world's leading reserve currency.



This central problem, in fact, was not even an official item on the agenda. The Americans, accused by their partners of treating the sick dollar with "benign neglect" for many months, had come to Bonn determined to play down the problems of the dollar. The American view prevailed that the Bonn meeting should deal only with trade imbalances and how to stimulate world economic growth.

Within two or three days of the summit's conclusion the foreign exchange markets went wild again, as money managers unloaded hundreds of millions of unwanted surplus dollars (there are over 500 billion so-called "stateless" dollars outside U.S. boundaries and thus outside of effective U.S. control) in search of stronger currencies such as the Japanese yen, the Swiss franc, and the West German mark.

#### **Why the Dollar Is Sick**

U.S. currency inspires no confidence today largely because there are many more dollars in foreign banks than are needed or wanted. Moreover, the supply increases every year as the United States continues to run up both huge federal deficits and balance-of-trade losses.

Prospects for a solution to the dollar glut seem remote. America's record balance-of-trade loss of \$26.7 billion for 1977 is certain to be topped this year.

America's trade partners are angered at Washington's all-too-obvious strategy of letting the dollar drop still further in the hope that 1) American exports can obtain a competitive edge worldwide, and 2) imports to the U.S. will decrease because they will become too expensive.

This deliberate debasement of the dollar's worth not only doesn't work (inflation inside the U.S. robs U.S. manufacturers of their supposed advantage over imports), but it hurts everybody, not just Americans. Worst of all, it gives a clear message to others that the U.S. either doesn't know how or doesn't want to manage its economy in such a way as to give the dollar any lasting value.

Don't Americans realize, ask the

Europeans and the Japanese, that the dollar serves not only as America's medium of monetary exchange, but other countries also use the dollar and have a vested interest in the maintenance of its value?

#### **Too Much of a Good Thing**

Ever since the end of World War II the dollar has played a role most Americans have only a scant knowledge of: It acts as the international "reserve currency"—meaning that other countries use U.S. dollars as the store of wealth that backs their own currencies. These dollars are used, furthermore, to settle debts in international trade. In fact, over two-thirds of international trade is transacted in dollars.

For a considerable period, as long as the dollar was "as good as gold" and international trade continued to boom, foreign countries and their central banks were willing—indeed eager—to hold growing supplies of greenbacks. A steady, but manageable, deficit in America's balance of payments ensured access to the coveted currency of the world's largest economic power.

The flexibility of the dollar as opposed to a rather stable world supply of gold, which then carried a fixed price of only \$35 an ounce, helped fuel the great worldwide economic expansion period of the 1960s.

Despite this rapid expansion of world trade, the United States government was held to a certain amount of internal monetary discipline by virtue of the dollar's convertibility into gold. In other words, U.S. presses could not go wild printing dollars since foreign central banks could exchange excess paper for the gold in Fort Knox.

#### **Shutting the Gold Window**

However, in 1970, when the United States began to seriously live beyond its means in foreign trade, confidence in the dollar slackened. Foreign central banks began a run on the U.S. gold hoard. The U.S. solution to the problem was not to put its own house in order (perhaps by suffering a politically undesirable economic "adjustment," or recession),

but to slam the "gold window" shut in 1971. No longer was the dollar convertible to gold.

More than a year later even the attempt to maintain fixed exchange rates—the key feature of the Bretton Woods agreement of 1944—was abandoned. Since 1973 currency values have been "floating" on the market, at times violently, and the value of the dollar has steadily eroded.

Still, up until now there has been no substitute for the dollar as the world's leading reserve currency. (British sterling once played a major reserve role, but the decline of Britain's economy no longer allows this role.) With the gold window shut and restraints upon the government's overspending neutralized, the United States has been able to take undue advantage of the privileged position the dollar has enjoyed. The U.S. has been able to pile deficit upon deficit and literally leave its trade partners holding a larger mountain of cheapening dollars.

#### **Cheating Our Creditors**

America is finally beginning to pay a penalty for its years of profligacy. Yet the U.S. federal government continues to pile up deficits every year—even in good years.

Congress, for example, has just raised the "temporary" ceiling on the national debt to \$798 billion. Deficit spending has doubled the national debt in the past ten years. If spending trends continue, this mountainous debt could reach \$1 trillion in the early 1980s.

Writing in the August 1978 issue of *Atlantic Monthly*, author Martin Mayer, in an article entitled "The Incredible Shrinking Dollar," noted: "Inflation in America not only disrupts and demoralizes our own society but also in [Winston] Churchill's terms, 'cheats our creditors.' The nations that hold dollars as their reserves are entitled to our best efforts to maintain the value of those dollars by restricting both our domestic budget deficit and our balance of payments deficit."

Continues Mayer: "Insisting on our power to print the world's money at a time when the world

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## PART ONE:

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# THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY



*People of the Western world would be stunned—dumbfounded—if they knew! The governments of the United States, Britain, Canada, Australasia, South Africa would set in motion gigantic crash programs—if they knew! But they remain ignorant until this day—yet they could know! But they don't! Why?*

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by Herbert W. Armstrong

**A** staggering turn in world events is due to erupt in the next few years. It will involve violently the United States, Britain, Western Europe, the Middle East. It's already rather late for the free world to come *awake* to the real meaning behind current world events! Why do not the world's leaders see what is coming? Why are the world's best minds unseeing—the heads of state, scientists, educators, editors, news analysts, bankers, industrialists, leaders in business and commerce? They are totally unaware! Why?

Because they have been falsely educated and deceived into closing their minds to the great causes behind world events and trends. This world has been falsely educated to ignore causes and deal with effects! Yet all the world's problems and ills are simply a matter of cause and effect. There is a *cause* that has produced strife and war; poverty, wretchedness, inequality; crime, disease, mental ills. But the leaders do not know!

The world's leaders are the educated of the world. But they were not educated in **BASIC TRUTHS**—the foundations of right knowledge. The most necessary knowledge

is not being taught! They do not know **WHAT** man is—or **WHY**! They know nothing of the purpose or meaning of life! They were not taught to distinguish the true values from the false. They did not learn the real causes—the way to peace, to happiness, to universal abundance; nor the causes of war, unhappiness, inequality, world chaos.

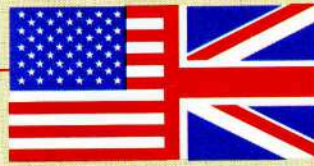
They know nothing of the purpose being worked out here below. Consequently, they guide humanity on a course in conflict with that purpose, wreaking havoc upon a distressed, suffering, unhappy mankind. Lacking knowledge of the way to peace, the world does not have peace. Leaders talk of peace; they profess to work for peace; they cry out for peace—while they give approval and blind acceptance to the way that produces war!

This world has simply been going the wrong *way*!

This world is giving assent to, and conferring civilization's acceptance on, **THE WAYS** that are the **CAUSES** of all the world's ills.

And now we are fast approaching the final grand smash explosion that is going to stagger the mind of man





beyond the bounds of sanity. Forces are at work today on plans, programs, conspiracies, movements that soon will erupt into a world explosion of violence and chaos such as never happened before, and never will again. Men today are tampering with forces of nature they lack the prudence, knowledge, ability and wisdom to control.

In this folly of educated ignorance, it has become fashionable today and intellectually titillating to ignore the great basic cause of all things; the fact of the purpose being worked out here below, and the master plan for its working out; the invisible but Supreme Power now soon

## Why have these prophecies not been understood or believed? Because the vital key that unlocks prophecy to our understanding had been lost.

to intervene and drastically alter the course of history—before mankind blasts itself out of existence.

Unreal though it may seem to those steeped in modern educational deceptions, some 2,500 years ago the Supreme Power of the universe inspired a man named Isaiah to quote Him, saying: “I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, *My counsel shall stand*” (Isa. 46:9-10). The great world powers are formulating their policies—laying their plans. But the next few years will see astounding events explode in a manner very different than the nations plan! Why?

### Never a Miss

Because there is the great God who says: “The Eternal wrecks the purposes of pagans, he brings to nothing what the nations plan; but the Eternal’s purpose stands for ever, and what he plans will last from age to age. . . . The Eternal looks from heaven, beholding all mankind; from where he sits, he scans all who inhabit the world; he who alone made their minds, he notes all they do” (Ps. 33:10-15, Moffatt translation).

This same Eternal God said: “To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things. . . .” And again: “Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance. . . . *All nations* before him are as nothing. . . .” (Isa. 40:25-26, 15, 17).

Through His inspired prophets, the great God caused to be written, some 2,500 years ago, and preserved in writing to our time prophecies filling approximately a third of the whole Bible. In them, He named every city of consequence of that time on earth—and also every

nation! And He foretold precisely what would, through the years, happen to every city and every nation! In every instance the prophecies came to pass!

What was prophesied HAPPENED to Babylon, to Tyre, Sidon, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron; to Egypt, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, Greece and Rome. There has not been a miss! Those prophecies were accurate.

And now, in other prophecies, the same supreme God has foretold precisely what is going to happen to the United States, the British nations, Western Europe, the Middle East, Russia!

### Best Minds—Total Ignorance

Yet the best minds in the world are in total ignorance of the unprecedented cataclysm that is about to strike. And why have these prophecies not been understood or believed? Because the vital KEY that unlocks prophecy to our understanding had been lost. That key is the identity of the United States and the British peoples in biblical prophecy.

That key has been found! We present it in this series of articles to those whose unprejudiced eyes are willing to see.

The events prophesied to strike the American and British peoples in the next few years are SURE!

God says: “Surely the Lord Eternal will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). These colossal world events, shrinking the first two World Wars into insignificance, WILL COME, but not until the warning has been made available for those whose eyes are willing to see.

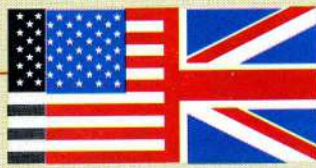
This may sound incredible, but it’s true. Editors, newscasters, foreign correspondents do not understand the real meaning of the world news they report, analyze and discuss. Heads of government are utterly unaware of the true significance of the very world-shaking events with which they deal. They have no conception of where these events are leading. Incredible? Perhaps—but true!

Winston Churchill declared before the United States Congress: “He must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below of which we have the honor to be the faithful servants.” But he did not understand that purpose! That great purpose long ago was master-planned by the Master Mind of the universe.

### There Is Purpose

It is true, though almost totally unrealized: Mankind *was* put on this earth for a PURPOSE! And the Maker of mankind sent along with the human product of His making an INSTRUCTION BOOK to reveal that purpose and to guide man in happily, enjoyably fulfilling it. But the human race has rejected the revelation and the guidance and has preferred to stumble on in the darkness of its own futile reasonings.





About one-third of that Instruction Book is devoted to basic education—revealing to man the necessary foundational knowledge otherwise undiscoverable and unknowable: knowledge of what man is, why he is, where his destiny may lead, how to reach it and live happily along the way; revealing knowledge of the true values as distinguished from the false; knowledge of the way to peace, happiness, abundant well-being. In other words, the most necessary of all knowledge—the foundation on which to build discoverable knowledge.

Another approximate third of that Book is devoted to history—to those events and experiences fulfilling the master plan during the first four millennia of man's mortal sojourn, as examples for our admonition and guidance today.

And then approximately a third—grasp this!—an entire third of our Maker's revelation to mankind is devoted to prophecy—writing the history of future events before they occur. These *foretold* future events reveal the great purpose being finally worked out—being brought to its completion.

#### Why This Ignorance

Now see why heads of state, news analysts, and the great minds of our time do not comprehend the real mean-

ing of world events as they are shaping up right now.

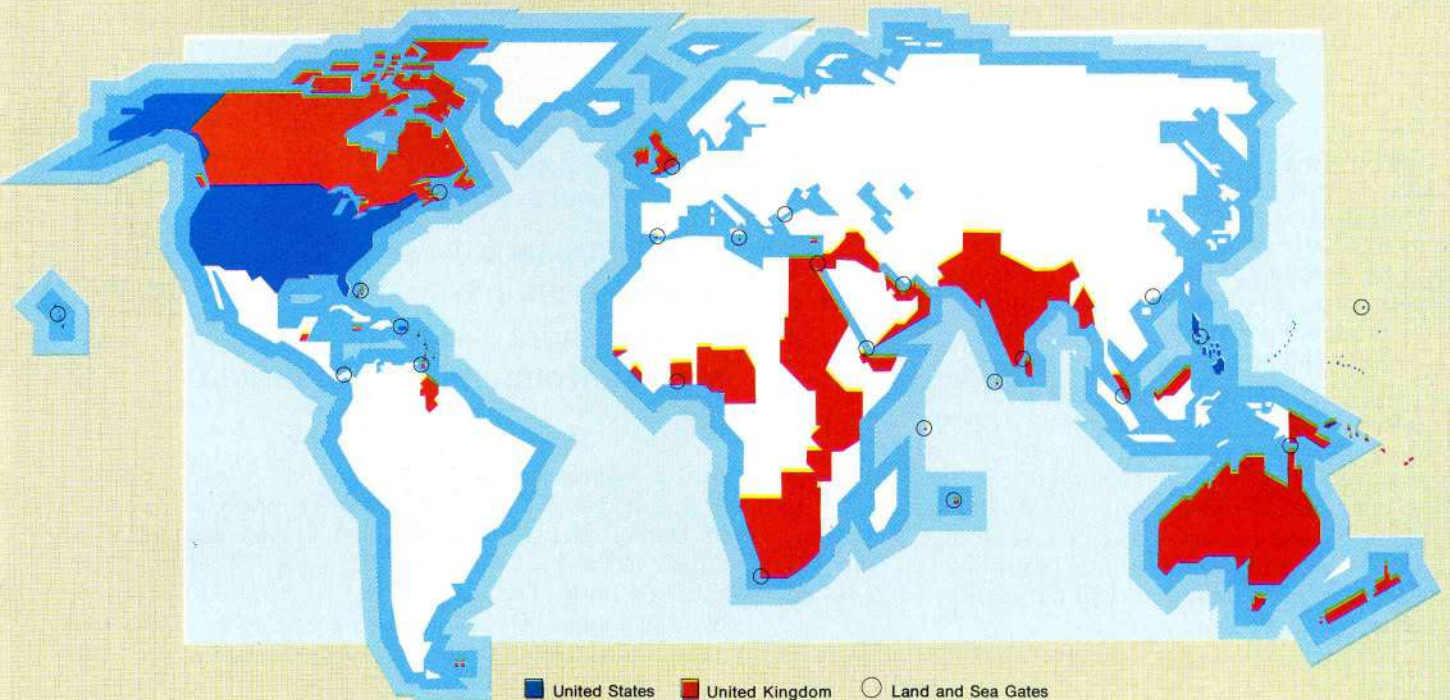
A rational and right knowledge of this great purpose, of the Creator's master plan, of where in the progression of those foreordained events we stand today, and of major happenings prophesied yet to occur—this knowledge is the essential basis for understanding the significance and true meaning of today's dynamic world news. Without this vital knowledge, none dealing in news gathering and news reporting, none responsible for government policies can understand current world happenings or where they are leading.

And not one saddled with such responsibilities does know! Why?

Two reasons, primarily: 1) They have been deceived by false education appealing to the vanity of intellect into prejudicial and disdainful rejection of the divine revelation which alone can impart this understanding; and, 2) the vital key necessary to unlock closed doors of biblical prophecy had been lost.

The great world powers of our time have been, and are, the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, Germany, France, and other Western European nations. The missing vital KEY is simply the *identity* of these great world powers in biblical prophecy! The staggering and cataclysmic world-shaking events soon to erupt upon a

## Territory Held By the United States and Great Britain During Greatest Extent of Power



Map by Gene Tikasingh





shocked, stunned, bewildered world relate directly and specifically to the United States, Britain, Germany, Western Europe, and Russia.

Not knowing how and where these nations are specifically mentioned in basic and major prophecies, the educated of the world have been utterly blinded to the plain and simple meaning of prophecy. Due to this lost key more than anything else, the Bible has come to be discredited and rejected in this world's educational system. The unproved and unprovable theory of evolution has been substituted as the foundational concept which became the supposed rational approach to knowledge.

The colossal tragedy of it! Our peoples, being thus falsely and deceptively educated from little children, have, in a supposed era of advanced rationalism and enlightenment, actually been groping around and floundering in the darkness of ignorance, misunderstanding and confusion, fatally unaware of the earthshaking catastrophe into which they are being directly plunged.

#### **Shut Eyes—Closed Ears**

Thus our peoples have forgotten and departed far from their Maker. They have shut their eyes and closed their ears to His dynamic revelation to mankind, which, to ears that can hear, thunders out the life-and-death warning to those in the responsible positions of power!

Is it now too late? Have our leaders become so blinded, so steeped in a deceptive false education, so stultified that they cannot be aroused from slumber? God help us now! Time is fast closing in on us!

But the all-important master key has been found!

That key is knowledge of the astonishing identity of the American and British peoples—as well as the German—in biblical prophecies. This very eye-opening, astounding identity is the strongest proof of the inspiration and authority of the Holy Bible! It is, at the same time, the strongest proof of the very active existence of the living God!

An exciting, pulsating, vital third of all the Bible is devoted to prophecy. And approximately 90 percent of all prophecy pertains to *OUR TIME*, now, in this latter half of the twentieth century!

It is a warning to us—to our English-speaking peoples—of immediate life-and-death import. The prophecies come alive once their doors are opened by this now discovered master key! This series of articles will open, to open minds, this hitherto closed vital third of all the Bible. No story of fiction ever was so strange, so fascinating, so absorbing, so packed with interest and suspense, as this gripping story of our identity—and our ancestry.

Through it Almighty God gives momentous *warning!* Those who read, and heed, may be spared unprecedented cataclysmic tragedy soon to strike. If our peoples and their governments will awaken, heed, and return to

their living God then our nations may be spared. God help us to UNDERSTAND!

#### **Prophecies Closed Until Now**

One might ask, were not biblical prophecies closed and sealed? Indeed they were—until *now!* And even now they can be understood only by those who possess the master key to unlock them. But we have reached the approximate end of 6,000 years of biblical history. We have reached the end of an age! We are entering, right now, the world crisis at the close of the present civilization. We face, today, conditions such as the world never before has witnessed. Today the big problem is the stark question of SURVIVAL! For the first time in world history, the weapons of mass destruction exist which can erase all life from the earth. Chiefs of government and world-famous scientists have been saying publicly we must adjust to living in fear of human annihilation, with no solutions in sight.

To those prejudicially cynical toward the Bible I say: It is now your only hope! Science offers no solutions. The politicians and heads of government have no answers. In the Bible alone you will find the advance news of what is now certain to occur—and occur it will *before* mankind blasts itself out of existence!

But another objector might ask, are not most of the prophecies outdated Old Testament writings, addressed only to the ancient nation Israel, of no concern to us in our time? And the answer is an emphatic no! These scintillating, dynamic prophecies were, most of them, never given to ancient Israel.

#### **A Pivotal Book**

The plain truth is these prophecies were written for our people of our time, and for no previous people or time. They pertain to world conditions of today, and

God compared the populations of these promised nations to the grains of sand on a seashore and to the stars—uncountable for multitude.

could not have been understood until today.

One of the very pivotal books of prophecy is the book of Daniel. Actually, the prophet Daniel was not the author of the book known by his name. The living God was its author! The message was transmitted to Daniel by God's angel. Daniel put to writing, to be preserved until our time, what he heard.

At the very close of his book, Daniel wrote: "And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel:





for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. . . . and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand” (Dan. 12:8-10).

So the prophecies of Daniel were CLOSED, sealed, locked up until now! But today we are living in “the time of the end.” Today the “wise” do understand! But who are “the wise”? Only those who fear and obey God—and who have the master key to unlock the locked-up prophecies. God says: “The fear of the Eternal is the beginning of wisdom: a good *understanding* have all they that do his commandments” (Ps. 111:10). And even most professing “Christians” refuse utterly to do that. No wonder they can’t understand.

And don’t forget, the specific key that unlocks these closed doors of prophecy is the definite knowledge of the true identity of the American and British nations as they are mentioned in these prophecies.

Stop a moment and think. If the prophecies Daniel wrote could not be understood by him; if they were “closed up and sealed *till* the time of the end”—*till* the latter half of the twentieth century—as the angel said and as Daniel wrote, then they were closed to the ancient Israelites of that day; they contained no message for Daniel’s time.

Think a little further.

These prophecies could not have been given to or known by the ancient Kingdom of Israel. Daniel wrote in and after the time of the Chaldean king Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion and captivity of the Kingdom of JUDAH, 604 to 585 B.C. But the Kingdom of ISRAEL had *long before* been invaded, conquered, and its people moved out of Palestine—transported as slaves to Assyria (721 to 718 B.C.) 117 to 133 years *before* Daniel wrote (II Kings 17:18, 23-24). Years before the book of Daniel was written, most of the Assyrians, *with* those Israelite slaves, had migrated from ancient Assyria northwest toward Europe. How far northwest—where they finally settled—was not then known. They had become known as the Lost Ten Tribes.

But today we do know.

Today, as Daniel wrote (12:4), knowledge has indeed increased. The whereabouts of the Lost Ten Tribes is one of the ancient mysteries now cleared up. But in Daniel’s day they were lost from view—as if the earth had opened her mouth and swallowed them.

**Not for Old Testament Israel**

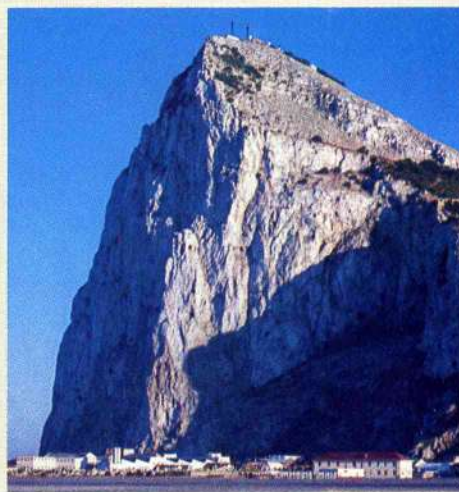
Daniel’s prophecy, then, was not a message to the Old Testament Kingdom of Israel!

Now think further!

Nor was this prophecy a message for the Old Testament Kingdom of Judah. When Daniel wrote, the Jews already were slaves in Babylon. Daniel was one of the brilliant young princes of Judah, specially chosen for service in the king’s palace in Babylon (Dan. 1:3-6). Daniel’s strenuous duties in the Gentile king’s service



Plain Truth Photos



**GIBRALTAR**, the strategic western “gate” to the Mediterranean, stood for three centuries as the symbol of Britain’s far-flung power. Today it is one of the Empire’s few remaining vestiges.

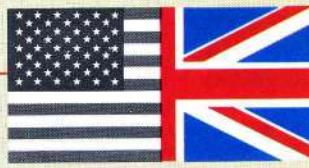
did not allow him to deliver this closed and sealed message to the scattered Jewish slaves. In this condition of slavery, the Jews had no system of religious meetings—no priesthood. There was no such thing as a printing press—no way to print and distribute literature. And besides, the prophecy was “closed up and sealed *till* the time of the end”—our time, now! The book of Daniel was *not* a message for the Jews of Old Testament times!

Finally realize: It is emphatically clear that these prophecies pertain to no time but to *our time*, in this twentieth century!

Then know this, further:

The greatest mystery book of the entire Bible, to most, has been the book of Revelation. But the book of Daniel is the key to the book of Revelation. And in the book of Revelation, solely and alone, do we find the world events of all prophecies correlated in order of time sequence. The book of Revelation, then, holds the key for putting together all of the prophecies in proper time order. And Revelation, too, was a closed and sealed book—until our time, now. We realize that the living Jesus is the Revelator—and that He has stripped off the seals and opened this mystery book to right understanding.





And where does that lead us? To the fact that prophecy generally was written and preserved for *our time today!* And some 90 percent of all prophecy pertains actually to this latter half of the twentieth century. And the one central master key to prophecy as a whole is the identity of the United States and the British nations in these prophecies for today!

These prophecies could not pertain to any time previous to our precarious present!

It may not be generally realized—but neither Britain nor the United States became great world powers until the nineteenth century. Suddenly, in the very beginning of the nineteenth century, these two—until then small, minor countries—suddenly spurted to national power and greatness among nations, as no nations had ever grown and multiplied in wealth, resources and power before.

By 1804 London had become the financial hub of the world. The United States had exploded out of its swaddling clothes of the 13 original states and had acquired the expansive Louisiana Purchase. It was fast sprouting up to become the mightiest nation of all time. But Britain burst forth to greatness first, and until the



UPI

“He must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below.”

*Winston Churchill*

World Wars had become the greatest empire, or commonwealth of nations, in all history.

#### Could We Be Ignored?

Between them the British and American peoples had acquired more than two-thirds—almost three-fourths—of all the cultivated physical resources and wealth of the world. All other nations combined possessed barely more than a fourth. Britannia ruled the waves—and the world’s commerce was carried on by water. The sun never set on British possessions.

Now think!

Could the British and American peoples be ignored in prophecies of world conditions that fill a third of the entire Bible—when some 90 percent of all those prophecies pertain to national and international world happenings of *our time, now?*

Staggering?

Indeed it is. And yet, precisely as prophesied, Britain’s sun has now set. As these same prophecies that foretold Britain’s greatness revealed far in advance, Britain has already been reduced to a second-rate or third-rate power in the world.

And the United States? Today America finds herself heir to just about all the international problems and headaches in this post-World-War-II, chaotic, violent world. And the United States has won her last war—even little North Vietnam held her at bay. Many other nations sap America’s national strength, “and he knoweth it not,” as God long ago foretold!

On the world scene nothing is so important right now as to know where the white, English-speaking peoples are identified in scores and hundreds of prophecies—prophecies which describe vividly our sudden rise to national power and reveal the causes of that greatness; prophecies that paint a crystal-clear picture of our present international dilemma; prophecies that open our eyes wide to see what now lies immediately ahead for our nations—and what our ultimate and final status shall be.

#### Astounding Facts Come to Light

Prior to World War II, the American and British peoples had acquired more than two-thirds of the cultivated resources and wealth of the world. Yet, astonishing wonder though it be, we acquired nearly all of it rather suddenly, since the year 1800. Never in all history did anything like this occur. Never did any people or nation spread out and grow so suddenly and rapidly into such magnitude of national power.

Yet we are beholding before our very eyes the diminishing and evaporating of this national greatness, wealth and power. In the case of Great Britain, it is disintegrating even more rapidly than it developed! Britain has been almost overnight stripped of her colonies and her possessions—source of her wealth—and reduced to a second-rate or third-rate power. Why? There is a reason! It is bound up with history and divine promises pertaining to Israel. Promises never yet inherited by the Jewish people. And now, unless the people *and* the government of the United States will heed and take immediate and drastic action, the American nation is slated to go down even more suddenly to utter ignominy and loss of all national wealth, greatness and power!

And for the SAME REASON!

It behooves us without delay to quickly review that history and open our eyes to divine promises and warnings almost wholly unrealized by our peoples. It is all





connected with the generally ignored plain and simple Bible story that leads to knowledge of our incredible ancestry and modern prophetic identity. And it is the most amazing, the most fascinating story you ever read. Stranger than fiction—yet it is TRUE!

#### **Why Do We Have Israel's Bible?**

Millennia ago, this same national greatness, wealth and power was promised by the Almighty to Abraham. Yet few have ever noticed this astonishing fact in Scripture. We must realize, if we would understand, a peculiar fact. The Holy Bible is the particular Book of a definite nationality—the children of Israel.

It is undeniable! Its history, from Genesis to Revelation, is primarily the history of one nation or people—the Israelites. Other nations are mentioned only insofar as they come into contact with Israel. All its prophecy, too, pertains primarily to this people of Israel, and to other nations only insofar as they come into contact with Israel. The Bible tells of these Israelites and their God. It was inspired by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, committed to writing through Israelites exclusively, and preserved until after the New Testament was written by these Israelites. In its sacred passages we read that all the promises and the covenants of God, all the sonship and the glory, belong solely to Israel (Rom. 9:4).

Yet we must face the astounding fact that our white, English-speaking peoples—*not* the Jews—have inherited the national and physical phases of those promises!

How could this have happened?

The Bible is an Israelitish Book, preeminently of and for the Israelitish nationality, inspired by their God through their prophets. Is it not indeed strange that we English-speaking peoples are today the greatest believers in and exponents of this Book of the Hebrew people; that of all nations we are the chief worshipers of Israel's God and Israel's Messiah—in name and in form, if not in truth and in deed? The more these facts are realized, the more apparent it becomes that a full knowledge of these Israelites is necessary to a right understanding of the Holy Bible, which is chiefly concerned with them as a people. And this knowledge becomes important if we are to understand the present status of the American and British peoples in the world—and their relation to unprecedented world conditions at this fateful hour! Let us remember as we approach this fascinating story that the Bible is concerned with the material, the fleshly, the literal, racial and *national*, as well as with the spiritual. Let us not spiritualize away national things, nor nationalize spiritual things. Let us understand the sacred Word of God as it is!

#### **Nation Began With One Man**

Before the days of Moses there was no nation on earth known as God's particular nation. Prior to Moses there was no written Word of God; no inspired Scriptures; no

Holy Bible. Think of it! For more than two thousand five hundred years—two-and-a-half millennia—mankind existed without any written revelation from God! The only historic record of God's dealing with mankind prior to Israel is the revealed history of the Bible. And—even more astonishing—only the first eleven of the fifty chapters of Genesis are devoted to the entire history of the world prior to Abraham, father of the Israelites!

Surprising? Only the first eleven chapters of the very first book of the Bible are used to record for us the history of the first approximately 2,000 years—more than one-third of its entire span.

God began this world with just one man—Adam. Whatever God does through human agencies must start the smallest, and, like the grain of mustard seed, grow big. To this first man God communicated directly and personally. God revealed all essential knowledge otherwise inaccessible to the human mind. The basic essentials of all knowledge—what *is* man?—WHY is he here?—what's the PURPOSE of life?—what is the WAY of life that will produce peace, health, prosperity, happiness and joy?—what is man's END—his destiny?—God revealed this basis of all knowledge to the first man.

To Adam, God revealed Himself—the Eternal Creator-Ruler of earth and all the universe. God revealed to Adam that he was, unlike animals, made in the form and shape of God with powers of mind possessed by no other physical creature; with the potential, through free choice, of developing the very character of God and of inheriting eternal life in the Kingdom of God. To Adam God revealed the way of life that would result in every-thing man desires: peace, enjoyable life, happiness, abundant well-being.

To produce these blessings—to be the *cause* of such desired *effect*—God had set in motion His inexorable spiritual law. But Adam listened to Satan and leaned to his own human understanding. He disobeyed God, rejected the way to every desired result, and set out on the human course of greed and vanity.

#### **Mankind Spurns God's Way**

As men began to multiply on earth, Adam's sons followed in his Satan-inspired course of human nature. Prior to Abraham, only three are mentioned as accepting God's way of life—only three during more than a third of the whole span of the history of mankind. Abel was called righteous; Enoch walked with God; and Noah was a preacher of righteousness, which is simply obedience to God's government (Ps. 119:172). Aside from these three and possibly Shem, there is no record that any man prior to Abraham yielded to the rule of the Eternal.

By the time of Abraham men had lost all knowledge of the true Creator-Ruler, His revelation of His purpose, and the way of God to peace and (Continued on page 38)



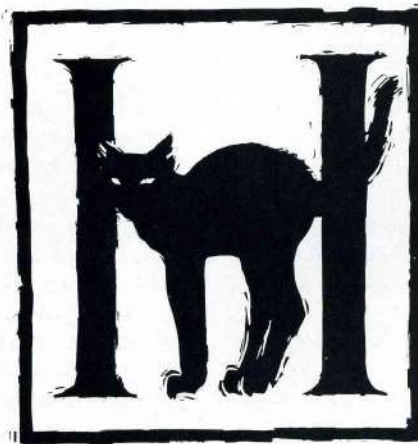
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*The Halloween season will soon be upon us. Stores will sell orange and black greeting cards, costumes and masks. Children will dress up as witches, ghosts, and vampires. Parents will carve pumpkins into grotesque configurations. Teens will join in the holiday spirit by engaging in pranks ranging from window-soaping to malicious destruction of property. Many people will participate in Halloween customs, but few will know why they did. What are the origins of these strange customs? And should you as a Christian take part in them?*

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# HALLOWEEN: WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

by Wayne S. Antion



alloween, “Eve of All Hallows,” a quasi-Christian holiday, has become well-entrenched in American and English tradition. But is it a holiday—or “holy day”—Christians should keep? Is it merely a harmless custom, or should its patently pagan origins warn us away from its observance? Halloween is an ancient tradition with complex origins. The customs of this evening began in northern and western Europe with the Celtic people. Long before Christianity was taught there, the Celts worshiped nature and a variety of gods according to

the tenets of the Druid religion.

Celtic worship (Druidism) was “solar”—that is, all its chief festivals related to points in the sun’s progress. Four main times were important: winter and summer solstices and spring and autumn equinoxes. Equinoxes were commemorated as Beltane on May 1, and Samhain (pronounced *sowin*) on October 31.

Samhain, “Summer’s End,” designated both a time of year and the name of the Lord of Death. When the sun’s power waned, when har-

vest was over, dying and death prevailed in nature and the Celts felt that the strength of the gods of darkness, winter and the underworld grew great. The day Samhain also marked the end of the Celtic year, and the new year began on November 1.

The Druids observed Samhain (Halloween) with many customs which are still practiced today: for instance, lighting massive bonfires and telling of mysterious sights and sounds they’d seen and heard. Today’s society continues this tradi-

tion by telling Halloween ghost stories. Significantly, in such stories we still encounter the pagan beliefs that the souls of good people enter other human beings at death; that the souls of evil people enter the bodies of animals; that cats are sacred; and that cats are human beings who have been punished for evil deeds.

Even the modern jack-o’-lantern is reminiscent of the legend of a penny-pinching man named Jack who was supposedly barred from heaven because of his stinginess and barred from hell because he played

Woodcuts by Deanna Glad







tricks on the devil. He was condemned to walk the earth with his lantern until Judgment Day. (The traditional Christian doctrines of heaven and hell are likewise pagan in origin. For more on this subject, write for our free booklets *What Is the Reward of the Saved?* and *Is There a Real Hellfire?*)

### Roman Influence

When the Romans invaded northwestern Europe, the Celtic civilization was nearly destroyed, but its beliefs and practices survived and became amalgamated with the traditions of the conquering Romans. From the Roman feast which honored Pomona, goddess of fruits, new customs were added to the Halloween season, such as eating apples to drive away evil spirits. Apples hung on strings or placed in a tub for dunking also came from Roman tradition, as did the belief that if a girl ate an apple in front of a mirror on Halloween, the mirror would have the power of showing her the facial image of her future mate.

Christianity was the next movement to spread through northwestern Europe. One would normally assume that the Christian religion would have erased all vestiges of paganism. But such was not the case. Pagan practices were continued under Christian sanction.

### All Saints' Day

The professing Christian church of the early centuries A.D. believed that one who did especially good works or lived an exceptionally good life should be recognized as a saint (in the biblical sense every true Christian is a saint). A special day was set aside to honor each of the many well-known saints. Of course, there were many who were never recognized since their good works had gone unnoticed, and, as the number of saints grew, there were not enough days in the year to accommodate all of them.

So it was suggested that there be one day in the year to honor all saints. The origins of the day are uncertain. The *New Catholic Encyclopedia* cites several sources which hint at a precursor of the later official Feast of All Saints. A hymn by St. Ephraem in A.D. 359 and a ser-

mon by St. John Chrysostom (A.D. 407) uncover the fact that there existed at least two days of the year that honored all saints. However, the dates differed—May 13 according to St. Ephraem and the first Sunday after Pentecost according to St. John Chrysostom.

Pope Boniface IV received the temple of the Roman pantheon of the gods as a fief from the Emperor in or around the year A.D. 610. He dedicated it to the Virgin Mary and all the martyrs on May 13. This is supposedly the first official date of All Saints' Day (or Feast of All Saints).

However, by the twelfth century the Feast of All Saints was being celebrated on November 1, on which it is still commemorated in Catholic and Protestant churches alike. Historians do not agree as to how All Saints' Day came to be celebrated on November 1. Some believe that Popes Gregory III (731-741) and Gregory IV (827-844) had a hand in changing it. Others submit that the November date had its origins in Ireland, and had no connection with the May 13 celebration. If the latter is the case, a connection of the November 1 celebration of All Saints' Day with the Celtic Druid feast of Samhain and its customs would be possible.

Both Samhain and All Saints' Day may have originated in Ireland. Thus similar traditions may have influenced both days.

### Halloween and All Souls' Day

The name Halloween comes from the Eve of All Hallows, which refers to the evening before All Saints' Day. Although this is a "Christian" name, Halloween came to be celebrated in an almost exclusively pagan fashion.

As Christianity spread throughout Europe and the Western world, its traditions were mixed with those of pagan religions. Thus, a mixture of pagan customs was integrated with All Saints' Day.

In this regard, All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2, should also be mentioned. This day was established in the eleventh century by St. Odillo, abbot of the Cluny monastery. Its observance consists of Mass and special prayers

for the dead, especially for souls in purgatory.

All Souls' Day, too, may be connected to the observance of Halloween. In the Middle Ages, it was believed that souls could appear on this day as will-o'-the-wisps, witches, toads, etc. This is clearly an infiltration of pagan superstition, which survives today in other Halloween customs. There was also the tradition of "souling," begging for cakes in remembrance of the dead, which is similar to the twentieth-century "trick-or-treat" custom of going from house to house on Halloween.

### Should We Observe Halloween?

How does all this affect us now in the twentieth century? Understanding the historical origins of Halloween should change our outlook in a number of ways. First of all, we have discovered that some of the festivals which we call Christian are of pagan origin or are a mixture of paganism and professing Christianity. (For more on this, write for our free booklet *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?*) Do we really want to participate in a Christian-cloaked holiday whose roots are unchristian?

Secondly, understanding the origins of our traditions leads us to question the validity of many commonly accepted modern religious beliefs. For example, most people who observe the traditions associated with All Saints' Day do so because saints are considered by them to be "special" Christians. Yet the Bible calls *all* true Christians saints (I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; 5:3). A saint is simply anyone who is set apart to God. Furthermore, those who observe All Souls' Day are led to believe the erroneous concept of a soul which exists independent of the body.

Why blindly follow customs which consist mostly of recycled paganism, and which aren't even mentioned, let alone sanctioned, by God's Word, the Bible? Why follow the traditions of ancient heathenism when it is questionable whether such observances please God (Deut. 18:9; Jer. 10:2)? Now that you have been given this eye-opening information, it's up to you to act on it. The choice is yours. □



## PART TWO: WHY NOT ANOTHER WAR?

Several months ago I used the space in this column to point out the many danger signs of war so prevalent around the world. Now there are many more. Hence, Part Two. Since the debacle of Vietnam, Americans have crawled into a shell. We do not want to be involved in any more “foreign” wars (only civil wars are not foreign). No matter how important the country involved may be to our own safety, economy, and style of life, we are disinterested. The pride of our power has all but disappeared.

*Star Wars* we enjoy. Old war movies saturate TV. Violence in the public media is only superseded by sexploitation. Our President boldly tells the U.S.S.R. through a speech at graduation exercises at a war college: “We will have cooperation or *confrontation*.”

**The Bible puts the kill ratio at only 25 percent—or about 55 million of our current population. Be encouraged!**

He also beefs up our civil defense spending in preparation for the “unthinkable” nuclear Armageddon we all fear may come, but dismiss because it is too uncomfortable to consider.

Solzhenitsyn warns America of the disintegration of our society, saying we have lost our backbone, have no goals other than continued and increasing self-satisfaction. He also predicts another massive war for the planet, but doesn't think it will be nuclear.

The Chinese insist that the next war will be a nuclear one, fought between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., but they predict the confrontation will occur on the traditional battlefield of Europe. The Chinese, by the way, have been putting their entire vast human stockpile of nearly one billion workers to the task of creating the most massive civil defense system known to mankind—and it is almost complete. They hope to weather the storm, and they are doing something about it. The Soviets have consistently spent somewhere in the neighborhood of ten billion dollars a year

for ten years establishing a sophisticated civil defense they hope will ensure the loss of fewer than ten million of their people in a nuclear exchange. The U.S. is now belatedly beefing up its civil defense program (which is a sick joke) to \$800,000 a year—too little, too late.

**Americans have crawled into a shell.  
We do not want to be involved in any more “foreign” wars.**

A presidential study last fall determined that in the event of a nuclear war with the Russians, about 140 million Americans would perish. A Pentagon study disagrees and estimates the losses in excess of 170 million. The Bible, believe it or not, puts the kill ratio at only 25 percent—or about 55 million of our current population. Be encouraged!

The backyard bomb shelter fad died in the '50s—everyone realized the effort was useless. Sanctuaries already prepared for crucial government personnel are accessible with a two-hour notice. Yet, admittedly, if nuclear weapons were launched by submarines near our coast, the warning time would be less than fifteen minutes! And it took a presidential command to attain the two-hour escape capability!

Take it all with a grain of SALT—maybe détente will work; maybe the Russians are only cuddly bears too involved with their own problems to worry about obliterating us; maybe they are not bent on world domination, even though that is their oft stated aim; maybe Santa Claus and the Easter bunny are real!

Watch your daily media in every form and see how many references to the coming war you can find—you may be surprised (in more ways than one!). And if you're interested in reading about a future war that an unimpeachable source predicts is going to happen in the near future, write for your free copy of our booklet *The Red Horse: War*. Why not another war? Watch this column for Part Three, unless . . . □







# News vs. Reality

# HEAD

READING BETWEEN THE

# LINES

*Our concept of reality is often determined by what someone else says reality is. Nowhere is this more true than in the world of mass-media print and broadcast news journalism. The bulk of our news comes to us secondhand, neatly packaged on the pages of our morning newspapers or from TV. The news that makes it into the public consciousness often does so because somebody determined it was "fit to print." Only when we understand the message behind the medium can we appreciate that news and reality are often two distinctly different things.*

by George Ritter

**I**n early 1977 a condensation of a book entitled *Murder of a Gentle Land* chronicled mind-numbing atrocities of Hitlerian proportions—the systematic elimination of over one million human beings by the Khmer Rouge in the nation of Cambodia. *Murder of a Gentle Land* was subsequently evaluated by a reviewer for the *New York Times*, Paul Grimes. While Grimes noted that *Murder of a Gentle Land* was a "book of importance," he expressed a few reservations. He objected to the title on the grounds that the extermination of masses of human beings was not the same thing as saying the Cambodian government intended

to eliminate the entire country, i.e., the "land." "The authors are to be censured," Grimes wrote, "for exhorting people, as they do in their preface, 'to halt the ongoing annihilation of the Cambodian people and to spare the world a repetition of their tragedy'" (Louis Segesvary, "Spiritual Horror," *Reason*, August 1978, p. 28).

The reviewer, in assessing one of the most monumental human rights abuses of this century, could still find an optimistic note in it all: "Yes, they [the Khmer Rouge] have been brutal," he wrote, "but in their own way the Communists clearly wanted to rebuild Cambodia. In doing this, they felt a need to destroy first, and their methods were horrible" (*ibid.*).

Grimes might also have noted that Hitler wanted a thousand-year Reich and that Stalin and Lenin in their Russian bloodlettings did so "for the good of the proletariat."

One wonders if the same book reviewer would have censured writers during the 1940s who might have exhorted people "to halt the ongoing annihilation of the Jewish people and to spare the world a repetition of their tragedy."

Grimes' rather strange lack of moral outrage was symptomatic of a glaring double standard that existed among the major organs of the media. Initial reports of the Cambodian atrocities were downplayed. Two networks even reported that the Khmer troops were well disciplined. Although the three major networks had spent 4 hours and 55 minutes broadcast time on Cambodia in the 20 months following "liberation" by the Khmer Rouge, only seven percent of that total had been devoted to the bloodbath. This oversight could certainly not have been attributed to a lack of hard evidence. Thousands of eyewitnesses were available to be interviewed. In addition, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had issued two major atrocity reports in 1975. (At the time, these reports aroused only passing interest.)

The treatment of Cambodia by the electronic news media typifies one of the problems inherent in a world where news is edited, managed, and packaged before it ever reaches the public. If a news item disturbs one's carefully nurtured image of reality, then the obvious answer is to suppress, deemphasize, or ignore the unsettling truth. The situation in Cambodia (as noted in an article in the September *Plain Truth*) has been a problem for the media because it runs counter to the popular myth that revolutionary movements are supposed to ameliorate social conditions. Obviously in some instances they have. But the recent history of China, Russia, Cuba and other Communist countries can just as readily lead to the opposite conclusion.

## Preserving a Preconceived Image of the Real World

The coverage of the Cambodian massacre is an example of the fact that, while the mass media would never openly admit it, in actuality they control the manufacture and processing of much of what we call news.

Once a conceptual working model of reality has been established, humans, whether in or out of the news



media, are loath to part with it. Subsequent events are subjectively interpreted to fit the model. If an event shows signs of running counter to an accepted notion, the analyst or commentator will attempt to isolate it, point out that it is a minor exception to the rule, or find some aspect of it that appears to be in harmony with his preconceived image.

The news media's treatment of California's recent tax revolt and the passage of the controversial Proposition 13 is a case in point. During the heat of the campaign much debate centered around whether passage of Proposition 13 would require substantial cuts in essential government services such as fire fighters, police, and paramedics. One major network, in an ostensibly objective eyewitness news report, took the TV viewer on an insider's tour of paramedics at work, answering calls and applying first aid. One scene recorded the paramedics rendering timely and vital assistance to a woman with a serious cardiopulmonary problem. In almost juvenile terms the news commentator noted the obvious: that in such cases time is of the essence and that there was a growing fear that this timely assistance—in some cases a life-and-death matter—would no longer be available if Proposition 13 passed.

While the short TV news clip did not say it in so many words, the viewer was left with the distinct impression that Proposition 13 was a looming menace to the life and health of the community. No attempts were made in the particular newscast to balance this rather depressing view by analyzing the particulars of California's monumental budgetary surplus, or the state's enormous expenditures for less-than-vital services such as highway construction, public works projects or generous retirement benefits. No criticism was made of priorities in government spending, nor was there any examination of whether it would be possible with less emphasis on nonessentials to have both the paramedics and Proposition 13 as well. Instead, the viewer's attention

was riveted on only one of many areas where spending could be cut, and he was left to ponder the possible havoc Proposition 13 might wreak on emergency victims.

In terms of the national press, Proposition 13 and the California tax revolt, like Cambodia, went against the grain of conventional political wisdom. For the last few decades public-opinion shapers have to one degree or another shared a philosophy that was formulated by successive ruling elites: namely, that government should cure, solve or at least minimize many of society's ills, no matter how much it costs the taxpayer. By passing Proposition 13, the California electorate challenged that notion.

But sections of the media were reluctant to describe the California tax revolt for what it really was. Blame was placed on the unique and skyrocketing property tax situation, the inaction of the state legislature, and inflationary pressures. While numerous news analysts focused on the outrage of the taxpayers or voter "hedonism," few seemed willing to ask fundamental questions regarding the most "hedonistic" aspect of our society: namely, an arrogant, self-perpetuating government bureaucracy.

#### **Confusing Hard News with Editorial Commentary**

One method of news slanting which often goes unnoticed occurs when editorials are printed as front-page news stories. A recent example involved President Carter and the Marston affair. David Marston was a federal prosecutor in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was a Republican and had been appointed during the Ford Administration. Traditionally, incoming presidents had made appointments to this type of office on the basis of political considerations. Candidate Jimmy Carter, when running for President, had promised to eliminate the political favoritism from this process and to make such appointments solely on the basis of merit.

Unfortunately, Marston's perfor-

mance became too meritorious, and certain Democratic Congressmen began to feel the heat as he closed in on some obvious sources of political corruption that were festering in Pennsylvania.

After becoming President, Carter received an almost desperate call from one of the politicians involved, pleading for Marston's removal. The President obliged, and the Marston affair erupted as the press and public reacted to the firing of a federal prosecutor whose investigation was just beginning to bear fruit.

Shortly after the Marston affair broke, a major west coast daily carried a "news" story concerning "the long odds facing Carter's merit selection system." The reporter's contention was that because a certain influential Southern Democratic senator would have to *approve* any appointments that Carter made, it would be virtually impossible to institute a merit system over the senator's powerful political veto. The reporter also noted that "by the time the Marston matter made headlines, the question of whether Carter abided fully by his pledge to name prosecutors 'without any considerations of political aspects or influence' should not have come as a surprise."

Obviously, the writer, unlike the general public, was aware of the political realities surrounding appointment of federal prosecutors. So from *his* standpoint the Marston affair may not have been that surprising. But one could hardly expect the public to be either that familiar or sympathetic with Washington back-room politics in light of what they had been promised during the presidential campaign.

In addition, the "surprising" thing about the writer's assessment is that the Marston affair did not involve an *appointment* that would have been influenced by the powerful Southern senator. It involved the *firing* of a prosecutor already in office. Thus the powerful Southern senator would not have had any influence in the removal of Marston had the Administration left things alone. Viewed from this standpoint,



# The Missing Dimension in News Analysis

The problem with news analysis today is that it ignores the revealed truth of God's Word. The really important events of our time are often ignored or misinterpreted. Real understanding of what is going on in the world is lacking.

Jesus Christ once sternly told the Pharisees: "O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matt. 16:3.) How like our news reports today which concentrate on weather forecasting, or celebrities, but provide precious little in the way of coherent, orderly understanding of world events.

Real understanding of trends and events demands that we look at things from God's viewpoint. That viewpoint is revealed in the Bible, and it systematically shows how God is working out His great purpose for mankind. The record of *how* God intends to do that is contained in Bible prophecy. Since the plan of God means everything to your eternal future, events which bear on that plan are the most important of events. But they are woefully neglected in the secular news media.

In terms of His plan for mankind, the thing uppermost in God's mind is the restoration of the government of God to the earth. That government will be restored after a series of prophesied events, which

are laid out in general time order in certain key chapters of the Bible.

Thus everything which we report in *The Plain Truth* seeks to relate current world conditions with prophesied events of the Bible. In fact, *The Plain Truth* is like the watchman of Ezekiel 33, whose God-given duty it was to warn the people of approaching trouble when he saw it coming.

As our Editor, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, has directed, it is the charge of *The Plain Truth* to "cull out from the vast labyrinths of world news, and from the Bible, the real meaning *behind* these happenings—sifting out from the flood of nonessential, nonsensical and irrelevant so-called news of murders, divorces, scandals, politics, and social happenings, the *significant* items bearing on fulfilled prophecy." Those items are important because they signify both approaching trouble and the eventual restoration of the government of God.

Furthermore, by watching world news with an eye to how events fit Bible prophecy, we get our minds off the petty, mundane, trivial everyday events which take up so much space in the modern media, and onto the things of God. Secular news analysis in newspapers and on television cannot provide understanding of the *whole* of world conditions—it gives only the parts. Reel-

ing from a whipsaw ride of disjointed media events, a person's consciousness is assaulted by every new wind of media preoccupation. This can have absolutely tragic results.

Unless we remain alert, the traumatic events foretold in Bible prophecy may catch us unprepared. It is foolish, indeed, to be like the five virgins of the parable in Matthew 25 who "slumbered and slept" (verse 5) and as a consequence were unprepared for the return of Christ (verse 10).

We do not know the day or the hour of Christ's return (Matt. 24:42-44). Therefore we must have our minds on the coming of Christ and the prophesied events leading up to that coming. Unless we are alert to the potential for fulfilled prophecy, there is a danger of neglecting the things of God altogether. Christ put it plainly when He said, after enumerating a grisly series of events to befall the world: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. . . . Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:34-36).

—Jeff Calkins

the news writer's assessment that the senatorial connection made the Marston firing an "unsurprising" political affair becomes mostly irrelevant.

The writer also failed to note the yawning gulf between his evaluation of the Marston affair as a purely political matter and that of the President, who obstinately maintained that Marston was fired for reasons of merit! If Marston was in fact fired because of lack of merit, then the writer's idea of a political connection was inaccurate. If, on the other hand, Marston was fired for political reasons, then the President's subsequent justification for the dismissal on the basis of merit would appear to be even more ludi-

crous. Viewed from either standpoint, what appears to be hard news on the front page of a major daily newspaper in reality turns out to be something of a pointless apology for the Administration.

## Faithfully Adhere to the "Official" Version

Another method that can be used to calm troubled waters is to rely heavily on the statements of an "official" spokesman. One prominent example of how this technique can have tragic results involves the Tonkin Gulf incident. The press gave wide coverage to the Administration's version of the incident, even though there was evidence of irregularities. An interview of 36 crewmen

by the Associated Press raised serious questions concerning this official version, but most newspapers had no desire to print such a story. The few senators who spoke out against government policy on the floor of the Senate also went virtually unheralded by the press. The Administration was able to ram the infamous Tonkin Gulf resolution through the Senate, which helped pave the way for America's full-scale involvement in Vietnam. History was later to demonstrate that the Administration had been less than candid in its description of the Tonkin Gulf incident. Had the press not been so trusting in its acceptance of this "official" version,

(Continued on page 36)



# PRO:

by Frances Halpern

**M**enace, wasteland, vehicle of violence, false image maker, purveyor of pap and pills, panderer to puerile mindlessness. That's what they say, those keepers of the public taste who fill the nation's journals with shrieks of despair over television.

Poor old Pandora's box of a boob tube. Every social, emotional and political evil is blamed on what is broadcast and every ignorance and prejudice attributed to what is not.

A psychoanalyst who says he never watches television except for an occasional basketball game proclaimed in a lengthy published report that TV is homogeneous slop which induces morbid regression. He insists there is nothing on television to engage the mind, and our urge to sit and stare is an effort to crawl back into the womb!

So, on one hand we have critics abusing television for creating mindless passivity, while we are asked at the same time to accept the idea that television is the well-spring of violence.

A former Federal Communications commissioner tells us that television's message seems to create anxiety and alienation in the poor, and emptiness and neuroses among the affluent. He says, "We learn from TV that our worth as individuals depends on how much money we have and how much product we can consume." (Continued on page 24)


Illustration by Ed Scarsbrick

## ITS MANY POSITIVE USES





by Jeff Calkins



No one is seriously saying that we should abolish television. Rather, it is our attitude toward television which should be changed. Since television radically affects the quality of our lives and makes a difference in the kind of persons we become, we should approach it very guardedly. Our celebration of the relatively few nuggets of quality programming should be muted, in view of the rest of the nonsense which passes for supposedly adult fare in "the vast wasteland."

In practical terms, this means that we should be much more selective in what we watch and also that we should watch much less.

For too many of us, television is a virtual way of life, literally occupying most of our nonworking waking hours. And this is saddening, because it means that our human potential is being squandered.

Man was put on earth for better things than merely passing the time pleasantly. Humans were designed by their Creator to develop their full moral, intellectual and physical abilities. The problem with television—most television—is that it generally (Continued on page 25)

TOO MUCH  
CAN WASTE  
YOUR  
HUMAN  
POTENTIAL



## POSITIVE USES

(Continued from page 22)

Well, history reveals that the poor were always clever enough to feel anxiety and alienation. During the American, French and Russian revolutions, communication, instant and mass, was nonexistent. Nevertheless, the citizens managed to get their anxiety together and we all know what happened. As for the affluent, they have always been so richly endowed with emptiness and neuroses that generations of writers became famous scribbling novels about them.

Our culture—no, all cultures, including the primitive peoples we've been misinformed about—have always worshiped wealth, honored wealth, genuflected to wealth. Television is just the latest angle to exploit our crass little natures. Critics too often confuse the message/sales pitch with the medium. Listening to them one gets the impression they run out for a beer during the programming and see only the commercials. Sponsors and advertisers do indeed bombard us in an attempt to push products. But the same message comes to us in the form of mail to occupant, on billboards, radio, in magazines and newspapers, and on the sides of buses and backs of benches.

Our greed, our alienation, our neuroses and finally the violence in our society are blamed on television. Too easy, too easy an out. The Germans didn't need years of violence flickering before their eyes on a little screen to get them ready for what they did. And Hitler didn't need television to hypnotize an entire nation into following him, screaming their approval of his obscenities. They tore their fellows from among themselves and roasted millions in a "final solution" without prime-time conditioning.

Sigmund Freud, palms probably lifted to the sky, cried, "What do women want?" I ask the same thing of television's critics. "What do you want?" How much entertainment, news and information should we expect to receive in each 24-hour period? We do not demand that our theaters offer only opera, Shake-

peare, Beckett or ballet. We do not purchase books on philosophy or poetry by the tens of thousands, nor frequent concert halls to hear serious music by new composers, nor consistently jam the halls of museums. These interests are reserved for a small portion of the population who for a variety of reasons enjoys intellectual entertainment.

And so I concede that television is not pulsating with serious drama, or awash with high musical moments. But this so-called wasteland offers programming like the fascinating special on poet T. S. Eliot, a sumptuous musical treat called *Stravinsky Remembered*, Laurence Olivier in a new staging of O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* which aired in prime time. How about the two-hour uninterrupted and anguished examination of the growing gang menace in Los Angeles, the Cousteau documentaries, Wolper's *Primal Man*, the historic *World at War*, Alistair Cooke and the *America* series, *Masterpiece Theater*, and the scary special *Earthquake*?

A little less paralysis of thumb and forefinger and a bit of independent dial twisting and suddenly you find yourself watching a very revealing open-ended discussion on the Equal Rights Amendment with the ladies showing their fangs on both sides of the issue; or actor James Earl Jones interviewing comics Scoey Mitchell and Slappy White on *Black Omnibus*. That was a marvelous piece of TV, rich with black humor and irony. And Barbara Walters with her *Not for Women Only* series deals in depth with the nature of our Congress, discusses homosexuality, airs the emotion and commotion over obesity, the legal rights of children.

Along with the soaps, game shows and old movies, daytime programming provides provocative and unexpected moments. A talk-show host had a painful interview with a reluctant Margaret Truman Daniel, who seemed a bit hazy about the contents of the book about her father which bears her name as author; and an extraordinary discussion with Mary Sirhan, mother of Robert Kennedy's assassin. Mrs. Sirhan's blind passion in behalf of her son should have been the sub-

ject of serious review by both psychiatrists and television critics.

The repeated complaint that television offers no substance to engage the mind is simply not true. I chose an evening at random to monitor the tube without trying to find the best night of the week. That evening there was a staggering array of information and entertainment presented by all the channels, both network and local, during prime evening hours.

*Earthkeeping*, a series for young people, examined the values involved in the interaction of humans and their environment. *The Lively Arts* showcased a Metropolitan Opera singer. There was stunning photography to charm the armchair traveler on *World of Survival* which visited the Galápagos islands. There were four specials on—each a joy to watch. The Harlem Globetrotters repeated their *Popcorn Machine* thing, and you'd have to be some sourpuss not to get a kick out of it. The Marlo Thomas special induced tears and laughter. Lily Tomlin followed in another hour of comic satire. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology joined ABC news to do a half hour called *New Hopes for Medicine* which explored the breakthrough in multidisciplinary medicine. There was also a great movie on that night: the 1937 version of the life of Emile Zola starring Paul Muni. Aldous Huxley's bitter novel *Point, Counterpoint* was transformed for television and aired that randomly chosen night. I could go on. The content and quality of just one evening's TV schedule was overwhelming.

For a change of pace, television offers cooking lessons from experts who urge their listeners to stretch their culinary imaginations. One can exercise with physical therapists, learn Spanish, Hebrew or German, or follow a yoga guru. There are programs in Spanish and Japanese for our large ethnic populations and a variety of consumer education programs aiding us in becoming wiser purchasers.

Ideas are exchanged through the various talk-show hosts and their guests. How many of us, after all, can confront Menachem Begin, Richard Nixon, Anwar Sadat, or a



prostitute who wrote a book proclaiming how happy it all is (while bitter tears course down her cheeks)? Perhaps it is a form of voyeurism to watch some of these people on the tube, but it also gives us an opportunity to make a personal judgment about the prime movers in our world.

Each week television offers more than a dozen programs dealing with travel and animal and nature lore. Paris is explored. Australian aborigines studied. A sampan village in Hong Kong is visited. Or an English boys' prep school. Life in the remotest parts of the sea is delivered to the viewer in living color. Rapids are run, animals stalked, safaris filmed. The average urban man is learning for the first time how his planet is seen through the eyes of the anthropologist, explorer, ecologist, geologist, oceanographer.

Air time is devoted to minority people with emphasis on Chicanos, blacks, Asians, women and the older American.

The mind could become engaged through viewing Arthur Fiedler conducting the Boston Symphony and spending a few hours each weekend with a whole array of world leaders on *Face the Nation*, *Issues and Answers*, *Meet the Press*, *Pacesetters*, *Newsmakers*, etc.

So we really have a choice of how we enrich our lives. We can read, go to the theater, attend concerts, turn on the radio, or put a record on the old Victrola. What television is incapable of giving us we can find elsewhere. But we can also use this extraordinary communicator as a positive part of modern living without apologies to the researchers who have decided that television viewers are psychologically damaged nitwits crying out for mama's womb.

Besides, I don't think I'll ever get a chance to visit the bushmen of the Kalahari Desert, see the giant turtles of the Galápagos islands, track wild elephants in India, or know what the weather is in Oshkosh, Ossining, or Ogden without that warm, flickering screen turned on and on and on. And we'll return right after this message from . . . □

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*Frances Halpern is a free-lance writer in Los Angeles, California.*

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## TOO MUCH

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*(Continued from page 23)*

hinders the full development of those abilities.

Let us put first things first: The purpose of life, as readers of this magazine realize, is to develop the perfect, holy character of God; this requires that most of our time be spent doing much more uplifting, productive things than staring at the tube.

Most television does not consist of specials on sampan villages and documentaries on the Kalahari bushmen. The television which most of us watch most of the time may be

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The purpose of life is to develop the perfect, holy character of God; this requires that most of our time be spent doing much more uplifting, productive things than staring at the tube.

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for the most part pleasant or entertaining, but it is really utter drivel! It is mental junk food. It is a waste of time.

The essence of life is time. Our lives consist of time. The danger of television is that we can literally waste our lives by spending too much time in front of the "boob tube." The apostle Paul told the Ephesian church that they should "walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16).

For adults in particular, this tendency of television to "guzzle" time is most dangerous. While current literature is full of various arguments against television because of excessive sex and violence on the tube (see, for example, "Should We Tame TV?," *The Plain Truth*, Au-

gust 1976), the factor of time is perhaps even more insidious. The "opportunity cost" of watching too much television is enormous.

Consider the kind of human beings we adults and our children could become if we used our spare time more productively in pursuits other than television viewing. We could develop our bodies through exercise; we could learn new skills; we could improve our minds by reading or attending classes; we could even engage in the traditional good works of visiting the sick and afflicted. We could revive the art of family communication; we could make new friends, and add their experience to ours by talking with them. Most importantly, we could support the true Work of God and become closer to Him through time invested in prayer and Bible study.

All these activities would make us better persons; they would add to the quality of life as we experience it, as well as help make us better human beings physically, morally, spiritually. Their connection to television is simple—time is a scarce resource, and there is never enough time to do the things we ought to be doing. Watching television competes with other, more uplifting activities. Therefore, unless we are extremely selective in what we watch, television literally wastes our human potential.

There is a reason why the kind of programming which television's partisans approve of (documentaries on T. S. Eliot, Kalahari bushmen, etc.) consistently draws low ratings: The medium seems inherently better suited to entertaining people than doing anything else. Within limits, of course, this is fine. There are times in life, like when we are tired from a hard day, that we simply want to relax and be passively entertained.

But these times should be rare if we really are striving to develop our latent talents. And we can do so only if we are willing to put forth the effort. Unfortunately, for many of us, television is just too seductive. It really is the easiest way to pass time known to man, with the possible exception of sleep. It is a path of least resistance. It is a medium which, because it is always there in



the home, readily accessible and requiring no great talent to employ, appeals to our laziness. Most television programming neither taxes our brains nor inspires our spirits. And this is why, in our sloth, we find it easier to flip on television than engage in any number of other, more beneficial activities.

Indeed, psychologist Thomas Hanna has made the same point. He wonders whether our tendency to watch too much television says something less than complimentary about us spiritually: "Marshall McLuhan has written much about how the medium of television modifies human perception in a radical way. That may be true, but it is not the point of greatest importance.

"What is of poignant importance is the extraordinary fact that so many millions of human beings spend a major part of their existence habitually watching a television screen. That there are so many millions of Americans who are so unresourceful, uncreative, unspontaneous and unalive and that they cannot help being drawn to a television set during their free time, that is the wonder. It is as if they had nothing else to do. It is as if their world of possibilities was so tight and restricted that there really wasn't anything they could do. That so many millions of originally vital and self-sufficient Americans have somehow grown so spiritually bored and so physically diminished that they should spend their days dulled and hypnotized by a play of images—that is the central cultural issue raised by commercial television."

But there are other reasons why we should be leery of the medium. Not only does most television programming have a negative effect on the quality of our individual lives, but also on our whole society.

Consider the "mad prophet" Howard Beale's indictment of television in the movie *Network*: "There is an entire generation right now who never knew anything that didn't come out of this tube! This tube is the ultimate revelation! This tube can make or break presidents, popes, and prime ministers!"

The point is that television distorts society's grasp of reality. It cre-

ates its own artificial reality: Events which don't rate time on the 6 o'clock news don't make as great an impact on the public consciousness. It is almost as if something really doesn't exist, or isn't really an issue unless it is legitimized by being televised.

The television reality, for the most part, is a sterile one. The universe of the sit-coms is a universe in which God doesn't exist—except as a swear word. Perhaps the acknowledgment of His presence would make audiences feel uncomfortable.

Television has had other dubious effects on our society. It has made us all a little bit more illiterate: Witness the furor over declining college

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The danger of television is that we can literally waste our lives by spending too much time in front of it. In contrast, the apostle Paul said, "Redeem the time, because the days are evil."

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board scores. It has made our culture bland and insipid. Partly because of television, regional accents aren't as distinctive as they once were. It certainly has contributed to our universally shortened attention spans. It has adversely affected the health and physical fitness of our entire nation, most alarmingly among traditionally vibrant and energetic youth. And there seems to be a large body of evidence that it has played a role in causing violent crime, particularly among juveniles.

But the truly frightening potential of television lies in the possibility that it could be used to create a totalitarian "1984" society. It is disturbing, even now, to realize that a comparatively small group of network executives and their immediate staffs control, via their influence

on major network programming, much of what goes into many people's consciousness.

Equally disturbing is the fact that very recently a mind-control technique was used by a television station (with FCC permission) in an attempt to communicate with a suspected mass murderer. During two newscasts, two or three frames of film containing the message "contact the chief" were interspersed among frames about the killings. This was a subliminal message which appeared on the screen for only a fraction of a second—too briefly for the eye to consciously see, but long enough to implant a subconscious suggestion in the viewer's mind.

In this instance, subliminal suggestion was used for good. But it could also be used for unspeakable evil. Will the day ever come when governments use this power to dominate the minds of their populations?

Television's potential in helping develop a 1984 society is enormous. Those who control programming can use their power to create the "public consciousness." Even today, programming is controlled to the extent that only orthodox, staid, conventional visions of reality are allowed to go out over the airwaves. Let us hope that the move for more channels and greater diversity of programming will stand as a check against such potential abuses.

Again, the point is, while television may be a fine technological innovation, it still seems to be doing us, on balance, more harm than good.

Of course, there are many good programs. Yes, travelogues offer us the chance to experience various locales and cultures at little cost, and documentaries give us the chance to "meet" people whom we will probably never see in person. But most of us, most of the time, watch . . . *Laverne and Shirley!* And that is the reason why television ought not to be celebrated, but received skeptically; why television affords us an opportunity to exercise selectivity and moderation; why television, as several authors have pointed out, is a potent drug which should be so respected as to be taken in very minute quantities. □



**D**epression, as one writer put it in a recent *Plain Truth*, is a "gray menace." Depression and discouragement will gnaw at you until they destroy you—if you let them. And nothing is more depressing than the idea that you, as an individual, are worthless.

We all have low points. None of us is immune from occasional despondency. But no one has to live with it on a chronic basis.

Some people are very consistent—they are *always* discouraged. They live in "the pits." They have adopted a permanent posture of personal worthlessness. They are like the character Joe BfSplk in the now defunct *Lil' Abner* comic strip—everywhere they go there is a dark cloud over their head.

Such people have suffered a massive loss of self-esteem. They have lost their zest for life and any sense of personal worth. They feel neither competent to live nor worthy of life. They are self-destructive.

As a result of this chronic depression such people are not even beginning to live up to their own human potential. They have not yet discovered the talents, abilities and qualities that lie within themselves. Their flag is flying at half-mast over the death of the self, and they are unable to climb out of the crypt of despair into which they have fallen. For all intents and purposes such people are through. They have lost their reason to live. Worse, they have lost their *will* to live.

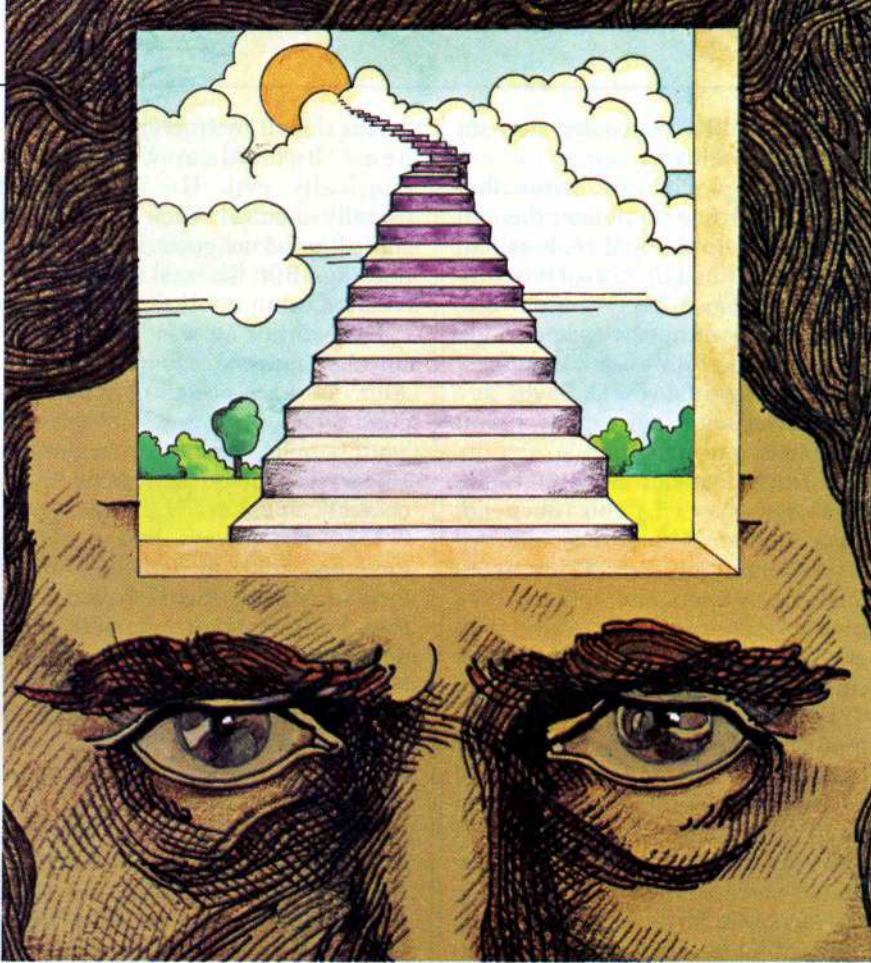
You may well be such a person.

If so, there is something you can do about it. You can begin by changing your view of man in general. Then you can change your view of yourself.

#### **The Biblical Perspective**

It is believed, in some circles, that the Bible's view of man is essentially negative. It is quite true that the Bible pulls no punches in exposing the evil aspects of man's nature. The prophet Jeremiah, for example, said: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it?" (Jer. 17:9.) We have all experienced the deceitfulness of our own hearts. That is why we can say

Illustration by Terry Smith



## **ARE YOU LIVING UP TO YOUR POTENTIAL?**

by Brian Knowles

*Personal discouragement and a feeling of worthlessness are hallmarks of our troubled times. A reader of The Plain Truth wrote, "I have often looked longingly at the guns hanging on my wall, and thought that maybe that would be the best way out." He wrote of feelings of "inferiority, guilt, and worthlessness." How unfortunate! Yet many suffer from similar feelings. If you are one of these unfortunate souls, it's high time you adopted a new view of yourself and the rest of humanity!*

unanimously: "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." How often have we all betrayed our own best intentions and done the very thing we were trying to avoid!

This is undoubtedly what Paul was talking about in Romans. He wrote: "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate"



(Rom. 7:15). He concluded that sin dwelt within his very being.

There is a part of man's nature that is sinful, evil. Sooner or later this evil asserts itself. In the final analysis, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

Every day of our lives, knowingly or unknowingly, we are locked in a struggle against evil. Each day presents us with temptations, moral dilemmas, and challenges.

But this does not mean that man is essentially evil. This does not mean that man is intrinsically evil or predominantly evil. Think about this: Do we do evil most of the time? Are the majority of our acts evil? Or do many, if not most, of us commit evil acts only occasionally?

The best way to understand this matter of "human nature" is to go back to the beginning. We are told in Genesis 1:27: "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

That's the first and most basic point of understanding: Man is created in the image of God. When God surveyed the physical creation, including the man and woman, He observed that "it was *very good*" (Gen. 1:31). Man, created in God's image, is "very good"! He is *not* intrinsically evil. He is essentially a good creation.

Man was created with vast potential, both for this life and for the life to come. The Creator built into man talents, skills, brain power, tactile dexterity and other qualities that place man on a unique plane far above that of the animal kingdom.

Man is *not* an animal! Man is a reflection of God.

Granted, man sinned. According to the Genesis record, Adam and Eve yielded to the temptings of the serpent in the Garden of Eden. The apostle Paul, commenting on this, wrote: "Therefore . . . sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and . . . death spread to all men *because all men sinned . . .*" (Rom. 5:12).

### **The Capacity for Choice**

God did not create man sinful. Sin came into the human world when

Adam sinned by listening to the serpent. But Adam was not intrinsically evil. He was created morally neutral. He had neither sinned nor done good. He had done nothing. But he was not a "bad" creation or an inferior product. As a created entity he was "very good." But he had the capacity for evil. And he had equal capacity for good. The deck was not stacked against man from the beginning. He was created with freedom of choice!

Man has always had a choice. God had told the Israelites in the days of Moses: "See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. If you obey. . . . But if your heart turns away. . . ." (Deut. 30:15-17). They had an equal choice between obeying or turning away from God and missing the mark of His standard of behavior.

When man chooses to sin (literally, "miss the mark"), it is because he has the free capacity to make such a negative choice. How could God hold us accountable for evil if we had no choice but to perform it because of the way He made us? But He did not make us automatons. Man is a creature with the capacity for choice.

But, man is accountable to God for his choices. If man sins he is said to be "condemned." If man avoids sin he is said to be "righteous." Since all have sinned at some point or another, all are guilty—all initially exist in a state of moral condemnation.

### **Man Is Justified by God**

However, the man who is forgiven of sin is said to be "justified"—that is, he is considered *as* righteous before God. Once forgiven, man again becomes righteous. But no man can become righteous on the basis of his own works or merit. Such righteousness has to be imparted from God as a gift; it is the "righteousness of God" given to man—not our own intrinsic righteousness, or "works of righteousness," that saves us from condemnation. (For more on this vital point, write for our free reprint titled "No!—You Can't Earn Your Salvation." Also the booklet *What*

### **Will You Be Doing in the Next Life?**

Christians, who are forgiven and justified by faith in the sacrifice of Christ, do not exist in a chronic state of guilt. Paul made that very clear in Romans 8:1. He wrote: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

How abundantly clear! Christians stand justified before God. Their guilt for moral failure has been removed as an act of God's mercy. They do not have to bear the burden of chronic, gnawing guilt! They have been freed from the penalty of sin that once hung over their heads like a sword of Damocles.

Does this mean that Christians never again sin? Not at all. Christians do sin! That's what Paul was saying about himself in the passage quoted earlier (Rom. 7:15). Paul sinned—even as an apostle of God. But he was not condemned. He did not live in a perpetual state of guilt. He was delivered from that by Jesus Christ (Rom. 7:24-25).

The apostle Paul did not adopt a "whipped dog" posture about himself, even though he admitted to sin. He did not feel he needed to grovel in humiliation before man and God. Rather, he had adopted a spiritually mature attitude toward his own humanity. He had found the solution to his own sinfulness—or rather, it had found him.

There is no denying our moral guilt before God. Every human being who has ever lived (except Jesus Christ) has been guilty of sin. But, by the same token, everyone has been "guilty" of doing *good*! Our deeds have not been exclusively evil, have they? Have we not all done good from time to time as well? Of course we have.

That is why Paul could also say, "When Gentiles who have not the law *do by nature* what the law requires, they are a law to themselves. . . ." (Rom. 2:14).

That's a very important point! It is possible to do "by nature" right things as much as it is possible to yield to the negative side of our nature and do wrong things! But it is for the wrong things we have all



done that Christ had to be sacrificed.

Man's nature is a mixture of good and evil potential. Man has negative and positive capacities. But he is neither intrinsically good nor intrinsically evil by nature. When man sins he does so by choice. But the same is true when he does good.

Each person has within himself the capacity for monumental evil. As Jesus said: "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these *evil* things *come from within*, and they defile a man" (Mark 7:21-23).

Jesus knows "what is in" man. He knows that we have the capacity for enormous evil. He recognizes that we are but dust. He knows our frame. He understands that "the flesh is weak."

#### **Man Needs Extra Help**

Yet Jesus was optimistic about man's capacity for good. He knew that with the help of the Holy Spirit, man is capable of much good. He promised to send, as a help to man, the Holy Spirit—in Greek, *paraclete*, meaning literally "a help alongside" (John 14:15-17, 26, 16:13, etc.). This Spirit would provide Christians with dynamic power (Acts 1:8) with which to overcome the negative aspects of their nature.

Paul spoke plainly of the kind of fruit that would be borne by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Christians: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23).

Man is capable of producing good fruit. With the help of the Holy Spirit the sky is the limit. Man can soar to undreamed-of heights. He has at his disposal the same power that created the universe. Man can, with God's help, realize his own maximum potential—both in this life and in the life to come. No man need be discouraged in the light of this knowledge! No one needs to live in a chronic state of guilt and fear. No one needs to

adopt a "whipped dog" posture about life. There is help. There is hope.

But each individual must assume the responsibility for himself. Each must avail himself of the mercy, power and freedom of God. We must all "work out" our own salvation (Phil. 2:12). We must take the initiative in the face of God's calling and offer. We must generate from within ourselves the will to reach out our hands to God in humble acceptance of His magnificent offer.

#### **Man—In the Image of God**

To know God is to know true freedom. It means freedom from guilt. Freedom from self-doubt. Freedom from chronic discouragement. Freedom from a sense of worthlessness. Man is worth something. Man is worth so much that God gave His only begotten Son for him! (John 3:16.) To God man is the pinnacle of His creation. He is the ultimate expression of divine ingenuity. Man is created in the image of God. Man, in all of his beautiful sizes, shapes, skin colors and types, is a child of God. Man, in two sexes, is created in the image of God.

For man to realize who and what he is brings joy beyond expression. It is a leap to new plateaus of hope and anticipation for the future.

It is to be fulfilled in this life also.

For many "Christianity" is basically a religion of the afterlife. But real Christianity is a religion of "the now"—it is a way of life. It is a way of tapping into one's potential as a human being created in the image of a creative God.

Each individual has unique abilities and talents—some greater and some lesser than other human beings. We are encouraged to function "according to our several abilities"—that is, to do the best we can with what we have to do with. As the writer of Ecclesiastes said, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Eccl. 9:10). There is nothing to do in the grave except to wait unconsciously in dark oblivion for the resurrection call of the Creator. Now is the time to act. Today is the time of your salvation if you have been called of God. This

is your moment in the sun, your time of personal fulfillment.

It is a time of hope and joy. It is a time to revel in your talents and abilities. Time to use them fully in order to glorify God. It is a time to use the power of the Holy Spirit to fight against the unseen forces of evil and to gain the victory over the negative side of your own nature.

It is a time of forgiveness, a time of personal peace with God. You have been reconciled if you have been forgiven. You have been granted the priceless gift of guiltlessness. There is nothing to be sad and upset about. As the writer of Hebrews said: "Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet..." (Heb. 12:12-13).

You, as a created child of God, have incredible potential—both in this life and that which is to come. Once you are within the sphere of God's influence, and led by the power of His Holy Spirit, you can begin to realize that potential. You can soar to new heights of accomplishment. When you come to realize who and what you are in terms of God's purposes, your life will take on new and profound meaning. You will have new direction—a sense of vision and destiny.

As a Spirit-led child of God you will no longer be weighted down with a back-breaking load of guilt. You will no longer feel a loss of self-esteem. Instead you will have a divinely imparted sense of identity.

In Christ you can have your sins "removed as far as the east is from the west." You can walk freely in the bright light of revelation and forgiveness, knowing that you are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Then, and only then, will you begin to live up to the incredible potential for which you were born! □

#### **RECOMMENDED READING**

The following booklets will be sent free of charge upon your request:

*Why Were You Born?*

*The Seven Laws of Success*

*Just What Do You Mean . . . Conversion?*

The mailing address of our office nearest you is on the inside front cover.



# TITHING AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

*It would be utterly ridiculous to claim that one of the Ten Commandments is "Thou shalt tithe." But it would be equally ludicrous to say there is absolutely no relationship between the law of the Ten Commandments and the law of tithing.*

by John R. Schroeder

Nothing upsets us more than to hear that someone else has his fingers in our pocket-book. Master Charge, VISA, Barclay card, our car payment—all combine to spend our paycheck before we even endorse it. But could God Himself rightfully claim a portion of our income in spite of all these other encumbrances?

Most acknowledge that we should at least adhere to the Ten Commandments. But could obedience to that royal law expressing love for God and neighbor have anything to do with the proper distribution of one's income? This article will examine the relationship between tithing and several points in the Decalogue.

## The Great Commandment

God is the Owner, Proprietor and Creator of everything that our eyes can see. David wrote in the Psalms: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Ps. 24:1). This verse shows that God created everything, and that by virtue of that creation He owns it all—including humankind.

By the act of tithing, we show worship, respect, love and admiration for our Creator. Tithing is an expression of honor and an acknowledgment of God's supreme lordship and mastery of the universe. That's the positive side of the first and great commandment in its relationship to tithing.

The negative aspect reads: "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods be-

fore me" (Ex. 20:2-3). For the true Christian, Egypt is a symbol of this present evil world, out of which God has delivered us. Therefore we owe Him the honor of avoiding sacrilege in any way, manner, shape or form.

Shunning other gods, in the true New Testament application, involves far more than not bowing down before a literal, man-made idol. You can easily make a god out of the unrighteous mammon of money and wealth. Indeed, this is perhaps the most common violation of the Ten Commandments in the Western world.

Giving one-tenth of one's income to be used for educational and humanitarian purposes helps one retain a sense of proportion about life's ultimate priorities. Money can be a very real "root of evil" when a person's total energies are channeled toward its acquisition and spending. It is much healthier to focus on the needs of others—whether those needs are to be told about the coming Kingdom of God, or to be ministered to in some other way.

But let's look at another one of God's commandments that few would think bears any relationship to tithing.

## The Sabbath and Tithing

The Sabbath commandment belongs to that part of the Decalogue that expresses our love toward God. It specifically involves honoring God with the proper use of a fixed period of time.

Many believe that it is not in the nature of the New Testament God to require a fixed amount of money

from those that love Him. They insist that one should only give as much as he wishes to—that there should be no minimum standard of giving.

God does, however, require one-seventh of our time in observing His Sabbath. So just as there is a minimum standard of time that God insists that we devote to worship of Him, it makes sense that there also would be a minimum standard of giving—a tenth (tithe) of our incomes.

God tells us to "remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Ex. 20:8) and that "to morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord" (Ex. 16:23). So the Sabbath day definitely is holy time to God. Likewise, it is stated elsewhere in the Pentateuch that the tithe is holy to God (Lev. 27:30, 32-33). The term "holy" is primarily defined in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary as being "set apart to the service of God."

So the Christian honors His heavenly Father by setting apart the tithe to the service of God's Work.

## Honor Your Heavenly Father

The Bible specifically commands us to honor our physical parents (Ex. 20:12). But spiritually, when we become converted, God is literally our heavenly Father and the Church is the "mother of us all" (Gal. 4:26).

One of the ways in which we can honor God is to return to Him the "firstfruits" of all our increase (Prov. 3:9). However, for obvious reasons it is a little difficult to give our financial blessings directly to the Creator God. Fortunately, the Church



represents God as His designated recipient! Those who are preaching the gospel are to gain their livelihood through financial contributions (I Cor. 9:14). Paul wrote: "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour [Greek, remuneration], especially they who labour in the word and doctrine" (I Tim. 5:17).

The Bible is crystal clear on this point. The Church is to be honored by reaping a fixed proportion of the physical blessings of the people (along with additional freewill offerings) in order to perform the great commission of preaching the gospel to the world as a witness.

But the first and fourth commandments are not the only ones that relate to tithing. Consider also the eighth commandment.

#### **You Shall Not Steal**

One of the cardinal sins committed in the Garden of Eden was stealing. When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit—took what was not theirs—they, in effect, stole directly from their heavenly Father.

The question is asked in I Samuel 2:25: "If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but *if a man sin against the Lord*, who shall intreat [intercede] for him?"

Could one actually sin against the Creator God by withholding tithes and offerings? The prophet Malachi answers: "*Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How are we robbing thee?' In your tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me; the whole nation of you*" (Mal. 3:8-9, RSV).

Failure to tithe, as shown by Malachi, is regarded by God as outright robbery. It is an affront to God! It is a symptom of both personal and national disrespect for our Creator. God asks: "A son honour-eth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour?" (Mal. 1:6.)

The apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesian Church of God: "Let him that stole *steal no more...*" (Eph. 4:28). That is good advice for anybody who might allow himself the

"luxury" of withholding a portion of his income from God.

Of course, our failure to tithe does not of itself hurt God! He already owns the universe and everything in it. The real hurt is borne by our neighbors. Many are not able to hear, see or read the good news of God's coming Kingdom because the necessary funds have not always been forthcoming. God commands His Church to preach and publish the gospel to all nations around the world (Matt. 24:14; 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). But it takes hard cash to buy radio and television time, not to mention paying for skyrocketing publishing and postal costs.

#### **Covetousness Is Idolatry!**

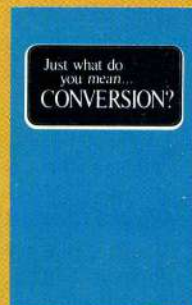
Covetousness is a major sin in the Western world today. But the sin doesn't stop with lusting after what belongs to somebody else. It is very difficult to separate sins against your neighbor from sins against God. Paul wrote to the Ephesian brethren: "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, *nor covetous man, who is an idolater*, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God" (Eph. 5:5). Paul did not mince words. Breaking the tenth commandment also breaks the first. Covetousness is idolatry!

And whether you covet what belongs to God or what belongs to your neighbor, it is still a violation of the "first and great commandment" so far as God is concerned. If you covet that portion of your income that you know, deep down, should go to God in the service of His Work, you are guilty of violating the first and last commandments. So there is a vital relationship between tithing and the Ten Commandments.

And the New Testament also shows that the ten points of the Decalogue have been summed up in the two great precepts of love of God and neighbor (Matt. 19:16-19; Luke 10:25-27; Lev. 19:18; Deut. 6:5). But Jesus went even further. He said: "On these two commandments [love of God and love of neighbor] hang all the law [including tithing] and the prophets" (Matt. 22:40). □

## **REAL CONVERSION (You can't win the prize unless you start the race)**

The apostle Paul likened the Christian life to a race, which must be run for the "prize" of eternal life. A person does not even begin his "race," however, until he has undergone a *genuine* conversion. The New Testament concept of conversion involves much more than a mere intellectual or ritualistic acceptance of a set of beliefs. True conversion can be defined in two parts. The first involves a definite event which occurs when God fulfills His promise to place the Holy Spirit within a person after certain conditions are met. The second part is a process which continues through the Christian's life. If you'd like to know more about the Bible's teaching on conversion, request the free booklet *Just What Do You Mean—CONVERSION?* Write to *The Plain Truth* (see addresses on inside front cover.)





# COMING SOON: TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

*After today's troubled and evil world—the wonderful world tomorrow. Here's just a glimpse into a soon-coming day—and what it will be like!*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**S**ome time back, when I was in Pasadena, the musical play *Oklahoma* was presented at the Ambassador Auditorium. Of course I had seen it before, years ago, and also had seen the motion picture of the same name. Many, many times have I heard the musical numbers from the play.

Here I am [editor's note: this section was written some months ago] on the Ivory Coast in Africa—virtually on the equator—but as I looked out the window of the hotel at breakfast and beheld a beautiful day dawning, the song of that play kept haunting my mind:

“O, what a beautiful morning,  
O, what a beautiful day.  
I've got a wonderful feeling.  
Everything's goin' my way!”

Yesterday I was writing an article about how Satan broadcasts—how he is the prince of the power of the air—how he now surcharges the air with the moods and attitudes of discontent, unhappiness, vanity, lust and greed, of jealousy and envy, the spirit of competition, antagonism and strife; of suspicion and resentment against others, of fear and worries, of frustrations, of rebellion against authority—especially God's authority. Satan literally injects this UNHAPPY state of mind into people.

I've said it so often: He does not broadcast in words, pictures, sounds or music, but subtly in moods, attitudes, impulses, feelings.

## **Then, Suddenly . . .**

Then, suddenly that tune from *Oklahoma*—of the “beautiful day” with “everything goin' my way”—brought to my mind this scripture of SURE PROPHECY: “And it shall be in that day, that LIVING WATERS shall

go out from Jerusalem. . . . And the Eternal shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one” (Zech. 14:8-9).

LIVING WATERS! Now just what does the Bible mean by that expression? Let's take time to make SURE—for this scripture is speaking of an event which will drastically alter YOUR LIFE in just a few short years.

This term “living waters” is used in a number of places in the Bible. One is the incident of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well in Samaria. Now in the days of Jesus, Samaria (north of Jerusalem) was populated by Gentile people of the Babylonian mystery religion. Back in 721-718 B.C. King Shalmaneser of Assyria conquered the northern kingdom, the KINGDOM OF ISRAEL, in a three-year siege. He moved the people of ten of the tribes of Israel from their homes, farms and cities, and carried them as slaves to the land of Chaldea on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. Then he placed people from Babylon—people of the Babylonian mystery religion—in the homes, farms and towns of that land, which became Samaria, occupying the northern two-thirds of the lands which had originally been inherited by the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. Much of this is territory now occupied by the Israelis, but claimed by the Arabs, the subject of bitter dispute (II Kings 17:23-24).

In the time of Christ these Samaritan people were still there. Their religious leader was Simon the sorcerer. He tried to buy an apostleship in the Church of God. Peter turned him down, for his mo-

tives and his heart were evil. This Simon was the “Peter” (or Pater, Father, Papa, leader) of the Babylonian mystery religion (see Acts 8:9-11). This Simon deliberately adopted Christ's doctrine of “grace,” turning it into license to disobey God, and his religion grew, until today it is the largest religion on earth (Revelation 17).

I mention all this because of the possible connection with the woman whom Jesus met at Jacob's well in Samaria, and because I thought it would be interesting to the reader.

The incident is recorded in John 4:2-26. Jesus was walking from Judea to Galilee. He was tired, and stopped at the well to rest. Along came a woman of Samaria to draw water.

“Give me to drink,” Jesus asked.

Now the Jews had nothing to do with these Gentile Samaritans. They called them “dogs.” The Samaritan woman was puzzled that a Jew would speak to her. Notice she recognized immediately that Jesus was a Jew.

She asked: “How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”

Now notice Jesus' answer: “If thou knewest the *gift of God* [the Holy Spirit], and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee LIVING WATER.”

The woman was confused. She did not understand, of course, that “the gift of God” and “living water” are both symbolic expressions used to designate the HOLY SPIRIT.

Jesus said: “Whosoever drinketh



of this water [from the well] shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Now I have continually said that Jesus DID NOT come on a "soul-saving crusade." This is not yet the time when God is trying to save the world.

Rather, we are now near the END of the 6,000 years during which God sentenced the world to be cut off from Him—to go its own way, form its own governments, its own religions, its own ways of life. Adam, the first man, rejected God and God's government over him and his descendants—this whole world. God has INTERVENED into this world of man, swayed by Satan, and called to Him a FEW—such as Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, etc. He sent Christ to ANNOUNCE His coming Kingdom. He sent His apostles to proclaim that GOOD NEWS. But Simon's fast-growing counterfeit church SUPPRESSED Christ's gospel message from going to the world before A.D. 70. In A.D. 31, Christ raised up HIS CHURCH—the CHURCH OF GOD—for the PURPOSE of standing back of the apostles getting out the true gospel. But when the gospel was suppressed, the Church met with such violent persecution that it decreased in size, and ever since has been what Jesus called "the LITTLE FLOCK."

I gave you this incident at the well in Samaria because there is some reason to believe that this woman was at the time living with Simon the sorcerer, founder of the world's largest religion. (If there were not *some* special significance attached to her, WHY would God have mentioned her in the Bible?) Anyway, we find here again that "living waters" means the Holy Spirit.

Let me give you one more example. In John 7:37-39, Jesus stood up and said, on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles: "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly [innermost being] shall flow

RIVERS OF LIVING WATER. (BUT THIS SPAKE HE OF THE SPIRIT, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"

#### The Cause of Today's Evils

In Ephesians 2:2, Satan is called "the prince of the power of the air." I have written many times recently how Satan broadcasts. The human spirit in each human person is directly IN TUNE WITH SATAN'S WAVELENGTH. As I've said many times, he does not broadcast in sounds or pictures. But through the spirit in every man, he infuses ATTITUDES of depression, discouragement, vanity, lust, greed, competition, strife, resentment, discontent, rebellion, frustration. He is WORKING IN people in this way. He is the SOURCE and CAUSE of all of today's evils.

But SOON NOW—in our living generation—CHRIST will return as KING of kings and LORD of lords, to RULE ALL NATIONS with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD.

One of the very first things to happen will be the PUTTING AWAY OF SATAN (Rev. 20:1-3). Now think of it! Satan will be GONE! Christ will be here! Rivers of living water will flow out from Jerusalem—that is, instead of this EVIL spirit pervading the entire atmosphere, affecting EVERYBODY, causing all evil, the HOLY SPIRIT of God will infuse the atmosphere.

Christ will be here in PERSON. The government will be government of LOVE. People will begin to love one another—to help one another. The GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD will bring WORLD PEACE!

Great supernatural physical changes will happen to the earth. Deserts will become rich, fertile, crop-raising soil. Even the topography of the earth will be CHANGED; great mountains will be leveled. Beauty will spring forth everywhere, not only in nature on the earth, but in people's lives—it will show on their happy faces.

But will CHRIST rule alone, by Himself—a ONE-MAN rule with no one under Him?

Of course not. Let me explain. I have said the first man, Adam, REJECTED God's government over him—not only for himself but for the whole human race which sprang from him. It was MAN who made the decision. Instead of accepting GOD as RULER, as the SOURCE of BASIC KNOWLEDGE, Adam decided, for his family—which is all humanity—to produce his OWN knowledge of what is good and what is evil. He took of the tree of THE KNOWLEDGE of good and evil, rejecting the "tree of LIFE" (the "living waters") or the Holy Spirit which would have impregnated him with eternal God-life.

And so, since that was MAN'S DECISION, God SENTENCED the human race which sprang from Adam to 6,000 years of being cut off from contact with Him. In effect, God said: "Go form your own governments, your own religions, produce your own knowledge and systems of education. For 6,000 years you are to be CUT OFF from me and contact with me."

But God did reserve the prerogative to INTERVENE when and where necessary for HIS PURPOSE. God was *not* trying to "SAVE the world" spiritually—instead He had CUT IT OFF FROM HIM. Those uncalled by God were neither lost nor saved—YET!

The FEW who received salvation and begettal of ETERNAL LIFE were called and chosen by God. Noah did not seek out God and beg for salvation—God CALLED NOAH. The same is true for Abraham, Moses, the prophets of Israel. The KINGDOM OF ISRAEL was not offered spiritual salvation—but ONLY physical, material and national benefits for obedience.

CHRIST came to ANNOUNCE His coming KINGDOM OF GOD—to be ushered in AFTER man's 6,000-year SENTENCE had ended. Jesus called and taught His disciples His message of HIS KINGDOM; He sacrificed Himself for us; His apostles went out proclaiming the GOOD NEWS. Christ "added to the church" as many converted Christians as needed to stand back of the apostles, in diligent and earnest prayer,



in encouragement, in tithes and offerings. In their own lives, they were to overcome Satan and Satan's WAYS and thus qualify to help Christ govern the world in the Kingdom of God—after the 6,000 years (Rev. 3:21; 2:26-27).

During this 6,000 years God has called no one to spiritual salvation except those He called to back up the apostles getting out the gospel; they were also called to qualify, by overcoming Satan, to sit with Christ on His throne in the Kingdom of God.

Now let's take a look into the newspaper headlines of the near future. The NEW world tomorrow is going to come IN OUR TIME!

And, remember, it won't become utopia *all at once*. When the Supreme Ruler, Jesus Christ, comes again to earth already *crowned* as KING of kings, in all the vast POWER AND GLORY of Almighty God, the Gentile nations actually will resist Him at first. He is coming to rule by divine FORCE. How ironic that the nations will have to be FORCED to be happy, prosperous, physically fit and well, living abundantly and joyfully!

These might be the headlines you will read in the newspaper of the future:

"Crime Rate Drops to Zero."

"No Wars During This Year! Former Soldiers Being Rapidly Assimilated into Food Production and New Industries."

"Disease Epidemics Disappear. Millions Have Been Supernaturally Healed of Sickness and Disease. Causes of Cancer, Heart Attacks, Other Fatal Diseases Revealed. Authorities Predict All Such Diseases to Disappear, by Avoiding Causes, Within Coming Year!"

"Thousands of Hospital Properties Up for Sale. Sensational Decline in Sickness and Disease Releases Increasing Hundreds of Thousands of Doctors, Nurses, Attendants and Staff Personnel for Happier and More Useful Occupations. Knowledge of Causes Reduces Sickness and Disease! Thousands of Afflicted Now Being Divinely Healed!"

"Rapid Increase in Food Produc-

tion. All Records Broken for Increased Food Production. Agricultural Authorities Reveal Abolition of Artificial and Synthetic Fertilizers and Return to Nature's Laws of Soil Enrichment Resulting Not Only in Bumper Crops, but Vastly Improved Quality and Flavor."

Well, how are those, for a starter?

### How Utopia Will Come

But now let's be specific! Let's see just *how* tomorrow's utopia is to be ushered in. Remember, this wonderful world-state will not be achieved all at once.

Every major step of these soon-

It will be divine  
government—  
the government of God.  
It will not be government  
from the bottom up.  
The people will  
have no votes. It will not  
be government  
of or by the people, but it  
will be government for  
the people!

coming events is laid bare before our eyes in biblical PROPHECY.

The same Jesus Christ who walked over the hills and valleys of the Holy Land and the streets of Jerusalem more than 1900 years ago is coming again! He *said* He would come again. After He was crucified, God raised Him from the dead after three days and three nights (Matt. 12:40; Acts 2:32; I Cor. 15:3-4). He ascended to the throne of God, headquarters of the government of the universe (Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; Rev. 3:21).

He is the "nobleman" of the parable, who went to the throne of God—the "far country"—to be coronated as KING of kings over all na-

tions, and then to return to earth (compare Luke 19:11-27). He is in heaven until the "times of restitution of all things" (Acts 3:19-21). "Restitution" means restoring to a former state or condition—in this case, restoring GOD'S GOVERNMENT to earth, and thus, restoring WORLD PEACE and utopian conditions.

Present world turmoil, escalating war and contentions, will climax in world trouble so great that, unless God intervenes, no human flesh would be saved alive (Matt. 24:22). At its very climax, when delay would result in blasting all life from off this planet, Jesus Christ will RETURN! This time He is coming as divine GOD! He is coming in all the POWER and GLORY of the universe-ruling Creator! (Matt. 24:30; 25:31.) He is coming as KING of kings and LORD of lords (Rev. 19:16) to establish WORLD SUPERGOVERNMENT and rule all nations "with a rod of iron" (Rev. 19:15; 12:5).

All crime and organized rebellion will be put down by FORCE—divine supernatural force. Christ will then set His hand to reeducate and to "save" or spiritually convert the world.

THINK OF IT! The glorified CHRIST—coming in all the splendor, the supernatural POWER and the GLORY of GOD ALMIGHTY; coming to *save* mankind alive; coming to STOP escalating wars, nuclear mass destruction, human pain and suffering; coming to usher in PEACE, abundant well-being, happiness and JOY for all mankind!

### Resurrected Saints

As the resurrected Christ ascended to heaven in the clouds, so He shall return to earth in the clouds (Acts 1:9-11; Matt. 24:30). Just as He is returning (I Thess. 4:14-17), the dead in Christ—those who have received and been led by God's Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11, 14), including all the prophets of old (Luke 13:28)—will rise in a gigantic RESURRECTION and be made IMMORTAL. Those then living who have the Spirit of God shall be *instantaneously changed* from mortal to immortal (I Cor. 15:50-54), and, together with those resurrected, shall rise to meet the



descending glorified Christ (I Thess. 4:17) in the clouds in the air. They shall be with Him forever (John 14:3). They shall—with Him—come down out of the clouds and stand with Him, therefore, that very same day, on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4-5).

These changed, converted saints, now made immortal, will then rule the nations—nations of mortals—UNDER CHRIST (Dan. 7:22; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21).

### The New World Government

Now notice just HOW the new world government will function!

It will *not* be a so-called democracy; it will *not* be socialism; it will *not* be communism or Nazism; it will *not* be human monarchy, oligarchy, or plutocracy. It will *not* be MAN'S government over man. Man has *proven* his utter incapability of ruling himself!

It will be DIVINE government—the government of GOD. It will *not* be government from the bottom up. The people will have NO VOTES. It will *not* be government of or by the people—but it will be government FOR the people! It will be government from the TOP (God Almighty) down!

There will be no election campaigns! No \$100-per-plate campaign fund-raising dinners. No dirty political campaigns, where each candidate attempts to put himself forward in the most favorable light, while defaming, denouncing, discrediting his opponents. No time or money wasted in mud-slinging campaigns in the lust for power. No splits in political parties with quarreling and hatreds. In fact, *no political parties!*

NO HUMAN will be given any government office. In the Kingdom of GOD, ALL in government service will then be divine spirit beings.

All officials will be APPOINTED by the divine CHRIST, who reads and knows men's hearts—their inner character, their abilities or lack of ability. You'll find a description of Christ's supernatural insight into the very character of others in Isaiah 11:2-4: "And the spirit of the ETERNAL shall rest upon him, the

spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the ETERNAL; and shall make him of quick understanding . . . and he shall *not* judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears [hearsay]: but with RIGHTEOUSNESS shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth."

Remember, GOD is the Supreme One who is LOVE—who GIVES—who rules with outgoing concern for the ruled. His will be rule for the HIGHEST GOOD of the people! The most ABLE, the most RIGHTEOUS, those best fitted for office will be placed in all offices of responsibility and power.

There will then be *two* kinds of people on earth—humans and those made divine, who will rule the mortals. Some resurrected saints will rule over ten cities, some over five (Luke 19:17-19).

But further, God has set in motion physical laws that operate in our bodies and minds, as well as His spiritual law. There will be no sickness, ill health, pain or suffering. There *will be*, on the contrary, vigorous, vibrant GOOD HEALTH. People will be filled with dynamic INTEREST in life, enthusiastic interest in constructive activities bringing happiness and joy! There will be REAL PROGRESS, cleanliness, no slums, no degenerate peoples or areas of earth.

All this will be accomplished under the New Covenant which Christ is coming to usher in. Did you ever read just WHAT this New Covenant will consist of? Did you suppose it will DO AWAY with God's law? EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE! *This* is the covenant that Christ is coming to establish (Heb. 8:10): "I will put my laws into their MIND, and write them in their HEARTS."

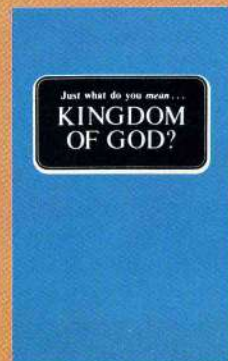
When God's laws are IN OUR HEARTS—when we LOVE God's WAYS and in our hearts WANT to live by them—HUMAN NATURE WILL BE PUT UNDER SUBJECTION; people *will* live the WAY that is the CAUSE of peace, happiness, abundance, joyful well-being! May God speed that day! □

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD-

## What does it mean to you?

**King-dom** *n.* A politically organized community or major territorial unit having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen.

The phrase "kingdom of God," which appears frequently in the Bible, is often heard in religious circles. It is generally assumed to be a reference to heaven or to a condition of mind held by believers. Almost no one would apply the standard dictionary definition of "kingdom"—a type of government over a specific territory. Yet that is precisely how the term is most often used in the Bible. The real meaning of the term "kingdom of God" is far more interesting and exciting than the traditional vague concepts. The booklet *Just What Do You Mean . . . Kingdom of God?* clearly explains what the Kingdom of God is and why it's important to you. For a free copy write to *The Plain Truth* at the address nearest you. (See inside front cover for addresses worldwide.)





# HEADLINES

(Continued from page 21)

events could conceivably have taken a different turn.

## When All Else Fails Blot Out Reality

When it is no longer possible to preserve a popular myth by any of the above methods, the best thing to do is to totally ignore reality. A classic case in point is the media-created image of Camelot that surrounded the Kennedy Administration. The cold reality of history eventually painted a picture that is in stark contrast to the glowing images portrayed by the press. History rather than imagery revealed an Administration that flagrantly abused its power by engaging in illegal electronic surveillance of journalists and civil rights leaders; that used the IRS and FCC to conduct political vendettas; that knowingly plotted the assassination and overthrow of foreign leaders.

The ambivalence of the press in reporting the Kennedy misdeeds was never more apparent than when the subject centered around Central Intelligence Agency abuses. One leading Washington columnist supported public hearings on the CIA in 1975, but noted that "assassination can be left out for the moment." It was rather apparent that the columnist was referring to plots hatched during the Kennedy Administration, because, as she noted, "the unspoken threat in all this is that [Senator] Church [head of the Senate committee investigating the CIA], a faithful ally of John Kennedy, might find himself in the end pointing himself at the Democrats' beloved victim of assassination" (Victor Lasky, *It Didn't Start With Watergate*, Dell Publishing Company, Inc., 1977, p. 95). Apparently it was all too much for the image to bear.

Other journalists were equally circumspect when the Kennedy Administration was linked with the assassination of Generalissimo Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic. Although American involvement was duly noted, the fact

that the Kennedy White House had been aware of the assassination plot was conveniently deleted in a story carried by a prominent political journal. Nor was there much outcry from the press when the Kennedy Administration was discovered to have either passively or actively conspired in the assassination attempt or overthrow of Fidel Castro, President Diem of South Vietnam, and the president of Guatemala.

The role of the Kennedy Administration in Vietnam also seemed to get conveniently buried. After the fall of Saigon in 1975, one network did a 2½-hour special on *Vietnam: A War That Is Finished*, which chronicled American involvement through five Presidents: Truman, Eisenhower, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford. Either the producers of the program forgot to consult their almanacs and overlooked the existence of a President between Eisenhower and Johnson, or else they hoped that this small omission would help everyone forget that the Kennedy Administration also did its part to further involve the nation in the Vietnam quagmire.

Clearly in such matters the media must admit to the truth, or else believe in a double standard. The press in large part chose the latter option. Wry political commentator Nicholas von Hoffman undoubtedly sensed this when he wrote the following piece of rather penetrating prose: "Tell us, all you folks who've written so many, many books about those golden one thousand days when you all swarmed out of Harvard, Madison Avenue and Stamford, Connecticut, to electrify us with your good taste. Tell us again, please, but now put in about the gangsters and whatever else was corrupt, ruthless, cruel and illegal but which really happened. No more Camelot, please" (*ibid.*, p. 117).

## A Need for More Objective Detachment

Part of the problem with the major organs of the press is that they are too well integrated into the mainstream of society. The days of the detached independence of the fourth estate envisioned by our Founding Fathers

seem to be fast vanishing. As Ralph McGill, publisher of the *Atlanta Constitution*, remarked in 1965: "A disturbing number of newspapers today see nothing wrong in publicly stating that they conceive their highest duty to be that of fitting themselves into the life of the community. This means, of course, that if a community is governed by a corrupt and corrupting group, the paper will fit in with it" (Robert Cirino, *Don't Blame the People*, Random House, 1971, p. 234).

The desire to establish and maintain an "objective consensus" is another reason the press tends to follow rather stereotypical and unoriginal formulas in its reporting habits. The object is to take a position that the newsman feels is "respectable." Inevitably this process filters out of the public consciousness events, trends, or changes that may be tinged or colored with shades of unorthodoxy. Coupled with this are the ever present pressures from advertisers, who become very skittish when contemplating associating themselves with topics or views which might jeopardize a healthy profit margin.

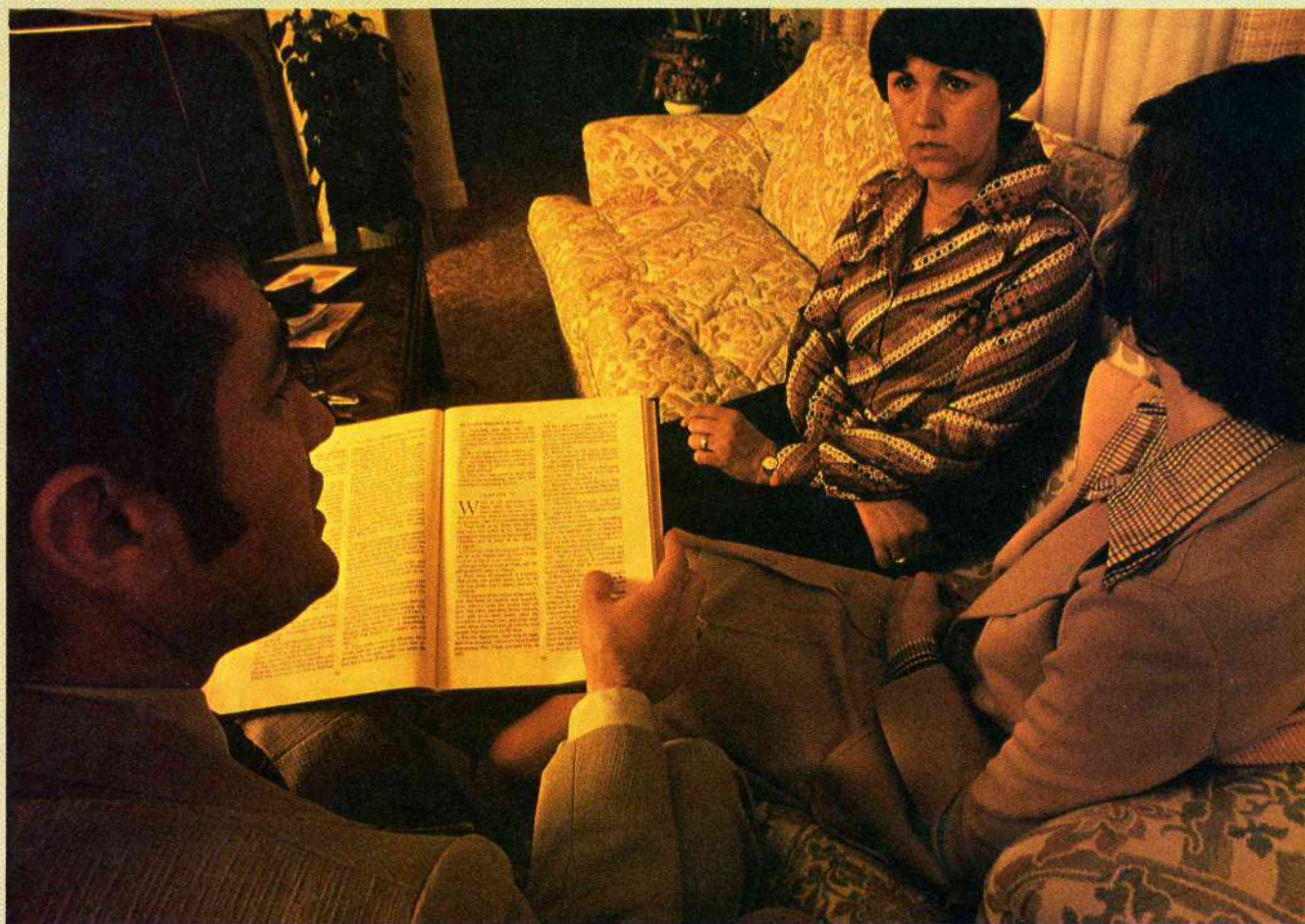
Vitality is then sapped from the leading opinion shapers, the system becomes intellectually inbred and incestuous, and in the end a Frankenstein type of groupthink is unwittingly created. News analyst Howard K. Smith put his finger on this problem some time ago when he commented: "Our liberal friends have become dogmatic... They have a set of automatic reactions. They react the way political cartoonists do—with oversimplification. They're pleasing the *Washington Post*, they're pleasing the editors of the *New York Times*, they're pleasing one another" (*It Didn't Start With Watergate*, p. 299).

Humans as a whole seem to crave the comfort of conformity. This urge is often satisfied by the creation of pleasant-sounding myths which have just enough of a ring of truth about them to allow us to justify their existence. Once created, these myths die hard. In this respect the press is not all that different from the rest of us. □



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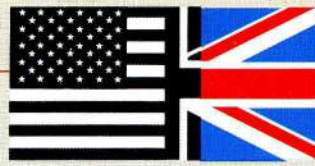
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## PROPHECY

(Continued from page 13)

happiness and to life eternal. Man pursued his own ways and devices, walking contrary to the spiritual laws of God. Sin and violence filled the earth.

### God Started His Nation With One Man

It was in such a world, which had strayed far from God and knowledge of the glorious benefits of God's rule and the worship of the true God, that one man was honest and upright, submissive and teachable, strong and purposeful. So God gave him a test command of obedience. To this man, Abram, God commanded: "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation" (Gen. 12:1-2).

Here was a command, which was a *condition* and a **PROMISE**, provided the condition of obedience was met.

And so now, as God had started the whole world with one man, He started His own peculiar nation in the world from one single man—Abraham. As the world, which has strayed far from God and the blessings of God's worship and rule, was started with one man who rebelled against God and rejected His rule, so God's own flesh-born nation, from which is to be reborn the Kingdom of God, was started with one man who obeyed God without question, and accepted His divine rule.

Did Abram stop to argue and reason? Did he say: "Let's reason this out a bit first; here I am in Babylon, in the very center of all this world's commerce, society and gaiety. Why can't you just as well give me this promise right here, where everything is pleasant and alluring? Why must I leave all this and go over to that uncivilized land?"

Did Abram quibble, resist, argue, rebel?

He certainly did not!

The inspired Scripture account states simply: "So Abram departed." There was no arguing with God. There was no human reasoning that God was all wrong. There were no foolish questions: "Why must I leave here?" "Can't I do as I please?" There was no stopping to say, "Well, here's the way I look at it."

"Abram departed." Just plain, unquestioned obedience!

And God established this man, whose name He later changed to Abraham, as the *father* of His nation, *Israel!* To Abraham and his descendants were all the promises of God made. And we must become like Abraham, and through Christ one of his children, if we are to inherit the promise of eternal life in God's Kingdom.

Of His peculiar flesh-born nation, Israel, the Eternal said: "This people have I formed for myself; *they shall*

shew forth my praise" (Isa. 43:21). That prophecy shall yet—and soon—be fulfilled!

### Dual Promises to Abraham

Few have realized it, but a duality runs all the way through the plan of God in working out His purpose here below.

There was the first Adam, material and carnal; and there is Christ, the second Adam, spiritual and divine. There was the Old Covenant, purely material and temporal; and there is the New Covenant, spiritual and eternal. God made man mortal, physical, of the dust of the ground and of the human kingdom; but through Christ he may be begotten of God to become immortal, spiritual, and of the Kingdom of God.

And in like manner there were two phases to the promises God made to Abraham—the one purely material and national; the other spiritual and individual. The spiritual promise of the Messiah, and of salvation through Him, is well known by the most superficial Bible students. They know that God gave the spiritual promise to Abraham of Christ to be born as Abraham's descendant—and that salvation comes to us through Christ. But—and this will sound unbelievable, yet it is true—almost no one knows what that salvation is; what are the promises of salvation we may receive through Christ; how we may receive them, or when—incredible though that sounds! But that truth belongs in another article.

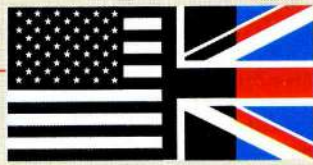
What is essential to the theme of this series of articles is the fact that God also made another entirely different, most amazing national and material promise to Abraham which has been almost entirely overlooked.

Notice now again how God first called Abram, and the *twofold* nature of His promises: "Now the Eternal had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I *will make of thee* A GREAT NATION. . . and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:1-3).

Notice the twofold promise: 1) "I will make of thee A GREAT NATION"—the national, material promise that his flesh-born children should become a great nation—a promise of RACE; 2) ". . . and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed"—the spiritual promise of GRACE. This same promise is repeated in Genesis 22:18: "And in *thy seed* shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." This particular "one seed" refers to Christ, as plainly affirmed in Galatians 3:8, 16.

Right here is where those who profess to be "Christians"—and their teachers—have fallen into error and scriptural blindness. They have failed to notice the twofold promise God made to Abraham. They recognize the messianic promise of spiritual salvation through the "one seed"—Christ. They sing the hymn *Standing on the Promises*—falsely supposing the *promises* to be going to heaven at death.





This is a pivotal point. This is the point where professing “Christians” and their teachers jump the track of truth. This is the point where they switch off the track that would lead them to the missing master key to the prophecies. They miss the fact that God gave Abraham promises of physical RACE as well as spiritual GRACE.

But the plain fact that the “great nation” promise refers alone to race—not the “one seed” of Galatians 3:16, who was Jesus Christ the Son of Abraham and the Son of God, but to the plural, multiple seed of natural fleshly birth—is made certain by God’s repetition of His promise in greater detail later.

Notice carefully! Understand these promises!

“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Eternal appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, *and will multiply thee exceedingly*. . . . *thou shalt be a father of MANY NATIONS*. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of MANY NATIONS have I made thee” (Gen. 17:1-5).

Notice, the promise is now conditional upon Abraham’s obedience and perfect living. Notice, the “great nation” now becomes many nations—more than one nation. This cannot refer to the “one seed,” Christ. The following verses prove that.

“And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings [more than one] shall come out of thee” (verse 6). Notice, these nations and kings shall *come out of* Abraham—physical generation—multiple seed, not just one descendant *through whom* scattered individuals *may* become Abraham’s children by spiritual begetting through Christ (Gal. 3:29). The scattered, individual Christians do not form NATIONS. The Church, it is true, is spoken of as “a royal priesthood, an holy nation” (I Peter 2:9), but Christ’s Church is not divided into “many nations.” This is speaking of race, not grace.

“And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in *their* generations . . .” (Gen. 17:7). The “seed” is plural—“in their generations.” “And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, *the land* wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan [Palestine], for an everlasting possession; and I will be *THEIR* God” (verse 8).

Notice, the land—material possession—is promised to the plural seed, of whom He is “their,” not “his,” God. The plural pronoun “their” is used again in verse 9: “and thy seed after thee in *their* generations.”

But now examine this PROMISE carefully!

The future of great nations rests on the promises the eternal Creator made to Abraham. The only hope of life after death for anyone—regardless of race, color or creed—is dependent on the spiritual phase of these

promises to Abraham—the promise of grace through the “one seed”—Christ the Messiah!

### How Much Land—What Size Nations?

These are not casual, incidental, unimportant promises. These are basic—the foundation for the establishment of the greatest world powers; the basis for any personal salvation spiritually; for any hope of eternal life for humans. These are stupendous promises. The future of mankind is based, by the Creator God, on them.

Jesus Christ came “to confirm the promises made unto the fathers” (Rom. 15:8)—which fathers were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

A carnal cynic, whose mind is hostile to God and His promises, purposes, and ways, tosses these tremendous promises aside, saying flippantly, “Oh yeah?—but what kind of ‘many nations’? Twentieth-century style? Nations of 100 million or more people? Don’t be ridiculous! Those men who wrote the Bible knew nothing of nations that would be ‘great’ by our twentieth-century standards! They referred only to little nations like there were then—nations containing no more people than a small township or county today!

“And then how much land did this promise include? Was God supposed to have promised an inheritance out

“I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins.”

of the land of Canaan, as mentioned in verse 8 of Genesis 17? And then in repromising this land to Jacob, all the land that was included was ‘the land whereon thou liest’ in Genesis 28:13. How much land was that? Not more than a tiny plot two feet wide, and about six feet long!”

A cynical objector actually argued thus!

So let’s answer the sneering closed-minded cynic!

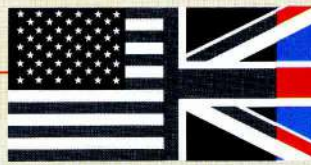
Let’s check carefully, and see precisely what was promised under this phase of the promises pertaining to race—the physical, material, national promises. I leave the checking of the spiritual phase of the promises to be explained in other booklets or articles.

How much land was promised?

### A Cynic Argues

But first hear out the refutation of the criticizing cynic. “That promise,” continues the objector, “of ‘many nations’ was written in Hebrew, and the Hebrew word for ‘nation’ is *goi*, and for more than one, plural, it is *goiim*. It merely means some “people”—it could mean just a





little handful of Abraham's children and grandchildren."

I mention this because a self-professed "scholar" did one time make this very ridiculous statement and professed to reject this entire important truth on these arguments primarily. If the reader cares to check up on this Hebrew *goy* he will find it means "nation"—or, in the plural, "nations" or "peoples," without regard to size of population. This is the word most often used—actually hundreds of times in the Old Testament—for the various nations of the world, including the largest nations. In the prophecy of Joel 3, verse 2, God says He will gather "all nations." That is speaking of a time yet future, in this twentieth century—and the Hebrew *goyim* is used. There the word *goyim* includes such nations as Russia, Germany, Italy, China, India—pretty big nations.

But God promised that Abraham's literal, human, flesh-and-blood descendants should become "a great nation" (Gen. 12:2); that He would "multiply thee exceedingly" (Gen. 17:2); that "thou shalt be a father of many nations" (verse 4); and that "I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee" (verse 6). As we proceed along with other promises and prophecies, we shall see that biblical language describes these as great and large nations.

And how much land? In Genesis 17:8, God promised "all the land of Canaan," but in other scriptures He promised much more. In Genesis 15:18: "In the same day the Eternal made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt [the Nile] unto the great river, the river Euphrates." The Euphrates is a considerable distance to the east in the ancient land of Babylon, which is today Iraq—considerably east of Palestine.

But all of this objector's arguments are refuted and made ridiculous by the very next verse from the one he quoted when he said that all that was promised was a plot about 2 x 6 feet. He could have read this next verse: "And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south" (Gen. 28:14).

Here the size of the "many nations" is compared to the number of grains of dust of the earth. Elsewhere God compared the populations of these promised nations to the grains of sand on a seashore and to the stars—uncountable for multitude.

As we proceed, the magnitude and the reality of these promises will become quite evident.

#### **Not Fulfilled in Jews**

Again, notice carefully—the Jews have never been more than one nation. They are not, and never have been, many nations. So here is an amazing prophecy, a solemn promise from Almighty God, that could not be fulfilled in Christ, in Christians, nor in the Jews. We must look for a number of nations apart from either the Church or

the Jews. Amazing as it is, we must do it or deny God's promise!

God put Abraham to the test, and Abraham, through faith, obeyed—even to being willing to sacrifice his only son, if need be. And after that the covenant no longer was conditional. Now it became UNCONDITIONAL.

"By myself have I sworn, saith the Eternal, for BECAUSE thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies [or, as correctly translated in the Revised Standard Version, "And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies." The Fenton translation renders it: "And your race shall possess the gates of its enemies"—so far the material, national promises of race]; and in thy seed [Christ] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed [this promise is spiritual, of grace]; because thou hast obeyed my voice" (Gen. 22:16-18).

The promise now is UNCONDITIONAL. God has sworn to make it good. God does not promise these things IF Abraham or his children do certain things. He promises them to Abraham BECAUSE he already has performed his part of the agreement. If these promises could be broken or annulled, then no promise in the Bible is sure!

These promises cannot be broken or annulled. Not if it be true that "heaven and earth shall pass, but my word shall NOT pass away." Now God must perform His part without fail.

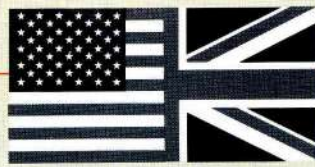
Notice an additional detail of the promise—the nations who are Abraham's racial descendants are to possess the gates of their enemies. A gate is a narrow passage of entrance or exit. When speaking nationally, a "gate" would be such a pass as the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal, the Strait of Gibraltar. This promise is repeated in Genesis 24:60 to Abraham's daughter-in-law: "Be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those that hate them."

Notice, Abraham's descendants would possess vital geographic passageways of their enemies—"those that hate them." This has never been fulfilled in the Jews, nor could it be fulfilled after Jesus Christ returns to rule the nations and establish world peace. This promise could only be fulfilled in the present world or else we must deny the Bible as God's revealed Word. We must look for a people forming more than one nation—yet all one people, children of Abraham—either now or in history who possess the sea gateways of the world, or we must deny the Word of God. It is a test of the inspiration of the Bible and of God's power to rule this world!

#### **A Nation and a Company of Nations**

These tremendous promises were repromised to Isaac and to Jacob. Ishmael and Abraham's other sons were





rejected from this birthright. Esau, Isaac's son and Jacob's twin brother, sold it and was rejected. The promise, as confirmed to Isaac, is recorded in Genesis 26:3-5: "I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; and I will make thy seed to MULTIPLY as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries. . . ." Notice! Twice God promised "all these countries." That is millions of times larger than the 2 x 6-foot plot our "intellectual" cynic contended for. Also, Isaac's descendants were to "MULTIPLY as the stars of heaven." That's thousands of times larger than a tiny "township."

To Jacob it is repeated in Genesis 27:26-29, where MATERIAL blessing of wealth in the things of the ground is added, with the prophecy that heathen nations shall be ruled by the birthright nations of Israel. "Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness [margin: fat places] of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee."

#### To Spread Worldwide

And we find the promises again in Genesis 28:13-14, where the added detail that these nations of Israel shall eventually spread around the world is recorded. "And, behold, the Eternal . . . said, I am the Eternal God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. . . ."

The original Hebrew for "spread abroad" means "to break forth." This promise places no limit on how far east, west, north and south Jacob's descendants should spread. Thus it indicates they would spread around the earth. This is confirmed in Romans 4:13: "For the promise, that he [Abraham] should be the heir of the world. . . ."

But this is not a promise that Abraham's descendants should inherit, own, and possess the whole of the earth, leaving nothing for Gentiles—that is, prior to the new earth—but rather that, in years and centuries to come, they would spread and occupy certain areas in various parts of the earth. Yet, the new earth—after the millennium—will be inhabited only by those who shall be Abraham's children through Christ (Rom. 4:13).

There is a phase of this prophecy heretofore utterly overlooked—not before understood. Indeed these birthright Israelitish nations *have* spread to and occupied various lands or areas in many locations around the world. This occurred after they were—721-718 B.C.—driven in a captivity out of their own promised land of

Samaria in Palestine. The next verses in Genesis 28 complete this phase of the prophecy. "And, behold," God continued, "I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest [God is here referring, not to Jacob personally, but his descendants who were to spread abroad in all directions], and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" (verse 15).

This generally unnoticed, but significant prophecy will be fulfilled at the second coming of Christ. It is explained further in Jeremiah 23:7-8, and 50:4-6, 19-20, and other prophecies.

#### Repromised to Jacob

Still later, God appeared to Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, even further defining the makeup of these "many nations" thus: "And God said unto him, I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply; A NATION and a COMPANY OF NATIONS shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins" (Gen. 35:11). The Moffatt translation renders it "a nation, and a group of nations." The Fenton rendering is "a nation and an Assembly of Nations." The RSV translates it as in the Authorized Version, above quoted. So the "many nations" are eventually to take shape as a nation—one great, wealthy, powerful nation—and another company of nations—a group, or commonwealth of nations.

Mark carefully this crucial fact! This is basic, if you are to grasp the all-important key to all prophecy—the very key to the real meaning of the unprecedented world events of the present. This promise never has been fulfilled in the Jews. It cannot be "spiritualized" away by interpreting it as being inherited only through Christ. It could not pertain to the Church, for there is but one true Church acknowledged in the Bible, and it is not a nation, or a group of nations, but one Church of called-out individuals scattered through all nations. Yet this amazing promise MUST stand fulfilled, unless we are to deny the Bible and God's sacred Word!

Here is the enigma of the ages! Is this a divine promise unkept? Thomas Paine and Robert Ingersoll lost faith in God and rejected the Bible because they believed these national promises were never fulfilled.

The very fate of the Bible as the revealed Word of God—the evidence of the existence of God—hangs on the answer to this momentous question. The Jewish people did not fulfill these promises. The promises do not refer to the Church. The world with its great church leaders does not know of any such fulfillment. Did God fail? Or has He made good this colossal promise unknown to the world? The true answer is the most astonishing revelation of Bible truth, of prophecy, and of unrecognized history! □

(To Be Continued)



# DOLLAR CRISIS

(Continued from page 6)

would prefer to get its money some other way will not earn us the good opinion of mankind; it will get us a reputation as chiselers. And . . . we can't get away with it much longer."

## Enter the ECU and Prophecy

Author Mayer also predicted that sooner or later the world's major trading nations would have to find a way to spread the reserve function of the dollar around a group of other currencies.

This new method—coming much sooner than Americans realize—is already on the drawing boards.

One week before the Bonn summit, at a conference of Common Market heads of government in Bremen, West Germany, Chancellor Schmidt unveiled his plan for a "zone of currency stability" in Europe. Cosponsor of the scheme is France's President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The Bremen agreement calls for each country joining the European monetary system—which will also be open to countries outside the Common Market (such as Sweden, Switzerland and Norway)—to place 20 percent of its gold and dollar reserves in a central pool which will be denominated in "European currency units," or ECUs. The ECU's value will be close to that of the dollar but will not fluctuate like the dollar.

In addition to this pooling of gold and dollars, each country will add a comparable sum of its own currency—francs, marks, pounds, lire, etc.—to the central reserve, which could then have at its disposal something like \$50 billion—more than the reserves of the International Monetary Fund.

According to the thinking at Common Market headquarters, the major features of the ECU plan, if approved at the December Common Market summit conference in Brussels, could be put into force as early as this coming January 1. And, as the *Wall Street Journal* of July 12, 1978, adds, "As early as five years from now, predict the most

optimistic aides, the Common Market could be ready for work on a single European currency to replace the existing national currencies, right down to actual paper money and coins."

## Impact of Schuman Plan

Don Cook, Paris correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, was quick to recognize the awesome import of the new monetary scheme. He likened it in scope to the Schuman Plan of 1950 which launched the European Coal and Steel Community, forerunner of today's nine-nation Common Market. Reported Cook: "By agreeing to create a new

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"A disciplined European monetary bloc . . . would provide the basis for a single European currency that could eventually take over much of the dollar's role as an international medium of exchange."

*New York Times*  
July 30, 1978

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European monetary system, the Common Market heads of government took what will probably turn out to be the greatest leap forward in European unity since the Schuman Plan of 1950."

Cook noted another parallel to the historic Schuman Plan. "Again," he said, "it is the result of a convergence of the interests of the two nations that are at the heart of everything European—West Germany and France."

And again, Cook also noted, the British were upstaged by the bold German-French strategy and had reservations about joining in. Said Cook: "Whether Great Britain de-

cides to join or not, France and West Germany clearly will go ahead with the monetary scheme. Britain is therefore in much the same position as when the Schuman Plan was adopted in 1950. Britain stayed out, and then took 20 years to join Europe."

## Dollar Skid Forced the Issue

It is known that Herr Schmidt was originally quite cool to the ECU idea. When Britain's Roy Jenkins, present head of the European Commission and a leading exponent of the idea, again brought up the concept of a common monetary system at an EC summit in Copenhagen in April, Schmidt still had his doubts.

In the succeeding months, however, Schmidt, witnessing the unabated slide of the dollar and the inexorable upward pressure on the D-mark, changed his mind. At a secret meeting in Hamburg in June, the chancellor and the French president agreed in principle on the new monetary alignment and arranged to jointly push for it at the Bremen conference. (British Prime Minister James Callaghan has criticized the secrecy in which the plan was developed between France and Germany.)

In Bonn the Germans and French briefed the American delegation on the outlines of the monetary union, stressing that it was not intended as an anti-American gesture but that it had been given great impetus because of the dollar's decline. President Carter was noticeably cool to the whole idea and declined to give it his endorsement.

American reservations or not, Bonn and Paris have set their course resolutely. And the Germans, especially, are flexing some diplomatic muscle to correspond with their economic strength. A dispatch in the *New York Times* of July 30, 1978, made this new fact of history abundantly clear: "President Carter and other Western leaders wanted him [Schmidt] to expand the German economy faster than he considered prudent, sucking in more imports, boosting world trade but risking renewed inflation. Mr. Schmidt refused to do this, offering only a modest stimulus. . . . Instead, he had already



chosen to spend Germany's trade surplus—the fruit of its economic strength—on financing the further unification of Europe and increasing his country's diplomatic authority within Europe and abroad. . . .”

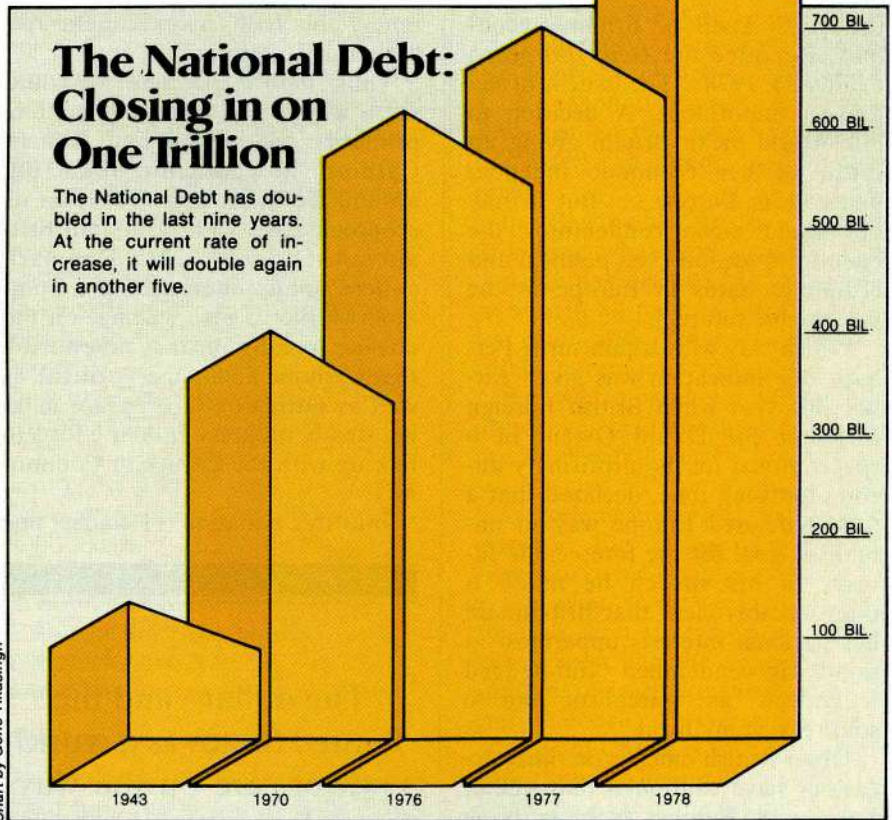
The powerful political impact of the German leader's decision on the monetary plan was also noted in this same *Times* dispatch: “The real issues at stake are as much political as economic. A disciplined European monetary bloc, underpinned by the Common Market's reserves, would provide the basis for a single European currency that could eventually take over much of the dollar's role as an international medium of exchange. . . .”

“The independent line West Germany is starting to take in foreign affairs acquires wider significance against the background of the United States' fading world hegemony and Europe's increasing prosperity. It is yet another sign that the balance of power and influence within the West is shifting.”

### Protecting the Mark

The Germans will be, by far, the biggest single contributor to the monetary pool. The normally prudent Germans are willing to make this commitment for a solid self-interested reason. Reports *Business Week* magazine, July 31, 1978: “For Germany, setting up a currency union based around the mark is a way of protecting its export competitiveness. If the European currencies float collectively against the dollar, any decline in the dollar that pushes up the mark would also push up the franc, the guilder, and the other currencies of Germany's European trade partners. Germany would thus retain its competitiveness at least within Europe, which absorbs half of its exports. More important, Germany could dictate conservative fiscal and monetary policies to Europe by controlling the new fund.”

The French, and others in the monetary union, will be able to have access to the 18 billion marks (about \$9 billion) in the pool—but for a price: They will have to get their economies in shape, reducing



their inflation rates to the low German level.

And with all the currencies in Europe floating in concert against the dollar, what will happen to the dollar? The *Business Week* article suggests: “For the U.S., the proposed currency union can only spell more trouble for the dollar . . . the fund will openly advertise that it has 18 billion marks available to anyone wanting to dump dollars. . . . And once the ECU becomes a reserve currency, that, too, will be bought for dollars.”

The *Business Week* article concluded soberly by adding: “Unless the European challenge is met by radical changes in U.S. fiscal and monetary policies, the long-term effect on the dollar will be to send it the way of sterling.”

Thus, instead of halting the decline of the dollar—one of the official reasons for launching the ECU—a new, stable, much desired European currency, heavily backed by gold (which is steadily increasing in value) and deutsche marks could send the dollar reeling to unheard-of depths!

It makes one wonder what happened to those monetary experts in the United States who thought that gold was simply a “barbaric relic,” a leftover from the Middle Ages, and who advocated periodic sales of the U.S. gold supply to demonstrate “confidence” in the dollar. Nearly all the gold from these sales, incidentally, has ended up in the vaults of Europe's central banks.

These banks now hold in reserve half of all the world's monetary gold—18,000 of the 36,000 metric tons. Only 9,000 metric tons remain in U.S. Treasury hands.

### Britain at the Crossroads

It is not only the United States which is being forced to look down the barrel of a loaded economic gun. The sudden swelling support for a European Monetary Union has clearly come at a bad time for Britain as well. Public support for the Common Market has dropped to its lowest level ever in Britain.

Many experts feel that the monetary plan represents an unacceptable compromise of prized British sovereignty. Yet not to join could be



the death knell of Britain's economy. Reported the *Daily Telegraph* of July 24, 1978: "The issue is of the gravest importance. A decision to join would mean Britain giving up much of her economic independence from Europe. . . . But to stay out could mean condemning the country to second-class political and economic status in Europe in the foreseeable future."

Which way will Britain turn? Perhaps one indication was given earlier this year when British Foreign Minister Sir David Owen, in a speech noted for its surprisingly uncompromising tone, declared that a fully federated Europe was an unrealistic goal for the foreseeable future. In his speech he made it unmistakably clear that Britain still has national interests uppermost in mind. He condemned "full-fledged federalism" as "unrealistic and to some extent mythical."

Other British officials on other occasions have cautioned that tighter links with Europe—such as tying into the proposed joint currency float against the dollar—could damage Britain's "special relationship" with the United States.

#### **A Continental, Catholic "Empire"**

Though Britain may decide to opt out of the monetary alignment, the Republic of Ireland, on the other hand, is very interested in it. The Irish have been consistently more pro-Common Market than the British.

Should Britain refuse to cooperate in the new monetary arrangement, the alternatives facing Ireland would be to withdraw as well or to break the parity link with sterling and tie in with the stronger European currencies.

"In such circumstances," reports London's *Financial Times* of July 14, 1978, "the temptation would be for Ireland to break the link. The Republic tends to see its historic destiny as moving closer to Europe and away from Britain.

"There could be practical advantages as well as the boost to national prestige and pride. [And] with the European reserve of 50,000m [50 billion] dollars to protect its cur-

rency, the Irish pound might rise higher than sterling."

Thus, before too long we could see a whole new Europe arise, one primarily continental and Roman Catholic in character, revolving around Germany and France as its economic base, with Protestant Britain and possibly also Denmark (where public interest in the Common Market is also waning) on the outside looking in. It is noteworthy that Catholic Spain and Portugal, as well as Orthodox Greece, are making steady progress in their efforts to link up with the European Community.

Into this equation, of course, one

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The dollar—and the United States as a world power—are on the way down and out.

The end-time events prophesied in the book of Revelation are rushing in on an unsuspecting world.

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must now also add the future policies to be enacted by the new pope, John Paul I.

There are presently nine members of the Common Market. If, as expected, Spain, Portugal and Greece link up, the membership would be increased to twelve. But if, in addition, recalcitrant members Britain and Denmark opt out, the Community would be left with ten member states.

#### **End-Time Roman System**

The pages of *The Plain Truth* magazine have warned continuously of the emergence of a last, end-time revival of the Roman Empire—a union of ten kings dominated by a

giant religious system (Rev. 17:3, 12-13).

This system is pictured in the Bible as having great economic power, with its tentacles stretching throughout the whole earth. Notice Revelation 18:3: "... the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies." She will eventually become so huge that when she finally reaches her end, merchants around the world will "weep and mourn" (verses 11-15).

In the Old Testament, the twenty-seventh chapter of the book of Ezekiel describes this same system, referring in symbol to the trading power of the ancient city-state of Tyre.

It is also interesting that the system that will emerge eventually in Europe is called "the beast" and that this "beast" will have a "mark," without which no one can buy or sell (Rev. 13:17).

While the so-called "mark of the beast" has primarily a religious connotation, it is worth noting that the German *mark* will be the kingpin currency behind a new European monetary system that is destined to finance much of world trade, and that international commerce may literally be impossible without access to and use of this "mark."

In this light, consider also this quote from the *Wall Street Journal* of July 12, 1978: "While exact rules [for the monetary union] are yet to be drafted by European finance ministers and Common Market aides for a political decision in December, planners emphasize that the influence of discipline-conscious West Germany can be counted on to prevent reckless creation of reserve money. 'This will be a powerful beast, but a highly controlled beast,' says one planner."

Time is indeed short. The dollar—and the United States as a world power—are on the way down and out. The end-time events prophesied in the book of Revelation are rushing in on an unsuspecting world. (Write for our free booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled At Last so you will not be caught off guard!*)

Prophecy races on! □



# ON EARTH

(Continued from page 3)

darkness was caused by his great supersin and that of his angels. But God is the very symbol of *light*—of truth—of beauty. So on the very first day of what is often called “creation week” God changed the earth’s surface from darkness, ugliness, decay and confusion to light, beauty and harmony.

I cannot emphasize too strongly the fact that God is the author of beauty—of quality—of perfection. Satan is the author of ugliness, inferiority, imperfection, cheapness, destruction. In the six days of renewing the face of the earth and lavishly decorating it with flora and fauna, God made it beautiful—gloriously beautiful!

God had now completed renewing the face of the earth, preparing it to become the abode of man.

## The Creation of Humankind

And now was to come the crowning piece of God’s handiwork—MAN! “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. . . . *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them*” (Gen. 1:26-27).

But *why* did God create man?

Here is a truth perhaps never before understood by man. Look now at God’s supreme, overall purpose. As He had previously surveyed the colossal cataclysm that the angelic rebellion had produced, He must have realized that it left HIMSELF as the ONLY Being who will not and CANNOT SIN! The only possible assurance of accomplishing His great purpose of finishing the creation—populating and beautifying the entire universe—was for Him to reproduce Himself.

But what part could man possibly have in such an awesome purpose? Notice what King David was inspired to write: “O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens. . . . When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou

hast ordained; *what is man, that thou art mindful of him?*” (Psalm 8:1-4.) Marveling at the entire creation, David had asked how God could take any account of puny man.

Continue: “For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; *thou hast put all things under his feet. . . . O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!*” (Ps. 8:5-9.)

David here *limited* man’s dominion to the present—that which God gave mankind at his creation—the solid earth, the earth’s atmosphere, and the waters and sea. That is the dominion that man *now* has!

But in the New Testament, written much later, a far greater destiny and dominion for man is revealed.

## The Transcendent Goal

In the book of Hebrews, we read: “For unto the angels hath he [God] *not* put in subjection *the world to come*, whereof we speak” (Heb. 2:5). The theme of the first half of this chapter, in context, is “the world to come”—*the world tomorrow!* Then verse 6 follows on with a quotation from the first six verses of the eighth Psalm. Again David was specifically showing that God has *now* placed in subjection under man the solid earth, the earth’s atmosphere or air, and the sea. But the writer of Hebrews is inspired to follow with *something infinitely greater*—something to happen in the world to come.

The revealed knowledge of God’s purpose for mankind—of man’s incredible, awesome potential—staggeres the imagination. Science knows nothing of it—no religion reveals it—and certainly higher education is in utter ignorance of it.

Continue now in this passage in Hebrews, beginning where this New Testament book leaves off quoting the eighth Psalm and adds the awesome human potential: “Thou hast put all things in subjection under his [man’s] feet. For in that he [God] put all in subjection under him [man], he [God] left *nothing* that is *not* put under him” (Heb. 2:8).

Is it possible God could mean what He says—“all things”? *Nothing* excluded? In the first chapter, verse 3, the Moffatt translation of the Bible renders the Greek word that is translated “all things” as “*the universe*.”

In other words, for those willing to believe what God says, He says that He has decreed *the entire universe* with all its galaxies, its countless suns and planets—*everything*—will be put under man’s subjection.

But wait a moment! Before you disbelieve, read the next words in this same eighth verse: “But now we see *not yet* all things [the endless universe] put under him [man].” Remember, this is speaking of the “*world to come*”—*not* today’s world.

But what do we see now, today? “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour. . . .” (verse 9). Man, other than Christ, is *not yet* crowned with glory and honor. But *he will be* in a new age—yet in the future.

This is only a brief inkling of the fantastic, awesome, transcendent purpose of man—only one of the many passages in the Bible that describes his incredible potential. God needs millions or billions of perfect and righteous beings, governed by His divine government, to *complete* the creation of, in all their beauty, majesty and glory, not only the other planets of our solar system (*now* in utter waste and decay), but also our galaxy, and countless other galaxies of the limitless, vast universe.

I have yet to tell you of the incident of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden—where man went wrong—and why he was created of matter, the dust of the ground. Expect surprises as you learn more of the *crowning pinnacle* of even God’s unmatched creating powers.

How could *the great God*—the Self-Existent One—the Creator of all else—reproduce *Himself* into multiple millions of others just like Himself—divine, supreme in power, perfect in character—each by his own choice *perfectly* like-minded with the Father, each having so set himself that he cannot sin? □

(To Be Continued)



# Would You Believe That...



H. Armstrong Roberts

*"To a lot of adults, children are not really 'people.'"*

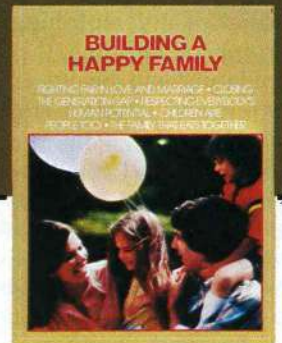
*"Parents are really not conscious or aware of their actions when they don't treat their children with respect."*

*"Children will tend to treat parents as parents have treated them."*

*"The course of our entire civilization may be determined by the quality of time we spend with our children."*

**A**ll the above are true. Want to know why? Like to read about "fighting fair" in marriage? Closing the generation gap? How to draw your family closer together? If you do, the free booklet *Building a Happy Family* (from which the above quotes are taken) discusses all these

questions and more. For your copy, use the envelope inside this magazine or send the coupon below to our office nearest you. (See inside front cover for addresses.)



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