

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1959

HURRICANE STRIKES!



Wide World Photo
Scene of wreckage from Hurricane Grace. Fierce winds drove giant 11-foot tides ashore on southeast coast of the U.S., destroying hundreds of homes, blowing cars off roads. Here you see debris-littered Savannah, Georgia. Why this revolution in the weather?—hurricanes, snow storms, floods and drought striking almost simultaneously. Read the answer in the lead article of this issue!

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VOL. XXIV

NO. 11

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG*Publisher and Editor***Garner Ted Armstrong***Executive Editor***Herman L. Hoeh***Managing Editor***Roderick C. Meredith***Associate Editor*

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By the Radio Church of God

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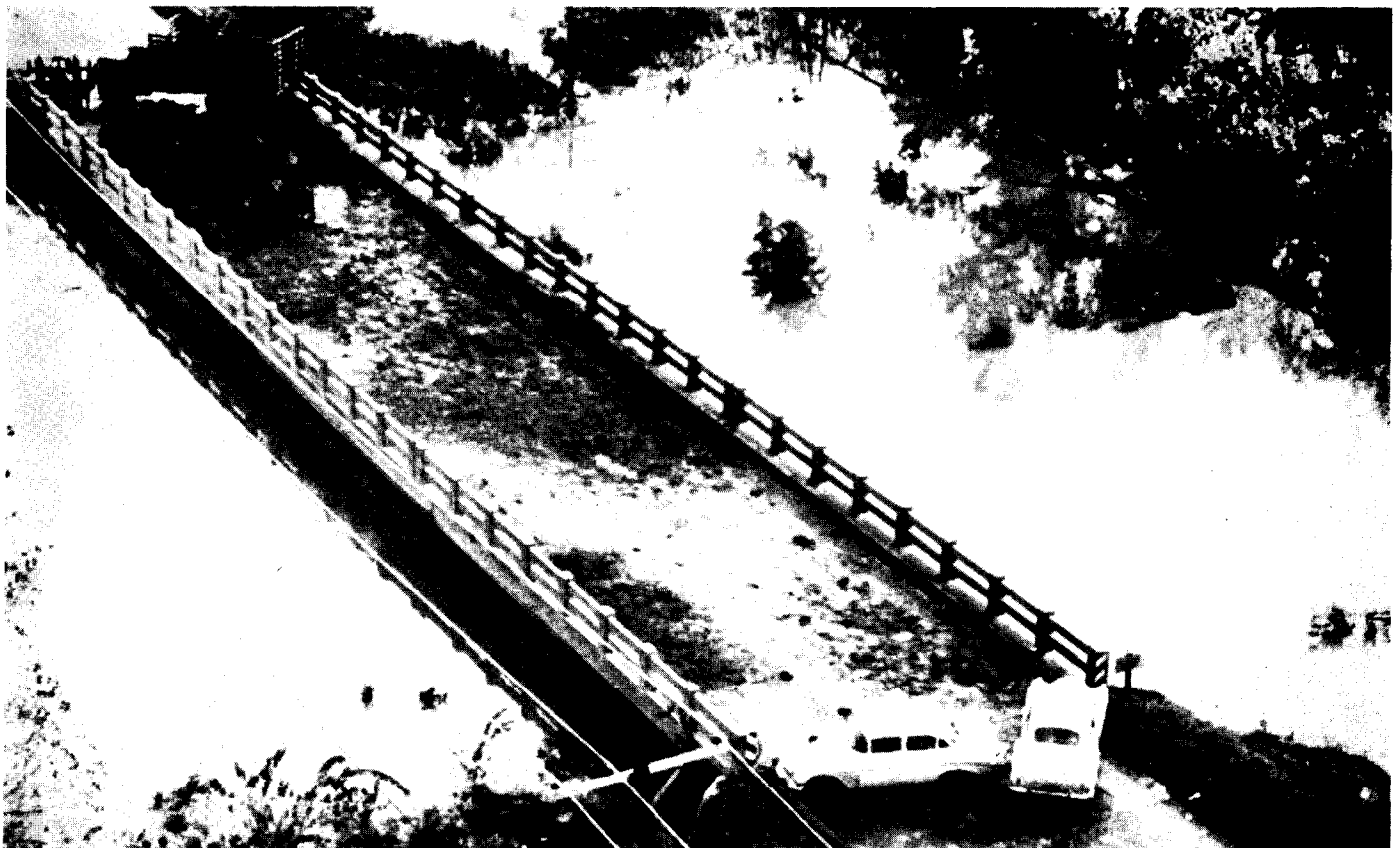


Wide World Photo
This is a scene at Bixby, an Arkansas river town 14 miles south of Tulsa. The river's second highest flood in history covered half the town.

Worst Weather Ever!

Highway provides refuge for cattle in Oklahoma flood. This herd was driven onto State Highway 11 bridge for protection from floodwaters. The owner then blocked ends of bridge. Thousands of other cattle perished and communications were severed by the flash flood—while other areas of country suffer from drought!

Wide World Photo



WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW About the Weather!

Scientists of over 100 nations are trying to determine why the world's weather has taken so many FREAK turns in recent years!
Everywhere, RADICAL CHANGES are taking place in the weather!
Here's how it is going to affect YOUR future!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

FLOODS, hurricanes, tornadoes, drouth, hailstorms, blizzards, landslides, earthquakes! From around the world come ominous reports of a vast, world-wide change in the weather! Weather bureau experts are frankly frightened about America's future. They KNOW this nation is headed toward terrible economic disaster!

"REAL TROUBLE" said I. R. Tannehill, assistant chief of the U.S. Weather Bureau, "is just around the corner." He referred to the tremendous drouth coming in the 1970's.

Economic Threat!

Most of America is sound asleep at the switch!

While most Americans are struggling frantically "to make ends meet," enjoy longer vacations, less work and more pay—embarked on a dizzying, frantic, scrambling search for physical and sensual PLEASURE—the rolling, ominous clouds of coming economic DISASTER are gathering on the horizon!

Today, the majority of our population live in cities. They don't seem to REALIZE their utter dependency upon the weather for their personal and national existence. It is so easy to walk into the kitchen, turn on the faucet, and having perfect faith water will come out, put the teakettle under the faucet and fill it with cold, clear water. These things we seem to take for granted.

But what if you housewives walked into your kitchens, turned on the faucet—and nothing came out? Wouldn't you begin to be a little bit concerned? Probably, you would immediately go to the bathroom and try the other faucet. When you found there was actually no water coming into your house, you would probably try immediately to call

the Water Department. Perhaps you would find their telephone switchboard just completely jammed with incoming calls. When you finally get through, you are told the reservoirs are DRY! You are told severe water rationing has had to be put into effect, and the water supply has been cut off, so that it can be canned or packaged and sold in the grocery stores.

A hypothetical situation? At this present time—perhaps. But in years to come, this is going to be a very REAL situation in MOST American cities!

Your Bible says so!

Most people seem to think great industry is the major problem in our economic structure. I remember an automobile salesman who once told me the automobile manufacturers in Detroit "called the tune" on our nation's economy. When the automobile dealers manufactured and sold plenty of cars, we had a healthy economy. When they manufactured and sold less cars, we had a less healthy economy. This, the salesman assured me, was the real "behind the scenes" picture of our nation's economy. Others are almost certain it is the steel industry. Others believe it is world trade.

But it goes much deeper than that.

You cannot eat automobiles! You cannot eat steel! And, YOU CANNOT EAT DOLLARS!

Our nation's economy, security, and entire future depends almost entirely on the weather!

And right now, if the present weather trends continue, we are headed for the most tremendous economic CRASH that has ever happened to any nation!

What Bible Says about Weather!

Because of a gigantic, world-wide conspiracy—brought about by the wiles

of Satan the Devil—most of you have unwittingly swallowed the false propaganda that "everything is going to be all right!" or, "there will be a better day tomorrow." You are somehow sure in your own mind and heart, that "President Eisenhower will work it all out somehow!" or, "Perhaps Khrushchev will see the light."

The thinking of most people is a mere hopeful, on-the-surface "wishful thinking" and they somehow HOPE everything will turn out all right.

Why? Because they have been deceived by false religious teachers!

God said false teachers and ministers would be saying, "Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured PEACE in this place" (Jer. 14:13). But God says unto them, "The prophets prophesy LIES in My Name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision, and divination and a thing of naught, and the deceit of their heart."

"Therefore thus saith the Eternal concerning the prophets that prophesy in My name, and I sent them not, yet they say, 'Sword and famine shall not be in this land;' by sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed" (Jer. 14:14-15).

Notice, it is done "in the name" of God. It sounds like His truth—it's a message you would naturally want to hear—but it's false!

God says, even though you may have heard a namby-pamby, vague, wishy-washy, spineless message of soft and smooth sayings, hearing the mellow and soft, somewhat monotonous voice of religion telling you you will not have famine—nevertheless God says by famine shall that voice be stopped!

God says HE is the One who con-

trols the weather, "and I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places, yet you have not returned unto Me saith the Lord." God says *He* is the

direct source of upset weather conditions in a sinning and lawless nation. "And also I have *withholden the rain* from you, when there were yet three months until the harvest, and I caused

it to rain upon *one* city, and caused it NOT to rain upon *another* city. One piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. So two or
(Please continue on page 10)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

WABC—New York—770 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun., E.S.T.; 11:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

WNTA—Newark, N.J.—970 on dial—9:00 a.m. Sun.—7:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.—9:00 p.m. Sat.

WLS—Chicago—890 on dial—1:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Sun.; 10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—10:30 a.m.; 11:15 p.m., Sun., E.S.T. 10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

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WLAC—Nashville, Tenn.—1510 on dial—7:00 p.m., daily; 6:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat., E.S.T.—10:30 a.m. Sun.

WMIE—Miami, Fla.—1140 on dial—8:30 a.m. Sun.; 11:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.

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CKLW—Windsor, Ontario—800 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sundays.

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WKYR—Keyser, W. Va.—1270 on dial—5:30 a.m., daily.

KDYL—Salt Lake City, Utah—1320 on dial—7:00 p.m. nightly.

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KGO—San Francisco—810 on dial—9:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.—10:00 p.m. Sun.

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XEMO—San Diego, Cal.—860 on dial—7:30 a.m. daily.

KARM—Fresno—1430 on dial—6:30 p.m. daily.

KNBX—Seattle—1050 on dial—3:30 p.m., Sundays; 12:00 noon, Mon. thru Sat.

KWJJ—Portland—1080 on dial—10:00 p.m., Sundays; 9:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

KUGN—Eugene—590 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.

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RADIO LUXEMBOURG—208 metres. Mondays and Tuesdays: 23:30 Greenwich time.

RADIO MONTE CARLO—1466 kc.; 6035 kc. and 7140 kc.; 6:05 a.m. M.E.T. Sat. (in Russian) and Fri. (in English).

RADIO TANGIER INTERNATIONAL—1232 kc. & S. W. Saturdays 16:30 Greenwich time. Sundays 10:45 Greenwich time (in Spanish).

TO SOUTH AFRICA

RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES, MOZAMBIQUE 10:00 p.m., Saturdays; 10:30 p.m., Mondays and Tuesdays.

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2AY—Albury—Sun., 10:00 p.m.; Mon. to Fri., 10:30 p.m.

2CH—Sydney—Mon. to Fri., 9:00 p.m.; Sat., 10:15 p.m.

2GF—Grafton—Sun., 9:30 p.m.; Mon. to Fri., 11:30 a.m.

2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 p.m.; Mon. to Fri., 3:15 p.m.

3AW—Melbourne—Sun., 10:30 p.m.

3BO—Bendigo—Mon. to Fri., 10:30 p.m.; Thurs., 4:15 p.m.

4CA—Cairns—Sun. to Fri., 10:00 p.m.

4KQ—Brisbane—Sun., 10:30 p.m.

4TO—Townsville—Mon. to Sat., 10:15 p.m.

4WK—Warwick—Mon. to Sat., 9:00 a.m.

6BY—Bridgetown—Sun., 10:30 p.m.

6IX—Perth—Sun., 10:00 p.m.

6MD—Merredin—Sun., 10:30 p.m.

6WB—Katanning—Sun., 10:30 p.m.

7HT—Hobart—Wed., 10:25 p.m.

TO SOUTH AMERICA

RADIO AMERICA—Lima, Peru—6:00 p.m. Saturdays—1010 kc.

7:00 p.m., Sundays—HOC21, Panama City—1115 kc.

HP5A, Panama City—11170 kc.

HOK, Colon, Panama—640 kc.

HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 kc.

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RADIO COMUNEROS — Asuncion, Paraguay — 8:00-8:15 P.M., Sundays

RADIO SPORT — CXA19 — Montevideo, Uruguay — 4:00-4:15 P.M., Sundays

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

This 22nd installment covers new miraculous answers to prayer, a year devoted to health lectures, a near fight at a church meeting, and the first evangelistic campaign.

AND still the lean years continued. Financially speaking, that is. We were still in the depression year of 1930. Our fourth child and second son, Garner Ted, had been born early that poverty-stricken year, February 9th.

I was continuing to mix my formula of the clay that seemed to heal every skin disease short of cancer, and to sell it in pound booth-size jars to beauty shops.

Asking God for a Dime

I have related previously how my wife nearly died of toxemia eclampsia shortly before our second daughter was born. Three physicians had warned us that my wife could never have another child. We did not know the reason then. It was many years later that we learned we had the opposite RH blood factor—she being negative, and I positive. This was unknown to the doctors who said Mrs. Armstrong could not bear another child. It probably was not the cause. This, however, was undoubtedly the cause of Ted having been born with yellow jaundice.

This, as nearly as we can remember now, was one of the reasons it was necessary to supplement the new baby's breast milk. Another reason was the fact that Mrs. Armstrong did not have enough to eat. She simply was not able to supply sufficient milk.

One day a few months after Ted was born—probably early summer, 1930—I arrived home from the beauty shop rounds in mid-afternoon. The baby was crying lustily.

"Hurry!" exclaimed my wife, "go to the store and get a quart of milk. The baby has missed one feeding, and it's a whole hour past his second feeding, and I haven't a bit of milk for him."

"Well, I'm broke. Give me a dime," I said. Milk was then ten cents a quart—*think of that!*

"But if I had a dime, I'd have sent Beverly after the milk long ago," she

replied. "I've been waiting for you—praying for God to hurry you home. I thought you'd have at least a dime."

The baby howled louder than ever. Our credit was not good at any store.

"There's only one thing to do," I said. "We're helpless, of ourselves. There's no human to help us. We'll have to rely on God. He has *promised* to supply all our NEED—and this is certainly a need."

Jesus said we should enter into our closet, or small room, and pray to our Father in heaven in secret, and He will reward us openly. The only small room of absolute privacy in our home was the bathroom. I locked the bathroom door and knelt beside the bathtub. God had *promised* to supply our every need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. I believed Him.

But we had to have the answer immediately. I had learned that sometimes God does not answer at once—He sometimes tries our faith in order to develop patience in us. But right now it seemed that little Garner Ted needed his milk more urgently than I needed patience.

I felt there was not time—or need—of a long prayer. Instantly the 70th Psalm flashed into my mind. God by His Holy Spirit inspired David to record, as part of the very Word of God, David's prayer wherein he asked God to "Make haste, O God, to deliver me; *make haste* to help me, O Lord. . . . I am poor and needy: *make haste* unto me. . . . O Lord, make no tarrying." I knew that prayer would not be in God's Word unless it was God's will to ANSWER that same prayer for me. So I asked God boldly to MAKE HASTE!

I arose, unlocked the door, and walked back toward the kitchen. Before I even reached the kitchen, one of our girls cried out from the living-room window:

"O, Mother, here comes the old rag and bottle man!"

"Well, quick! Beverly," called out my

wife, "run out and stop him! We have a lot of old things in the basement we can sell him!"

The only entrance to our basement, I remember, was from the outside at the rear of the house. In eager anticipation we led the rag and bottle man down the basement stairs. My wife showed him all kinds of things. We expected to get at least a dollar from him.

He only shook his head.

"No. Nothing here I want," he said, starting back up the stairs.

Our hearts sank.

Half way up the steps he stopped, glanced at a high stack of old magazines beside the stairs. Slowly he turned and retraced his steps, examining the stack of magazines.

"I'll give you a dime for these," he said. "This is all I want."

I had asked God to *send to us a dime*—immediately—in haste! When God sent it, within the very minute I asked, we tried to increase it to a dollar or more. But the immediate NEED was a dime for milk. God has not promised to supply our *wants*—only our NEED. The need I had asked was a dime—ten cents! That is what God sent—immediately!

We had learned another lesson!

We gratefully gave God thanks, as I ran all the way to the store and then back with the milk.

Jesus said: "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, *believe* that ye receive them, and YE SHALL HAVE THEM!" I know that is true. DO YOU?

This incident has been made public before—over the air and in THE PLAIN TRUTH—but it properly belongs here in the Autobiography, so I relate it again.

A New Job

A family by the name of Melson lived on 74th Street in Portland at this time. Their house and ours were opposite, back to back. Some years later this fam-

ily became nationally famous. A feature article about them on "How America Lives" appeared in one of America's leading mass-circulation magazines. We can remember that they had three little girls, Anna Lou, Marilyn, and Joyce. Little Dickie, our older boy, called Anna Lou "Ah-woo."

One evening Mr. Melson came over and asked me if I would accept a job with the Wear-Ever aluminum company. He was a salesman with that company, selling to retail stores. The job open to me was selling the heavy "New Method" utensils direct to consumers.

The sale of the clay to beauty shops was not providing a living. This aluminum job was the straw a drowning man would grab. We were in such down-and-out financial circumstances we were grateful for anything that promised enough food to eat.

I went to their office. I found this company had developed a type of salesmanship with which I was not experienced—and they had reduced it to a virtual science. They sold this particular line of utensils, not through stores, but direct to consumers by a system of "demonstration dinners," which they called "dems." First, to see what it was like, I attended one.

A woman was offered a valuable utensil prize if she would invite a number of married couples to a dinner in her home. The prize was in accordance with the number who came. They had to be couples—husbands and wives. The salesman supplied all the food and ingredients and cooked the dinner. It had to be the most delicious dinner the guests had ever eaten, and of natural foods—no concoctions.

After the dinner, he gave a lecture on health, and the causes of sickness and disease. I observed that the salesman giving this "dem" seemed to know more about the causes of sickness and disease than the physician who was a guest with his wife—and he kept quoting nationally known physicians and surgeons for his statements, and then asking the local guest physician if he agreed. Of course he did—for the statements were all medically correct, and the guest doctor would be disagreeing with outstanding national or international authorities unless he endorsed everything the salesman said.



Richard David, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong's older son, at about age 2½.

Before he was through, the guests were impressed that this salesman-lecturer knew more about the minor ailments in their families than their family doctor. Enough of these common ailments had been mentioned—colds, fevers, constipation, rheumatism, tooth troubles, stomach troubles, digestive disturbances etc. etc., that every family present was sure to be affected. Then the salesman made appointments to call at each home at a time when both husband and wife would be present, in order to give private and confidential counsel about how to prevent these ailments by

proper diet and method of preparing food.

Every couple present willingly made the appointment. I could see that most of them were actually eager to make it. They had never heard a lecture of this type before. It had been sparkling with interest, and had opened up facts about common ailments they never knew before.

I was intrigued. I saw that this job offered me the opportunity to make an intensive study of the causes of sickness and disease, and of nutrition and the part diet plays in health or illness. I had

already been doing enough preaching to have had some little experience in giving these lectures. Also, the lectures would provide experience for more effective preaching.

One thing that appealed to me was the fact that a salesman, in this rather unique work, could be doing a great deal of good. I learned, during the following year, that many of these salesmen were conscientious and used their work only for the good of the customer.

Lecturing on Health

My first "dem" was a very large co-operative one, held in a public hall in Oregon City. Several of the men out of the Portland district headquarters participated, a more experienced one delivering the lecture. Actual participation gave me initial experience.

The district supervisor, a Mr. Peach, gave me a list of several books, whose authors were nationally famous physicians and surgeons, on the subject of diet, causes of common ailments, sickness and disease.

At the library and book stores I searched out other books beside these he recommended. I plunged into an intensive study in this fascinating field. Mr. Peach also gave me mimeographed material, data, and facts which his office had condensed from many qualified authorities—including many shocking figures and statistics on existing national health conditions. The office also supplied me with large charts, illustrated, showing many of these little-known facts. The charts were used in the lectures.

I obtained pamphlets from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, showing results of scientific government tests made, I believe, at the University of Wisconsin. These tests showed the percentage of mineral elements and vitamins lost from various kinds of foods by cooking at or over the boiling temperature. These figures were astounding. They showed that excessive temperatures, in cooking, rob foods of from 23% to 78% of these vital health elements.

I learned of what the human body is constituted—primarily 16 elements of matter, 12 of which are alkaline-reacting mineral elements, and 4 of which are acid-reacting carbohydrates. I learned

that, while the human body requires for health that the diet be composed of a large majority of the alkaline mineral elements, the average American meal is in fact a diatetic horror—consisting of an overwhelming preponderance of the starches, sugars, and greases—the carbohydrate acid-reacting elements which cause numerous ailments and diseases.

Most natural foods are rendered harmful by sauces, gravies and dressings. I learned that leading physicians—that is, the very few who have studied foods, or the *causes* of sickness and disease—estimate variously that from 85% to 95% of all sickness and disease which is not of mental origin is caused by faulty diet, and the small remaining percent from all other causes combined.

Soon I had a shocking, eye-opening, interest-compelling lecture outlined. Of course the study was continued intensively—along with continued Bible study for the next year, and the lecture progressively altered and supplemented.

The details are now dim in memory—this is being written almost 30 years later—but it seems that I teamed with another more experienced man in the next one or two "dems."

Then I must have been transferred to the territory around Salem, Oregon. Also it seems this move was influenced by the fact that I had not as yet gotten sufficiently established in this aluminum selling to have been able to pay our house rent, and my father was having to pay it for us. Apparently he felt it would be less burden on him for us to move back into the parental home in Salem.

Our First Automobile

About the time I was getting started in this new work, we acquired the first automobile we ever owned. I had learned to drive a car when I was Assistant Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at South Bend, Indiana, when I was 23. I had driven cars a great deal. Often I had borrowed my brother Russell's car, and also my brother Dwight's. But it was impossible to hold these "dems" without a car.

So an arrangement had been made with my father whereby I received his car—a two-door Ford sedan—and he acquired a better car. Just what the three-

cornered deal was is too cloudy in mind to recall.

So, along about October, 1930, we left the house on 75th Street in Portland, and once again moved in with my parents on Highland Avenue in Salem.

The religious interest did not diminish. Rather, this new study of the causes of ill health and disease, and these "dems" with their health lectures, only supplemented my continued study of the Bible.

I learned quite a little about fasting as a means of eliminating toxins and poisons from the body. Always the people I visited after a "dem," had in the family some of these common ailments or diseases. Never before had most of them heard any explanation of *why* they had these sicknesses.

Most people seemed to suppose it is natural for our bodies to get sick. But sickness is *not* natural. Sickness comes only from broken physical laws within our bodies. Most of the time it comes from excess of carbohydrates. Part of the time from malnutrition—a *lack* of essential elements. Under fasting the body naturally eliminates stored up toxins and poisons.

Many on whom I called were, by fasting followed by right diet, relieved of rheumatism, constipation, colds, and many other chronic ailments or diseases.

Of course most doctors do *not* recommend fasting. Many M.D.'s *sneeringly* refer to fasting as a "starvation diet." Some doctors seem to feel that if a patient misses a single meal or two he will starve. No matter what the sickness or disease, if one is admitted to a hospital, he very probably will be fed, even if intravenously.

Actually, if people would fast more, as animals do by instinct when sick, and eat more carefully, it might just be that the *doctors* would starve, not the patients!

But the doctors want to stay in business. They do not often recommend fasting.

On the other hand, one should not fast for more than three to five days unless he is under the care of a physician who *does* understand and believe in fasting, or some one equally experienced. And one kind of fasting is required to rid one of constipation, and another

kind is indicated for other situations.

It is regrettable that medical "science" is so narrow that it tries to make a cure-all of one thing—medicine; or, in some cases, of surgery. One doctor confided to his elderly mother that if all drugs were dumped into the ocean, it would be so much better for humanity, and so much worse for the fishes. But such is the "science" of man that all too often is, as the Word of God says plainly, "science falsely so called." The day will come when the whole world will wake up to that sad fact!

I never did, on these calls, ask people if I could pray for their healing. God's instruction is, "Is any sick among you? *let him call for the elders of the church*" (James 5:14-15). They are told to ASK FOR IT. And I was not then an elder. I was not then ordained.

However, when the subject of God's truth did come up—as it frequently did—if I found the people I was visiting were believers, and they asked me to pray for their healing, I always did. This happened a number of times, and several were healed. But I had learned never to force religion on any one, and the approach to the subject had to come from them. This is God's way.

What I learned during this year of study and lecturing on sickness and disease was actually an important part of the preparation God was taking me through for His ministry.

The Near-Fight at a Meeting

Along in November of 1930 the Runcorns, neighbors of my parents, asked me to go with them to a business meeting of brethren of the Church of God, being held in the home of Mrs. Ira Curtis, near Jefferson, Oregon.

Although I was a guest—I had never joined this church, whose headquarters were at Stanberry, Missouri—they asked me to act as secretary and take down the minutes of the meeting. I learned that the meeting was called for the purpose of organizing these Oregon members into an Oregon Conference.

I sensed immediately there was a feeling of division among them. Elder A. N. Dugger was the real leader of the church at Stanberry. He was editor of the church's weekly paper sent to members. He either was, or had been,

president of their General Conference. I learned that they were organized as a General Conference, with elections of officers held bi-annually. Most of the Oregon members lived in the Willamette Valley in the vicinity of Jefferson. Most of them were in attendance at this business meeting.

About half of them were opposed to Elder Dugger. They wanted to organize a State Conference. Some of the other states had state conferences. The purpose of this Oregon State Conference was to hold the tithes and church funds contributed by Oregon members in Oregon. The other half were just as verbal in their loyalty and support of Elder Dugger and the Stanberry regime.

The dispute over Stanberry politics and Elder Dugger's personal fitness and integrity waxed more and more heated. One tall man, who weighed considerably over 200, and was a leader, spoke of "dirty politics" and called Elder Dugger a "ward-healer." An equally vociferous man on the other side of the dispute rose to defend the honor of Mr. Dugger. Words flamed hotter and hotter. Each side was sincere and in roused earnest. Under the tense pressure tempers were flaring. I became afraid it was going to be settled (or unsettled) by fists.

At that instant I rose, and in a loud but calm voice asked if I might say a word. Since I was a guest, they didn't refuse.

"Brethren," I said, "you all know how, as recorded in the first chapter of Job, when the sons of God came together, *Satan came also*. You also know how, in the 12th chapter of Revelation we are told that the people Satan is most angry with are those who keep the Commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. That means us. Satan is here. He is stirring up rage and anger in your hearts. I am going to drop to my knees right now, and ask God Almighty to cast Satan out of this house! All of you who wish may kneel with me and pray silently."

Without another word, I quickly dropped to my knees beside my chair, and began asking God to rebuke Satan and this controversial spirit that was rousing these men to anger, and to drive Satan from our presence, and to give us peace, and love.

When I rose there were some wet eyes, but there were no angry voices. These people were sincere. They simply believed what they believed and had allowed themselves to be caught off guard, and roused to anger.

Asked to Conduct Campaign

The state conference was agreed to and formed. The concept of church government seemed to be that lay members should be in the offices of authority. Ministers were to be employed, and under orders from the lay members. This is essentially the concept of what we call democracy: government from the bottom up. Those being governed dictate who shall be their rulers and *how* their rulers shall rule them. The most perplexing subject in all the Bible to me was this matter of church government. I never did come to clear understanding of the BIBLE teaching on the subject until after Ambassador College was formed and well on its way.

I believe that the elderly G. A. Hobbs of Oregon City, previously mentioned, was made the first president of this state Conference, and that O. J. Runcorn, with whom I had come to this meeting, was president the second year. I have in my old files my Ministerial License Certificate, to be reproduced in a succeeding installment, dated March 2, 1932, and signed by O. J. Runcorn as President, and Mrs. I. E. Curtis as Secretary. This was almost a year after I was ordained—probably my second certificate.

At the close of this business meeting, the newly elected officers caused me great embarrassment.

They asked me if I would hold an evangelistic campaign for them in the church building they rented in Harrisburg. I had never preached before the public. Only before these brethren in the Willamette Valley and at Oregon City. As I have stated before, becoming a preacher was the very *last* thing I should ever have wanted to do. I had been literally *drawn into* what little preaching had been done before these few brethren. Most certainly I had never pushed myself in.

But to hold a public evangelistic campaign! Consternation seized me. By nature I shrank from the idea! Yet it

seemed impossible to refuse. If I was severely embarrassed to think of doing it, I felt it would be even more embarrassing to refuse. I would look like a coward. More and more I was being literally *drawn into* the ministry by some power greater than I.

Inexperienced though I still was, I had come to realize that the success of any such campaign depended more on the amount and earnestness of *prayer* behind such a campaign, than on the oratory or eloquence of the speaker. One thing I knew—if GOD was in it—if I were merely an instrument and GOD was really conducting the campaign, it was bound to bear fruit.

Embarrassment on the Other Foot

All these things flashed through my mind in a few seconds.

"Well, Brethren," I replied, "I have never preached before a public audience in my life. All the revivals and evangelistic services I have attended have wound up in altar calls. I'll tell you the truth—I simply could not do this without a lot of help from God. And I know that results will depend more on the PRAYER back of the meetings than on my preaching. In fact, the effectiveness of the preaching will depend on prayer and the extent to which I can allow God to speak through me. This would really be a very hard assignment for me. But I'll make you brethren a proposition. If every one of you here at this meeting will *pledge* yourselves right now to devote *not less than one hour every day* to earnest and believing and prevailing PRAYER for the success of these meetings—for God to help me and speak through me—for God to cause the ones He is calling and drawing to attend—and for God to convict the ones He is calling—and if you will solemnly pledge to keep up this hour or more a day of prayer, beginning now, and until the last night of the meetings—then I will undertake this campaign. I could do it at the end of December. Our company does not work from December 20th until after New Year's day. I could start the campaign on Sunday night, December 21st, and eleven nights right up to the end of the year. The Wear-Ever company has a convention in Seattle the first week in January and I

must be there. But I will have those eleven nights free."

And now, it was *their* turn to be embarrassed. Perhaps some had been spending an hour a day in prayer—but I was sure most of them had not. Their tempers would not have boiled over into a near-fist-fight if they had. But, as I had been too embarrassed to refuse their offer, they were too embarrassed to refuse mine. To refuse to devote an hour a day on their knees would be very unchristian! Yes, that would have been more embarrassing than to go through with it!

They agreed. They pledged themselves to this intensive prayer.

I agreed. I was brought one step closer to the ministry of Christ!

The First Public Preaching

You may be sure that I, too, practiced what I demanded of them. In fact, I was afraid not to. If ever I had needed the help of God it was now.

I designed a good sized circular. This was the first time my 20 years of advertising experience was used in God's work. I did not have the money to have the hand-bills printed, but the new conference officials agreed to pay all expenses for the meetings. I had the circular printed at the job printing department of the *Salem Statesman*. I do not remember how they were distributed, but I think church brethren living near Harrisburg must have volunteered to do it. The hand-bills were distributed to every house in Harrisburg, and for some five miles around.

Even before conversion I had attended two or three evangelistic campaigns. A business man, a prosperous and successful owner of a factory in southeastern Iowa, had conducted a big tent campaign in Indianola, Iowa, during the summer of 1923. At that time I was working with my brother-in-law, Walter Dillon, on his college oratory, and also conducting a merchandising survey for an Indianola weekly paper.

I had attended several of these meetings. This business man was a vigorous speaker, somewhat of the Billy Sunday style. He had a very effective song leader and team—much as Billy Graham was to do later on a much larger scale. Always there were altar calls—the tra-

ditional "saw-dust trail." Workers urged people in the audience to go forward.

In my inexperience, I took these traditional methods for granted. In these beginning years of my ministry I went along with many of these religious practices—and even some doctrines—commonly accepted by the evangelical denominations, and which I later had to UN-learn. I had to learn one doctrine, and one truth, at a time.

The little church building in the little town of Harrisburg, then about 500 population, had a seating capacity of perhaps 150. On the first Sunday night we had about 100 or more in attendance.

I think the attendance dropped a little after the first night, but it held up not far under a hundred. Our little group of church brethren assembled in the church about an hour and a half early each evening, and had their hour of prayer together in the church.

We did not have droves of hundreds or thousands "hitting the saw-dust trail," but God did give us four who were converted in the meetings.

However, we knew that the greatest good done was the spiritual revival that took place in the church brethren as a result of that hour a day spent in solid prayer!

They were a changed people! They were happy. They were closer to God—and this was evidenced by their manner, their conversation, their lives!

WHO Should Baptize?

The subject of water baptism had been the very first I had studied in the Bible, after my original surrender to Christ. Now I had four new converts to be baptized.

But WHO was to baptize them? I was not an ordained minister.

A young minister of the Church of God who had been sent out from Stanberry, Missouri, headquarters, had been in an automobile accident in Harrisburg. He was confined to bed with a broken leg at the time. I consulted him. It was a problem neither of us had confronted before.

We looked at Matthew 28:19-20.

"Go ye," said Jesus in His Great Commission, "therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them . . ." It appeared
(Please continue on page 31)

WEATHER

Changes!

(Continued from page 4)

three cities wandered unto one city to drink water; but they were not satisfied: **AND YET HAVE YE NOT RETURNED UNTO ME**, saith the Lord" (Amos 4:6-8).

No, we don't realize that *God* controls the weather, or the vast effect *weather* has upon the very industry of a nation, and even the **ENERGY** of its people.

Invigorating weather stimulates *work*. Damp, muggy, humid weather causes laziness. In taking a look at a map of the world, you will find those peoples living in the Temperate zones and toward the colder zones across North America, Europe and Asia, are the people who have been more progressive, more energetic, and have had more capacity to create industrial might.

And God says He is going to *change* our weather patterns!

WORST Weather Ever!

From around the world come reports of "the worst weather" in human memory, or so far as weather records have existed. Everywhere, records are being broken and new records set. Here are just a few of the facts:

"From the Rockies to the Atlantic, record-setting cold gripped the country last week. Before the two-week cold snap began to moderate, Weather Bureau officers said, it had already assured that this December *would be the coldest on record* in many places" (*U.S. News*, December 26, 1958).

"Record cold clung to icy sections of the South today . . . the chill that has broken records for five days in a row held firm in Virginia . . . The thermometer registered seven above in Raleigh, North Carolina early in the day; Birmingham, Alabama had 19; Memphis, 18; and Charlotte, North Carolina, 13; while Anchorage, Alaska had 27 above" (*The Chicago American*, December 16, 1958).

In the meantime, the nation's record-breaking marathon cold wave was threatening Florida's fruit crops, and

reaping wide-spread damage elsewhere. In Texas, the upper Panhandle experienced what the Weather Bureau said was the *coldest morning ever!*

What about heat? There, too, records are being broken! "The warmest December 3rd in 80 years" (*Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 4, 1958). "Los Angeles temperature soared to . . . the warmest March 12 on record" (*L.A. Times*, March 13, 1959). "The hot weather in the East set a record in Columbus, Ohio, for the second straight day" (*Star News*, May 4, 1959).

"A report by the Weather Bureau made official what almost everybody knew: August was the hottest on record in most of the country.

"New records were set in Washington, New York, Cincinnati, Richmond, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Midwest crops matured ten to fourteen days earlier" (*U.S. News*, August 14, 1959). "The year 1958 is the warmest since the local U.S. Weather Bureau office was established on July 1, 1877" (*L.A. Times*, December 31, 1958). In Springfield, Missouri, the Springfield, Missouri, *Leader-Press*, reported on January 1, 1959, "November [then was] the warmest in 24 years."

From other widely scattered parts of the United States come reports of extreme *hot* weather in one place and extreme cold weather in another place even very near by. In Helena, Montana, the weather was very hot in the beginning of the week, but quite cold by midweek—a minimum 25 degrees at Helena on the 9th of September, the *coldest in 80 years* so early in the season. From New York came the report that "Record-breaking warm weather through the first ten days of September turned *unseasonably cool* from the 11th through the 14th."

Something You Can PROVE

So far, most of these facts are merely dealing with unusual heat and cold. But far more serious conditions are happening, and are yet to be revealed.

But *think!*

These things are *real!* These things are *tangible*. This is not an ethereal, vague, hazy religious "ax-grinding" which is arguing about some kind of a difficult-to-understand "doctrine." Al-

mighty God thunders from His high heaven that unless we repent of our sins He is going to send the worst weather this nation has ever seen until we are completely DESTROYED! That is something *tangible*. It is either GOING to happen or it is not going to happen!

If God is God, and if God's Word is *true*—THEN IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN!

But if God's Word is *not* true, and if the word of most of the preachers today is true, then bad weather is NOT going to happen!

You had better *wake up*. This magazine has been warning this nation of impending disaster *since early in 1934*. My father, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, has been preaching over The WORLD TOMORROW program for more than twenty-five years of these impending disasters in the weather, and also foretelling a *United States of Europe* which is right now being forged in Central Europe, and which is destined to threaten our national existence.

By means of the economic disaster brought about through upset weather conditions, terrible *internal* troubles, increasing disease and pestilence *within* our borders, then by the onslaught from *without* our borders from a foreign *union* of nations, your Bible says we are going *down* and *out*.

Unusually Violent Weather!

Not only has God sent freak or *record weather* here and there, but weather has also grown more VIOLENT within the past few years.

"One of the worst late April snowstorms in half a century swept the middle-west Monday, and a tornado terrorized school children in the south . . . In Iowa . . . snow fall was the heaviest in 50 years" (UPI release, April 20, 1959).

Last winter, Albuquerque, New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle experienced *record-breaking* snows for that area. The snows left thousands of residents without power or transportation and stranded an estimated 2,000 motorists on snow blocked highways in Eastern New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle. The snow whipped southeast with winds up to 60 m.p.h. just short of hurricane strength, and was called a

(Please continue on page 31)

Satan's Great Deception

Do you know that long before Jesus Christ was born, there were other "Saviors" worshipped as Sons of God?—other Madonnas, other Christ-children—and the symbol of the cross? Strange as it may seem, this is true!

And stranger still, the gospel of God sent to this world by God through Jesus Christ, was known and cleverly counterfeited many centuries before Christ.

How that counterfeit was deliberately designed and spread throughout the world long before Christ—how that same pagan counterfeit was cleverly, gradually, by secret stealth and fifth-column methods, inoculated into the early church until it completely replaced the gospel, the Truth of God and the Way of God is the most mysterious, astonishing, yet important story of the history of mankind.

That is the intriguing, yet vital and factual theme of this book, again published serially in The PLAIN TRUTH—this time with pictures—for the first time in six years.

by Dr. C. Paul Meredith

PART ONE

DID YOU know that ancient pagan beliefs and practices in many ways bore a striking resemblance to the beliefs and practices taught and followed by Christ and the apostles?

This is the very reason for the most amazing and least realized fact of all, which is easily seen by reading through the New Testament, that the teachings and practices of Jesus and the apostles in the original true church are not the same as we see in today's churches!

This CHANGE was due to the paradoxical fact of the astonishing resemblance between ancient pagan beliefs and those enunciated by Jesus!

Paganism Resembled Truth

The false often appears as true. It is made to resemble the genuine. Edward Carpenter, in *Pagan and Christian Creeds*, p. 25, says: "The similarity of ancient pagan legends and beliefs with Christian traditions was so great that they excited the attention and undisguised wrath of the early Christian . . . not knowing how to explain it, they fell back to the theory the devil, centuries before, caused the pagans to adopt certain beliefs and practices."

He also quotes Tertullian, one of the

early church fathers living between A.D. 160 and 220, as saying, "The *devil*, by the *mysteries* of his idols, *imitates even the main part of the divine mysteries.*"

Furthermore he says, "Cortez, too, complained that the devil had possibly taught the Mexicans the same thing that God taught Christendom."

Since the practices of today's churches are not the same as the early true church recorded in the New Testament, it is vital to know if there has been a *purposeful* mixing of the false practices of paganism with the true teachings of Christ, the apostles, and the Bible.

Many writers of history, including Edward Gibbon in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. 1, chap. 15, state that there has been a *change* brought about by great numbers of pagans flocking into the early Christian Church and mixing their similar pagan customs and beliefs with those of the true church.

The important question, then, is this:

As the churches of today are teaching beliefs and practices not commanded by God and which, although similar, do not really lead to our placing ourselves as *obedient* servants to Him—being ruled over by Him *now* so that we may be eligible to obtain eternal life—it is

vital that we know it, so that we may return from the counterfeit to the right way.

"Christian" Church Attitude

The churches today unwittingly follow a great number of practices originating from ancient pagan Babylon—practices which are entirely opposite to those which Christ and the apostles taught. It is important to notice the attitude toward Paganism of the churches which consider themselves completely Christian. The following excerpts from Edward Carpenter's *Pagan and Christian Creeds*, show this attitude:

"The Christian Church has kept itself severely apart from *discussions* of heathenism, taking the stand that it, the church, represents a unique and divine revelation and has persuaded mankind of this to such a degree that few people nowadays realize that it has sprung from just the same root as paganism and that it shares by far the most part of its doctrines and rites with the latter" (pages 11-12).

Notice, today's churches have sprung from the same root as paganism!

"The common idea is that the pagan gods fled away at Christ's coming, yet it is well known to every student that this

is contrary to fact. At the time of the recorded appearance of Jesus, and for some centuries before, there were temples without and dedicated to Apollo or Dionysius among the Greeks, or Hercules among the Romans, Mythra among the Persian, Baal and Astarte among the Babylonians, and temples dedicated to many other gods. An outstanding phenomenon is apparent: notwithstanding great geographical distances, racial differences between cults and in detail of services, the general outline of creeds and ceremonials were—if not identical—markedly similar” (pages 19-21).

Pagan Similarities

Not only were these pagan creeds and ceremonies which had existed centuries before Christ's coming markedly similar to each other, but also they were similar to true Christianity—a fact that cannot be considered accidental. As an example of this, of eleven main deities from seven countries, it was believed of all or nearly all that, “these deities’ births were on or near Christmas, of a *virgin* mother, in a cave underground, that they *led a life of toil for man*. They were called *light bringers, healers, mediators and saviors*. They were thought to have been *vanquished* by the powers of darkness, *descended* into hell or the underworld, to have *arisen* and become *pioneers* of mankind to a heavenly world . . . Krisna, the god of India is an outstanding parallel with the life of Christ” (pages 21-23).

Mr. Carpenter, the author of *Pagan and Christian Creeds*, says: “The idea of God sacrificing his Son for the salvation of the world is so remote and remarkable—yet it ranges through all ancient religion and back to the earliest times and is embodied in their rituals” (page 133). These unusual customs were so similar to the truth that they strongly suggest there must have been some *guiding force* behind them.

It is evident that with such marked similarities to true Christianity, as are shown by the eleven deities from seven countries, that one should approach this subject *with an open mind* to see if a fusion of paganism and true Christianity is present today.

In I Thessalonians 5:21, the Apostle

tells us to “*Prove* all things: hold fast to that which is good.” Jude 3 to 4 tell us to “earnestly contend for the faith *once delivered* unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares . . . ungodly men, turning the grace of our god into lasciviousness, and denying the *only Lord God*, and our Lord *Jesus Christ*.” We are warned of a turning away from the truth of God which was starting to occur even in the time of the apostles.

Consider for a moment!

Is it probable that the pagans who had methods of worship, *seemingly* near in form and belief to that of Christ and the apostles, would come into Christianity and completely discard their pagan practices which often contained very pleasurable things, for teachings that did not appeal to them as much, even though God has commanded them? Of course not. Paul warned in II Thes. 2:7 “The *mystery of iniquity* doth already work.” A *mysterious* perversion of the gospel had already started to work even in Paul's time! The pagans didn't give up their ideas!

But *when* was the very beginning of this *mysterious* force for evil? Its origin dates from the time when Lucifer was created by the Eternal God to rule the earth. He rebelled and became Satan the *deceiver*. We will now see how this came about.

How It All Began

God, speaking to Lucifer, the archangel (who later became “Satan” after he had sinned) said in Isaiah 14:11-15, “Oh Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thy heart, I will ascend into heaven, *I will exalt my throne above the stars of God*.”

Now notice Ezekiel 28:12-16, which speaks of the king of Tyre, the type of this same Lucifer spoken of above: “Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. *Thou hast been in Eden* the garden of God . . . Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth, and I have set thee so . . . Thou was perfect in thy ways from the days that thou wast created till iniquity was found in thee . . . I will remove thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of

the stones of fire.” There it is!

Lucifer, whom God created as an archangel to carry out His will and government, was given *rule* of the earth. But he was not content—he wanted to *exalt* his throne *above* the stars of God. *He wanted to be God!* He ascended above the atmosphere to take God's place from Him, but Revelation 12:3, 4, and Luke 10:18 show that God's angels met him and cast him down. Note Luke 10:18. “I beheld Satan as *lightning fall from heaven*.” Lucifer the archangel, whom God created, became Satan when he sinned. He is a *deceiver of the whole world* (Rev. 12:9).

Satan Retains Rule by Deceiving

Satan, however, has been permitted to retain rule of the earth. Christ did not deny this, for Matthew 4:3-10 says, “The devil taketh Him (Christ) . . . and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world . . . and sayeth unto Him, all these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.” They were the devil's kingdoms to give—he ruled over them. He rules over this earth! See also John 14:30 and 16:11. He was *trying to bring Christ under his rule*—“worship me.”

But notice something else *very carefully* here. It is the key to the understanding of the method by which Satan, through the organized churches, is deceiving the world today—a key to the *Mystery of Iniquity* which was already working in the churches in Paul's time (II Thes. 2:7). In Matthew 4:6 Satan says to Christ, “If thou be the son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee.” God promises to aid those who find themselves in hazardous circumstances not of their own making, but He does not say He will protect those who deliberately place themselves in such circumstances in order to convince others. But Christ replies in verse 7, “It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”

Notice, Satan *suggested* an improper action for Christ—an act of *disobedience to God*—by *twisting God's word* to convince Christ it was the proper thing to do. Christ corrected him. Had Christ done as Satan suggested, He would have obeyed Satan—been *ruled by Satan*. So

also today, Satan obtains rule over individuals by having his agents *misinterpret* the Bible and by otherwise suggesting false methods of self-justification to the individual for his own evil acts.

Mankind Deceived

Eve was tempted by Satan in the same manner as Christ: Satan suggested an act contrary to God's command, then twisted God's word to make it appear the right thing to do. God said in Genesis 2:17, "But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." But the Devil twisted this. He said, "Ye shall not surely die . . . ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5).

Eve desired (*lusted* after) the fruit of this tree and obeyed Satan rather than God—he *deceived* her into doing it. Adam knowingly followed his wife's suggestion and obeyed her.

Thus mankind came under Satan's rule. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness" (Romans 6:16). Had they obeyed God they could have ruled the earth.

Adam and Eve, for their disobedience, were driven from the garden of Eden where the tree of life was located (Genesis 2:9). They could have eaten and obtained eternal life, but were prevented by cherubims from returning (Genesis 3:24). *Their chance of obtaining eternal life at that time was gone—they had sinned, disobeyed God—they would not come under His rule; therefore He would not give them the opportunity of obtaining it.* They sinned by transgressing God's laws which were in the world from the beginning, for I John 3:4 says, "*Sin is the transgression of the law,*" and Romans 3:23 says, "*All*" — including Adam and Eve—"have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Opportunity of Salvation Revealed to Adam and Eve

A merciful God, He immediately revealed to Adam and Eve that One was to come who would again make it possible for mankind to have the opportunity of obtaining eternal life; for

God said to Satan (Genesis 3:15), "I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed, it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel."

A male offspring of woman only (Christ)—by a super-natural conception—was going to make it possible once again for mankind to come under God's rule and obtain eternal life. Proof of this is in verse 20 of the same chapter. Adam named his wife "Eve" which means, according to *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, "life giver." This referred to some *special* life-giving property which would be imparted to mankind through woman alone (as represented by Eve)—*eternal life through her divinely begotten Son Christ*; for both Adam and Eve shared equally in the giving of *mortal* life to their offspring. This is the first mention given by the Bible to the coming of Christ as Savior.

It was by faith and obedience that Enoch (Hebrews 11:5), David (Ezekiel 34:23), Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Matthew 8:11), all living in Old Testament times, understood the hope of salvation, and will rise to meet Christ at his coming (I Thes. 4:16). They obeyed God—came under his government—(Enoch "*walked with God*"—Genesis 5:24), and looked *forward* by faith to the Savior who should come—just as we, today, look *backward* and believe Him. God spoke to Abraham (Genesis 22:18) of the coming Seed (Christ). The *few* being *called* then obtained "a good report through faith" by the same method as we today: they repented of disobedience and believed that the blood of the Savior would pay the debt of their past sins!

This knowledge by which mankind could have faith in a Savior AND, like Enoch, be translated or transferred from Satan's rule (or "from the power of darkness") to God's rule (Col. 1:13 and Heb. 11:5) and ultimate eternal life, must be blotted out by all means if Satan were to retain his rule of mankind on this earth!

Pagans Knew of Adam and Eve's Disobedience

There is evidence that the Pagans not only knew of the disobedience of Adam and Eve and that this disobedience

was punishable by death, but also of the subsequent offering of Salvation again. Paul wrote in Romans 1:32 that the heathen sinned even though they knew "the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death."

Hislop's *The Two Babylons*, pages 322, 323, says that one of the names of Eve, worshipped in ancient Babylon as the primeval goddess, was "Thalath" which signifies "the rib" or a "side." It comes from the verb *Thalaa* which signifies "to turn aside." Adam *turned aside* from obeying God because he took Eve who was made of a rib. It is in memory of Adam's turning aside from the right way that the pagan priests of Baal supplicated their god to hear them (I Kings 18:26) by limping (turning aside) at the altar, for "limping" is the exact meaning of the Hebrew word rendered "leaped." This, he states, is also the origin of Vulcan's *lameness*; for their pagan god Vulcan, as "Father of the gods," needed to be identified with Adam as well as Nimrod. The Pagans knew that this limping or turning aside implied death—eternal death.

Pagans Knew of Promise of Eternal Life

But just as the Pagans originally knew of the penalty of death for sin, so they also knew of the promise of life eternal. While at the spring festival of Cybele and Attes (other pagan gods which were the types of Adam and Eve in mythology) there was great lamentation for the *death* of Attes, so on the Hilaria or rejoicing festival of the 25th of March, in honor of Cybele the mother of the Babylonian Messiah, mourning was turned to joy, on occasion of the dead god being *restored to life again*.

So we see how *Lucifer*, placed on earth to carry out God's rule, wanted, instead, *to take God's place*, but was cast down to the earth and became Satan—the adversary. Also we have seen how Satan *twisted* the word of God by presenting to our first parents a *counterfeit* way which appeared as the TRUTH.

From this point on to the flood the records prove that the Devil was very active in deceiving mankind. The earth became full of sin. "All flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth" (Genesis

6:12). This brought on the flood to show us the terrible results of disobedience.

Did Satan cease to deceive after the flood? No! Nimrod, under Satan's influence, founded the apostasy after the flood, and his wife Semiramis introduced the Mystery of Iniquity (II Thes. 2:7) which deceives the world today!

Nimrod Starts Apostasy After Flood

Noah and the seven people with him had survived the flood—the great punishment on the inhabitants of the earth for their disobedience to God's commands. Was there anyone who could keep the survivors in remembrance of obedience to God? Yes, for II Peter 2:4-5 says, "God . . . saved Noah the eighth person, a *preacher of righteousness*." Psa. 119:172 says, "All thy *commandments* are righteousness." Righteousness is obedience. *Noah preached obedience to God*. Noah was a *preacher* of obedience and through him the other seven were kept in remembrance of obedience to God.

Everyone on earth after the flood knew of God and why He had drowned the wicked. They feared to do evil—at first. That they had lived under God's rule for some time is admitted by the ancients. "For many ages men lived under the government of Jove [God] without cities and without laws, and all speaking one language . . . Then discord began" (Hyginnius, p. 114).

This group, composed of the *only people on the earth* (for the others had all been destroyed by the great flood) began migrating from the mountains of Ararat (Gen. 8:4) where the ark had landed: "And the whole earth was of *one language*, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there" (Genesis 11:1-2). These people now known as Sumerians (Miller's *Ancient History in Bible Light*, p. 51), pushing through the mountains of the east, came upon a prodigiously fertile plain built up by the deposits of the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers. This land of Shinar is now known as ancient Babylonia (Breasted's *Ancient Times*, p. 107). Here was a land that would produce all they desired in abundance.

Did these people continue to live happily and peacefully under God's rule, or did they, like Adam and Eve, disobey God and bring trouble upon themselves? The land was productive, but the wild animals were multiplying faster than the people due to the destruction of the former civilization by the great flood. Because of their primitive weapons, there was a great danger to life and possessions (Exodus 23:28-29). What could be done about it?

Nimrod, the son of Cush, was a large, powerfully built black man who developed into a great hunter. It was he who *gathered* the people together and *organized* them to fight the wild ferocious beasts: "He was a mighty *hunter before the Eternal*" (Genesis 10:8-9). In other words, the name of Nimrod was known everywhere for his might. He emancipated the people of the earth after the flood from their fear of the wild animals. His prestige grew. He became the leader in worldly affairs. He was ambitious.

Cush and Nimrod Build First City— Babylon

There was a better way to protect the people from the wild animals that roamed the earth than by constantly fighting them. Nimrod built a city of houses and surrounded this city with a high wall and gathered the people therein. Thus the people were protected and Nimrod was able to *rule* over them. This arrangement was agreeable to the people, for "They said . . . let *us* build *us* a city and make *us* a name, lest we be scattered abroad" (Genesis 11:4).

The people not only protected themselves from the wild animals by building a walled city but also established authority of *their own*—"let *us* make *us* a name." This was to be a central place of *mankind's* authority—the *necessity of their obedience to God was not going to be recognized!* Nimrod was their leader. Also they built a tower whose top was to "reach *unto heaven*." With a tower this high they could do as they wished—disobey God and still be safe from His *punishment* which had drowned the inhabitants of the earth before. This was mankind's first act of open rebellion against God after the flood—they thought they had placed

themselves out of God's reach if they wished to *disobey Him*. They, like Satan, thought that if they could "ascend above the heights of the clouds," they "could be like the most High" (Isa. 14:14). Cush, Nimrod's father, also had much to do with the building of this tower and city (Hilsop, p. 26).

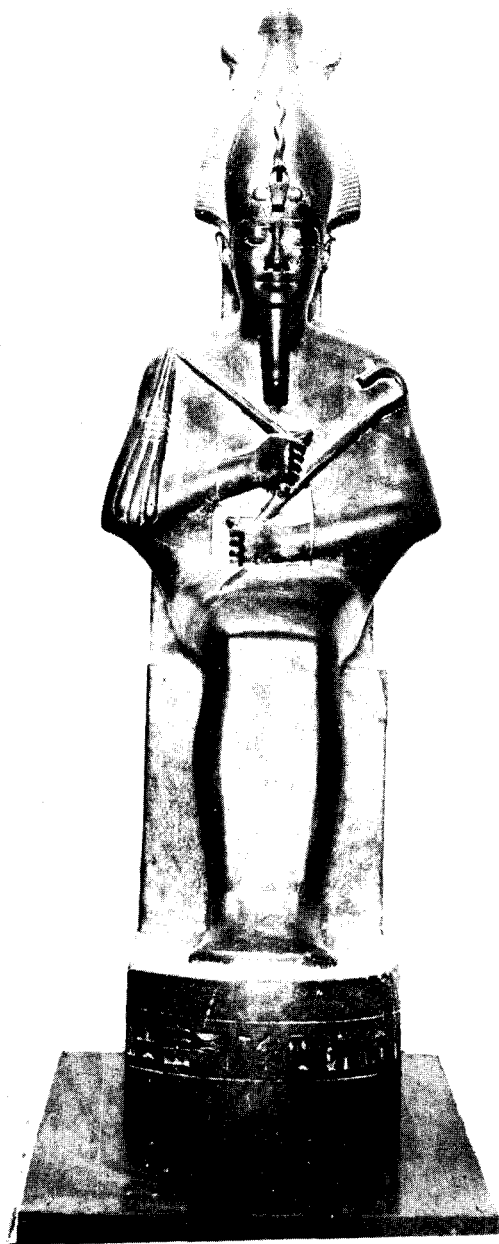
Then it was that Nimrod "began to be a *mighty one*" and a "*mighty hunter before the Eternal*" in a *ruling* sense (the Hebrew word for "mighty" is "gibbor" which means "tyrant," *Strong's Concordance*). Nimrod became a tyrant over the people. *He* made the laws. Not only that but he was "mighty . . . *before the Eternal*" (The Hebrew word "paniyim" translated "before" here, should be translated "against"—*Strong's Concordance*). The Bible says Nimrod was against God! Conspiracy and sedition were carried on by him (*Epiphanius*, Book i vol. i p. 7).

Nimrod kept growing in power but the inborn desire of the people to worship must be satisfied. Nimrod and his followers had turned against the *true* God. They wanted to glorify God *in their own way!* They "*changed* the glory of the *incorruptible* God into an *image* made like . . . *creeping things*" (Romans 1:23)—the snake, and other things God had created. (They should have worshipped God in spirit and in truth and not through idols. John 4:24 and Ex. 20:4-5). With the civil power he wielded, Nimrod set himself up as the priest of the things worshipped by the people, to obtain a still stronger hold on them and gradually put himself in place of the true God.

Nimrod Becomes Priest of Serpent-Sun Worshippers

Mankind immediately after the flood knew God, but they did not like his laws—they did not like to be *obedient* to Him. Their carnal minds rebelled.

To whom did they turn to worship in His place? They remembered the Serpent of the Garden of Eden (man's adversary)—they would honor it, for had it not been through it that they had obtained the knowledge of good and evil? The Serpent had *not commanded* them to do anything. So it came about that the Serpent (Satan) was ultimately worshipped as the *Enlightener* of man-



—Lehnert & Handrock

Seated statue of Osiris—the Egyptian name of Nimrod—from Sakkara, Egypt.

kind (they were deceived!).

The sun, too, became a favorite object of worship because of the *light* and heat that it gives.

This being the case, the two *enlighteners* became associated together, for just as the Serpent was considered to be the *Enlightener* of the spiritual world, so also was the Sun the *Enlightener* of the physical world. Thus it came about that one of the commonest symbols of the sun or sun-god is a disc with a serpent around it (Bunsen's *Hieroglyphics*, vol. i, p. 497). Moreover the Serpent is universally the symbol of the sun

(Davies' *Druids*, p. 437).

Now we're beginning to understand why it is that *sun-worship is Devil-worship!* Satan, by deceptively inspiring mankind, was associating himself with objects mankind tended to worship in such a way as to *receive the worship himself!* Mankind, at this earliest date, knowing God, did not like God's *laws* so they created gods of their own and ascribed to them laws which better suited *their own desires*.

This is the time referred to by Paul when, speaking to the Romans he said, "When they knew God, they . . .

changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts and *creeping* things . . . and worshipped the creature (thing created) more than the Creator (Rom. 1:22-25).

The people then were worshipping the creeping thing—the *snake*, and the created thing—the sun! To *prevent* the worship of the sun, the *Eternal's* original name for it was "shemesh" which means *servant*, but mankind later changed this name to Baal which means "the Lord" (Johann Clericus, Book ii p. 199 and Vaux, p. 8). *Fire*, giving off light, *was regarded* by those after the flood as the earthly representative of the sun. It is said that Nimrod himself commenced the worshipping of fire or fire-worship (Johann Clericus, Book ii, p. 199).

Do you remember the great red (fiery) "dragon" of Rev. 12:3? The dragon is identified as a serpent in verse 14 and is further identified as the Devil and Satan in verse 9. Here, symbolically, we see the *Sun, the great Fire God*, identified with the Serpent or Satan! The sun, then, becomes the symbol of the Devil himself! The *Bible* says so!

These, then, were the false beliefs into which the people in Nimrod's time, who did not wish to worship the True God, were being led. They were Sun-Fire-Worshippers. These were the beliefs Nimrod championed and which *made him more powerful than ever. He became the priest of the Sun-god or Bol-Kahn*, which means Priest of Baal. He did not claim to be the Sun-god himself but did spread the worship of this Pagan deity. He, being thus the priest of the devouring fire to which human victims were offered, and especially children, was regarded as a great child devourer. He became therefore the priest of *Devil worship!*

(Only after his violent *death* was he set up as though he had been an immortal deity.)

World Cheated Out of Real Happiness

Just as Nimrod had emancipated the people from the fear of the wild beasts, so also, he *emancipated them from the fear of the Eternal* which is the beginning of wisdom (Psalms 111:10) and



—Lehnert & Landrock

Ancient Egypt statue of the serpent made of gilded wood.

in whose laws alone can *true* happiness be found.

He was the "mighty one," the acknowledged leader of the "great ones" or "giants" who, in their great apostacy, rebelled against heaven. He led those on the earth to believe a real spiritual change of heart was unnecessary. Drunken and sexual orgies went hand in hand with his expansion of power. It is evident that he led mankind to seek their chief good in sensual enjoyment and showed them how they might enjoy the pleasures of sin without any fear of wrath of a Holy God. In his various expeditions he was always accompanied by troops of women, and by music and song, games and revelries, and everything that could please the natural heart and endear himself to the good graces of mankind (*The Two Babylons*, p. 55).

"There is ample reason to believe that in his own day he was the object of high popularity. Though by setting up as a king . . . he invaded the liberties of mankind, yet he was held to have conferred benefits . . . that amply indemnified them for the loss of their

liberties, and covered him with glory and renown" (Hislop's *The Two Babylons*, p. 50).

In the carnal mind of man (Rom. 7:14) the Babylonian system was not so bad—it brought a measure of happiness, they thought; but what did God do—God who knew the full *measure of happiness* mankind could have by obeying *His* laws? Was He going to allow man to destroy himself with his own sins *before he had enough time to learn his* lesson that sin does not bring happiness? (Rom. 6:23).

Confusion of Tongues

"The Eternal came down to see the city and tower which the children of men had builded. And the Eternal said, Behold, the *people is one*, and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them which they have imagined to do . . . let us go down and confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the *Eternal scattered* them . . . upon the face of all the earth: and they *left off to build the city*. Therefore the name of it is called Babel because the Eternal

did confound the language . . . and . . . did scatter them abroad" (Gen. 11:5-9).

The word "Babel" means "confusion." God confused the language of this place and the city was named for that event. He did not destroy it but he did slow down its growth so that man would have *time* to learn the error of trying to rule himself. Thus by giving various groups of people various languages, He caused these groups to separate. This was the beginnings of the nations as we know them today: the confusion of tongues divided them "after their nations" (Genesis 10:5, 20, 31). The people of Babylon started to migrate outward from that point from that time. Each group took its idolatrous Sun-Fire-Serpent worship with them and its memory of Babylon and Nimrod.

Apostacy Spreads

Did this blow to Nimrod's plans stop him in his conquest for power? No, it made conditions more difficult and his rule less close-knit, but with increased zeal he extended his power: he did more construction work on the city of Babel. For the protection of three of the larger groups of people who had dispersed, he built the cities of Erech, Accad, and Calneh and these thereby came under his rule. These cities (Genesis 10:10) comprised the *beginning* of his empire which was later to *expand* and cover the known world of that time. From thence he extended his control over much of the land that God had designed for Shem (Ex. 23:31).

It was by such means as this that Nimrod became, "a mighty one in the earth" (Gen. 10:8). He "set the world on fire," it was said.

Bryant, Vol. ii, p. 377, says that Nimrod conquered all nations as far as Lybia. This indicates that all the area from Babylon to Lybia was under his sway; thereby including Egypt also. This was a large part of the populated world at that time. Upon these his religion and government were imposed. Nimrod, then, was the *first* to form an army, civil, economic, political and social systems. He set the pattern of laws to govern these, but in all this he did not include God, for he turned the people to worship Satan.

(To be continued)

REVIVAL in Our Time?

Are Americans really getting better as a nation? What lies AHEAD in our moral and spiritual future? What about hopes for "revival in our time"?

by Roderick C. Meredith

DESPITE increased church attendance and general interest in religion, mass TERRORISM is daily increasing in America!

Within the last few years, great, highly advertised religious revivals have been held in numerous cities throughout the United States and the entire English speaking world. Interest in nearly all types of religious activity has grown remarkably since the advent of the hydrogen bomb.

What does it all mean?

Membership in American churches and synagogues reached an all time high of 109,557,741 in 1958. This figure represents the *highest* ratio of church membership to population in American history!

Many sincere religious people are hoping for what they call "revival in our time." They think that somehow, by prayer and zealous efforts, the churchgoing people can win over the rest of the world to an acceptance of Christ as Savior, and thus bring about peace and tranquility among all men everywhere.

But what does the Bible say?

How does Almighty GOD—through His Word—describe the religious future of this world which is absolutely CERTAIN to come?

The "Fruits" of Religious Boom

Before considering the direct prophecies of the Bible, let us first consider the "fruit"—the RESULT of this tremendous increase in church attendance. For, speaking of ministers and their activities, Jesus said: "Ye shall know them by their *fruits*" (Matt. 7:16).

A recent newspaper editorial summed up the current state of affairs: "Despite the external evidences of a continuing religious revival, few church leaders were ready to say that America had already become a 'nation under God.' For 1958 also witnessed outbreaks of hatred and violence, a rising incidence of *crime, divorce and alcoholism* and

other symptoms of moral deterioration in American society."

The Salem, Oregon, *Statesman*, recently reported: "With rape leading the sordid parade, crime in the United States marched at an accelerated pace in 1958. The seven principal offenses showed an average increase of 9.3 per cent over 1957, the Justice Department's crime reports showed Wednesday."

Notice the following description of our nation's largest city—supposedly the very epitome of modern "civilization"—and the scene of many religious drives including a recent, internationally advertised evangelistic campaign.

The Police Commissioner of New York City, Stephen P. Kennedy, recently said: "A . . . race riot would be more destructive than an A-bomb . . . The lingering effects of such a riot would be worse . . . than the fallout. . . ." Vice and crime of *every* description are running rampant in this city, in spite of the fact that it has more policemen than many nations have soldiers—nearly 24,000! But there were 354 murders in New York alone last year—and 1,115 rapes and 6,046 robberies.

Many areas are unsafe for pedestrians at night, and sections of famous Central Park are dangerous even in daylight. Meanwhile, open GANG WARFARE among the city's teenagers is reaching a peak of *violence and savagery* unprecedented in the nation's history!

Are these HORRIFYING conditions *promised to get better?*

Are we going to have a *true* religious REVIVAL? Or are we going to have merely an increase in religious CONFUSION and CHAOS *accompanied by the greatest outbreak of crime, violence, corruption, lust, madness and physical and spiritual degeneracy in the entire history of this earth?*

What Almighty GOD Promises

Facing up to the real *truth* is often a very SOBERING experience. And so it is in the present case.

But if you want to *understand* what is really going to take place, you need to *study* and BELIEVE the literally *dozens* of scriptures in your Bible which directly describe the religious future of America, and our entire Western civilization. And it is important to note that *ALL these prophecies say the same thing!*

Jesus Christ set the keynote Himself in His famous Olivet prophecy when His disciples asked Him *what* would be the sign of His coming, and the end of the age. Jesus answered: "Take heed that no man *deceive* you. For *many* shall come *in my name*, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive *many*" (Matt. 24:3-5).

Notice that Jesus said *MANY*—not a few, but *MANY*—would come "in his name." These men do NOT come in their *own* name, but *in the name of Christ!* In plain language, then, they are so-called "Christian" preachers—telling people *about* Christ. But they are evidently not preaching His message, for Jesus went on to say that they "shall *DECEIVE many*."

Then He listed four more conditions leading up to His second coming: *Wars, famines, pestilences, and persecutions* on His servants.

Describing the latter, Jesus Christ said: "Then shall they deliver *you* up to be afflicted and shall kill you: and you shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake . . . And *MANY false prophets* shall rise, and shall *deceive* *MANY*. And because *iniquity shall abound*, the love of *MANY* shall wax cold" (verses 9-12).

Here is a clear description of the fact that *false prophets* were to arise soon after Christ's time. But it also indicates that there will even be an *increase* in these false prophets right at the *time of the end*—the time in which we *NOW* live! And please notice that in every case it is the *MANY* who are deceived—*not the few!*

Even in what is commonly called the "sermon on the Mount," Jesus proph-

sied this same condition. He said: "Enter ye in at the *strait gate*: for *wide* is the gate, and *broad* is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and MANY there be that go in there at: because *strait* is the gate, and *narrow* is the way, which leadeth unto life, and FEW there be that find it" (Matt. 7:13-14).

Can we believe that Jesus Christ really KNEW what He was talking about?

Jesus continued this warning: "Beware of *false* prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. *Ye shall know them by their fruits*" (verses 15-16).

Here our Savior warned that the false prophets do NOT look like false prophets, but rather like *sheep*! But to really KNOW how God regards them, you have to look to their "fruits"—the *results*—what they *bring forth* just as a tree brings forth or produces something either good or bad as Jesus goes on to describe.

Examine the "Fruits" of Religion

Look about you in some of our Western nations which in certain cases have been absolutely *dominated* by large church denominations for many centuries! Have the peoples of these nations learned the *way* to PEACE? to HAPPINESS? to JOY? What are the real "fruits" that their national religions have produced in the lives of the people?

Perhaps many of us have never looked at it that way before. But that is EXACTLY the way Almighty God looks at it! Jesus continues: "Not everyone that sayeth to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that *doeth* the WILL of my Father which is in heaven" (verse 21).

Any honest Bible student knows that throughout the Old Testament—even from the time of Abraham—God required men to OBEY His *commandments* in order to receive His blessings. All ten of the Ten Commandments were in *force* and *effect*. But somehow, men reason, this is *no longer* the Father's will. Many argue that Jesus came to *do away* with God's law—to nail it to His cross.

However, when a young man came to ask Him how to inherit eternal life, Jesus Himself answered: "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but

one, that is, God: But *if thou wilt enter into life, KEEP the commandments!*" (Matt. 19:16-17). Then Jesus showed which commandments He meant by naming some of the Ten Commandments (verses 18-19).

In literally *hundreds* of places in your New Testament, Jesus Christ and His inspired apostles teach absolute OBEDIENCE to *all ten* of the Ten Commandments!

Yet the popular doctrine of most churches today is that these commandments have somehow been *done away* so that we no longer have to keep them. There are *many* different brands of "reasonings" and arguments used to explain this idea.

Some claim that Jesus "fulfilled" the commandments in such a way that Christians no longer have to keep them. Others say that the commandments were "nailed to the cross," and no longer binding. Still other denominations teach that *nine* of the commandments are still binding, but that *one* was nailed to the cross. And some groups even go so far as to say that *all ten* of God's commandments were nailed to the cross, but that Jesus somehow brought back *nine* of them into effect—thus leaving one of them nailed up there!

What CONFUSION! What *ridiculous* human "reasoning" men will use in every conceivable variety to get around obedience to the spiritual laws that God gave to man to keep him in the right knowledge of His God, and to teach him how to have *joy* and *peace* in his relations with his fellow man!

Yes, as Jesus said, many cry out, "Lord, Lord" but absolutely REFUSE to obey the *revealed will* of Almighty God.

How Christ Feels About Lawlessness

Describing how He will have to deal with these self-willed ministers when He returns, Jesus said: "*Many* will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name have done many wonderful works?" (verse 22).

These ministers will be very PROUD of themselves. They will tell how they have used Jesus' name in preaching to great multitudes of people. They will explain how in the name of religion

and Christ they have overcome the "devils" of superstition and ignorance in their mission schools and in their dealings with the primitive people who are devoid of understanding of the "moral" teachings which they profess.

These men will wax eloquent in describing the wonderful WORKS which they have accomplished in the name of their religion and their Christ. They will tell of the great universities and colleges which they have established. They will inform Jesus of the great hospitals and clinics they have established throughout the country which are literally overflowing with the sick and dying.

They will tell Jesus of the homes for unwed mothers, the camps for wayward boys, the missions they have established to feed and clothe the drunks and bums in the "Skid Row" sections of many cities, and the Christmas baskets and similar gifts they take to the poor on their religious holidays.

Is Jesus Christ—the Christ of *your Bible*—going to be highly pleased with all of these accomplishments in His name?

He answers: "And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER knew you: *Depart from me, ye that work iniquity*" (verse 23). Jesus will say He NEVER—NEVER at any time—knew these men as His servants! He tells them to *depart* from Him!

But notice what He says about their "works." He says: "*Ye that work iniquity.*" The Greek word here translated "iniquity" literally means LAWLESSNESS—disobedience to God's law!

There are literally *thousands* of reasons why Jesus disapproves of these works of religion done in His name! *But the basic reason in all of them is that they are a miserable attempt by self-willed, misguided men to solve the RESULT of the automatic punishment brought on through disobedience to the law of God!*

For instance, it is an undeniable fact that nearly every college and university founded by the great religious denominations now teaches the *pagan*, God-rejecting theory of EVOLUTION—one of the most damnable doctrines ever hatched by the Devil in his hell! If the innocent minds of your children have

not already been *saturated* with this false doctrine and unprovable theory by the time they reach college or a university, they certainly will be at that time.

Substituting Human Devices for Obedience to Divine Law

In regard to the thousands of *hospitals* put up in the name of religion, did it ever occur to you that the Christ you read of in *your Bible* supernaturally HEALED people of sickness and disease? And that He did this *without* resorting to drugs, knives and the terribly expensive and painful procedures men now employ in this "enlightened age" in which we live?

The help of skilled doctors and nurses is at times necessary to perform some functions which do not interfere with the natural working of our God-designed bodies. But Jesus will call the *false prophets* to account for not teaching their flocks real *faith* in GOD for the *true healing* which He has promised. And they will be rebuked for refusing to teach the people the *physical laws which would prevent MOST sickness and disease in the first place!*

The terrible financial drain, the use of poisonous drugs and knives, the suffering and loss of work, and the cultivation of *faith in men* in overcrowded, gloomy, antiseptic-smelling modern hospitals is NOT God's way to health and healing! If anything, it is a mighty poor *second best* to *obedience* to the physical laws of God to PREVENT SICKNESS in the first place, or Divine *healing* by Him if some unwitting infraction or carelessness does result in sickness or an accident.

You see, God's laws would STOP most of our troubles *before they get started in the first place!*

What about the homes for unwed mothers, the camps for wayward boys, the missions to take care of the drunks and bums on Skid Row?

Christ's answer is that if EVERY professing minister of Jesus Christ in the land would proclaim with *zeal* and *power* God's LAW as a way of life, there just wouldn't EXIST the need for any of these things just mentioned!

Homes for unwed mothers are simply the result of careless, lackadaisical teach-

ing on the subject of fornication and on the absolutely BINDING authority of the marriage vow. Delinquent boys and girls exist only because we have allowed an attitude to permeate much of our society which is described by authorities throughout the land as, "*A contempt for all law and constituted authority.*"

This is a LAWLESS age! The *rebellion* of our society against obedience to God's law is now reflecting itself in disobedience to all of the laws of man and even of the principles of human decency!

It is an absolute MOCKERY to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ as "Lord" and then *deny* the message of obedience to the laws of Almighty God which He brought to this earth and on which He based His entire life and teaching!

When will we WAKE UP? This type of *lawless* teaching is NOT Christianity! Rather, what we now see taking place in the breakdown of our society is the end *result* of a great APOSTASY from the truth of God which was prophesied to occur in *your Bible!*

We have already seen that Jesus warned of this falling away from the truth. Now let us notice a few more of the literally *dozens* of scriptures which warn that a *false* "Christianity" would arise and submerge the real TRUTH of Christ and His apostles.

Great Apostasy Prophesied

While He was yet on earth, Jesus warned His apostles: "If they have persecuted me, they WILL also persecute you; if they have kept my saying (*they killed Him instead*), they will keep yours also" (John 15:20).

Then Jesus warned His apostles of even worse things to come: "They shall put you out of the synagogues (or *churches*): yea, the time cometh, when whosoever KILLETH you will think that he doeth God service" (John 16:2).

The real *truth* of God and *message* of Jesus Christ has NEVER been popular! History tells us indisputably that the early apostles of Jesus *were* persecuted and most of them killed. The world did NOT accept the true message from them any more than it had from Christ Himself.

Even within God's true church, the apostle Paul was inspired to write of a coming apostasy from the truth: "For I

know this, that after my departing shall *greivous wolves* enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also *of your own selves* shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30).

Here Paul was warning the leaders of the Ephesian Church that some of their own number would apostatize and lead many off into false religion!

Notice His inspired description of these false ministers. "For such are *false apostles*, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his (*the Devil's!*) ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be *according to their works*" (II Cor. 11:13-15).

Paul says these false ministers APPEAR to be righteous. But actually, Satan is the master *deceiver*—and these are HIS ministers!

These false ministers teach a doctrine of "no works"—*no obedience to God's law*. But Paul said they are going to be *judged* by the very thing they DENY! For their "end" shall be "*according to their WORKS!*"

Paul also showed the Thessalonian Christians that the day of the Lord could not come until a great *apostasy* took place. He wrote: "Let no man deceive you by any means: For that day shall not come except there come a *falling away* first, and that man of sin (or *lawlessness*) be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God showing himself that he is God" (II Thess. 2:3-4).

All reputable Greek lexicons or interlinears will show you that this "man of sin" should be called the "man of LAWLESSNESS"—for the original Greek word means "opposed to law" or "lawless."

Speaking of that very time, Paul said: "For the mystery of LAWLESSNESS (Panin trans.) doth already work" (verse 7).

Yes, even in Paul's day, a false, paganism religious system was beginning to develop within the Roman Empire! It was based on accepting the NAME of Jesus—but teaching a doctrine of *law-*

lessness and denying His command and example to obey the commandments of God.

The Bible shows that this false religious system—this false "Christianity"—will continue to develop until the end of this age. "And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: even him whose coming is after the *working of Satan* with all *power* and *signs* and *lying wonders*" (verses 8-9).

Here is a clear description of what takes place *at the time of Christ's coming*. A GREAT APOSTASY shall have seduced the world (verses 10-12), and Jesus will have to DESTROY a great false prophet who will be given direct power from Satan to perform false "signs" and "lying wonders" with which he deceives a *gullible, truth-rejecting and lawless world*!

The Religion of This Age Described

In the last apostolic letter written before he died, the apostle Paul described to Timothy the conditions which would take place and worsen down to our time—the *time of the end*. "This know also," wrote Paul, "that in the last days *perilous times shall come*. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy" (II Tim. 3:1-2).

In these and the following verses, the apostle Paul wrote UNDER GOD'S INSPIRATION that "in the last days" mankind would have reached the very *depths of DEGRADATION and SIN*.

The apostle said men would be, "Having a *form of godliness*, but *denying the POWER* thereof: *from such turn away*" (verse 5). A lot of "talk" about religion and God is prophesied here, but God's apostle says that the real *AUTHORITY and POWER* of God will be forsaken and denied!

Can you honestly think of a better description of *our society today*?

The apostle Peter also warned of this mass falling away from the truth. He was inspired to write: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there *SHALL* be *false teachers* among you, who *privily* shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that

brought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And *MANY* shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the *way of truth* shall be evil spoken of" (II Pet. 2:1-2).

Yes, Peter knew that the *MANY* would follow the false teachers! And he prophesied that the "*way of truth*" would be looked down on and sneered at by an apostate society that has denied the real authority of God and His laws.

Even Jude was inspired to write the Christians of his day: "Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Notice that the true faith had *already* become that which was "once delivered"! Most of the truth had *already* been BURIED under a rubbish heap of pagan superstition and error!

Jude continued: "For there are certain men crept in unawares who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the *grace* of our God into *LASCIVIOUSNESS*, and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 4).

Lasciviousness means "license to disobey." Jude reports that false teachers had already crept into the church denying the authority of God, God's laws and giving the people "license" to disobey the commands of their Maker!

The last book in the Bible, the book of Revelation, written by the apostle John, also tells the same story. In Revelation 12, we find a description of the *true church*. We find that it existed during the Middle Ages as a small, persecuted church, which had to flee to a place of safety (verse 6).

But at the time of the end there is to be a war in heaven, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, *which deceiveth the WHOLE WORLD*: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (verse 9). Here Satan is clearly described as *deceiving this ENTIRE earth*!

Can we believe that the Bible really means what it says?

Then follows a description of how the people of God's *true Church*—the "little flock" of Jesus—will have to be taken to a place of safety again to be protected from the final tribulation—a persecution in the name of religion! Satan is *angry*

with this small, but obedient Church—for it's members *obey God's law*! "And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, *which keep the commandments of God*, and have the *testimony of Jesus Christ*" (verse 17).

Notice that the Church which is to be *protected* by God from the coming hellish tribulation is an OBEIENT Church—*obedient to the commandments of God*!

But the description obviously implies that it is small and persecuted—NOT a great denomination or movement bringing about a great, world-shaking "REVIVAL in our time."

REVIVAL in Our Time?

No. There is NOT going to be any great "revival" of God's real TRUTH before Christ's second coming!

Rather—*unless our peoples REPENT of breaking God's law—we WILL see the greatest revival of SIN and DEGRADATION and LAWLESSNESS in the entire history of this earth*!

In addition, we will continue to see the *increase* of another great movement that is really reaching the *masses* of people—world-wide, atheistic, Godless *communism*!

The *only* really great religious "revival" that we will witness will take place on the *European continent*!

It is NOW taking shape! It will be a religious-political revival of the ancient Roman Empire with its ancient church-state-military combination. This will be a revival of the "beast" power of Revelation 17!

This "revival" will bring PUNISHMENT upon America and Britain and her allies *because we have FORSAKEN our God and His commandments*!

It is nice to think sweet thoughts and hope for "revival in our time." But what *you* need to do is to face up to the TRUTH!

It is high time you realized that *something is terribly WRONG with what is palmed off as "Christianity"* today!

It is time you learned that the modern religious philosophy which denies God's LAW and AUTHORITY is condemned in the Bible as an EVIL thing. It is a diabolically clever COUNTERFEIT religion of Satan—the *great DECEIVER*! It's time we *quit* these sinful ways!

HALLOWE'EN

Where Did It Come From?

The facts are dumbfounding! It is time we taught our children the truth about Hallowe'en!

by Herman L. Hoeh

HALLOWE'EN is not a Christian holiday! Yet the "Christian" world observes it. Why? Where does the Bible mention Hallowe'en?

Did you know that every autumn on the eve of November 1, heathen children used to dress as goblins, or as witches with broomsticks, knock on doors, and announce "trick or treat." It was a time when young people "let off steam."

To perpetuate this spirit of Hallowe'en with its frolicking fun, stores today are filled with black and orange masks, with pumpkins and other gaudy decorations to attract the eye. Even some older people enjoy their games and frivolity.

In this "enlightened" age, with ignorance and superstition supposedly banished, we find the nations still celebrating one of the most ridiculous holidays, with its goblins, the fear of black cats, and children masked as demons and witches. In schools, the children march in weird processions during the day, in anticipation of a hectic night of fun and foolishness.

Is this the way in which our children should be brought up? WHY is this holiday celebrated anyway? Where did the custom of "trick or treat" originate?

It is time that people who think themselves *intelligent* begin to look into the origin of this spirit of frivolity and understand how it entered a supposedly Christian society. Certainly such a custom never came from the Bible!

But Hallowe'en is mentioned in the Bible!

Real Origin of Hallowe'en

Do you know that Hallowe'en was introduced into the professing Christian world centuries *after* the death of the apostles, yet it was celebrated by the pagans *centuries before* the New Testament Church was founded!

How did Hallowe'en come to Amer-

ica? Here is the intriguing answer from history.

"The American celebration rests upon Scottish and Irish folk customs WHICH CAN BE TRACED IN DIRECT LINE FROM PRE-CHRISTIAN TIMES"—from paganism! "Although Hallowe'en has become a night of rollicking fun, superstitious spells, and eerie games which people take only half seriously, its beginnings were quite otherwise. The earliest Hallowe'en celebrations were held"—not by the inspired early church, but—"by the Druids in honor of Samhain, Lord of the Dead, whose festival fell on November 1." (From *Hallowe'en Through Twenty Centuries*, by Ralph Linton, p. 4.)

Far from being Christian, this festival is an old pagan holiday, masquerading as though it were one of the customs of the church. And yet professing Christians allow their children to get into the spirit of this pagan custom!

The *Encyclopedia Americana* admits that Hallowe'en "is clearly a relic of pagan times."

Now notice what the authoritative *Encyclopaedia Britannica* says about Hallowe'en: "It long antedates Christianity. The two chief characteristics of ancient Hallowe'en were the lighting of bonfires and the belief that this is the one night in the year during which ghosts and witches are most likely to wander about. History shows that the main celebrations of Hallowe'en were purely Druidical"—from the pagan Druids of Northwest Europe—"and this is further proved by the fact that in parts of Ireland October 31 is still known as *Oidhch Shamhna*, 'Vigil of Saman.'" Saman or Samhain was the pagan "lord of the dead" among the Druids.

So Hallowe'en was celebrated among the pagans long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This pagan holiday, however, was not celebrated alone among

the Druids. It was also a *Roman* festival! The *Britannica* continues: "On the Druidic ceremonies were grafted some of the characteristics of the *Roman festival* in honour of Pomona held about November 1, in which nuts and apples, representing the winter store of fruits, played an important part."

Notice the widespread pagan custom to celebrate this season of the year.

The first Bible record of the celebration of Hallowe'en is found in I Kings 12:32-33. At the time the tribes of Israel split into two nations, King Jeroboam adopted in place of the Biblical Feast of Tabernacles (ordained by God to be kept forever in the *seventh* month) a pagan celebration to be observed in the middle of "the *eighth* month." The year used to begin in the spring of the year and the eighth month extended from the middle of October to the middle of November. And the middle of the month corresponded to the very time of Hallowe'en today! In fact, "October" means the *eighth* month in Latin. Since the days of Jeroboam, the ten tribes of Israel—who later migrated into Northwest Europe—have continued to celebrate this pagan harvest festival, which today is called "Hallowe'en!"

Neither Jesus nor the apostles, nor the true New Testament Church celebrated Hallowe'en. Instead, they kept the Feast of Tabernacles which God originally ordained. Read the example of Jesus in John 7:2, 10, 37. And see also Deuteronomy 16:13-15 and Acts 18:21. It took centuries for the pagans to re-introduce their Hallowe'en celebrations into the New Testament Church in place of the Feast of Tabernacles!

WHY Hallowe'en Was Celebrated

Now comes the shocking *truth* from history as to why this holiday was celebrated! Here are the plain facts as written in *The Book of Hallowe'en*, on page

10, by Ruth Kelley:

The pagan Druid priests "taught the *immortality of the soul*, that it passed from one body to another at death . . . They believed that on the last night of the old year (October 31) the lord of death gathered together the souls of all those who had died in the passing year and had been condemned to live in the bodies of animals, to decree what forms they should inhabit for the next twelve months. He could be coaxed to give *lighter sentence by gifts and prayers*."

"On the New Year, their sins being expiated, they were released to go to *the Druid Heaven*." (From *Hallowe'en Through Twenty Centuries*, p. 5.)

Hallowe'en was celebrated to preserve in the minds of the people the first lie—the false doctrine of the *immortality of the soul*—that the dead are not really dead. (Gen. 3:4.)

Now let us understand the meaning of the word "Hallowe'en." "It is the eve of Allhallows or Hallowmas or All Saints' Day—and as such it is one of the most solemn festivals of the (Catholic) church." (From page 3 of Linton's *Hallowe'en Through Twenty Centuries*.)

Hallowe'en is the evening of Allhallows or All Saints' Day, which falls on November 1. Since in ancient times, the days were customarily reckoned as beginning at sunset, Hallowe'en was merely the *evening celebration* in anticipation of the great day of November 1, dedicated to the lord of the dead!

Almost all heathen nations had days in honor of the dead—days originally instituted to commemorate the death of Nimrod the heathen "Savior" (Genesis 10:8-10). Semiramis, his wife, falsely taught that Nimrod, her son and husband, was the promised "seed"—that he had "descended into hades" after his death on a Friday, and that he preached to imprisoned "spirits" of the dead.

Then, she cleverly claimed, at dawn on a Sunday morning he ascended from hades and was clothed with the glory of the sun for having died for mankind! Thus Nimrod was palmed off as the promised "seed" and "lord of the dead." And is it a coincidence that the word "Saman"—the Druidic "lord of the dead"—comes from the Germanic word *Samen*, which means "seed"?

The Hallowe'en season perpetuates

THIS LIE to our time! But who was the real "lord of the dead" who conceived this lie in the first place?

Who Was "Lord of the Dead"?

You will remember that shortly before his crucifixion, Jesus was questioned by the Sadducees about the resurrection. In order to prove that there would be a resurrection from the dead, Jesus told them: "But as touching the *resurrection of the dead*, have ye not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? *God is NOT the God of the dead, but of the living*" (Matt. 22:31-32).

Notice the meaning of Jesus' answer. Since the patriarchs are DEAD, and since God is ONLY the God of the living—because the DEAD serve not the Lord (Psalms 6:5; 115:17)—then there must be a resurrection of the DEAD in order that they might live again and that God might be their God.

To make the resurrection possible, "Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be the Lord both of the dead and living" (Rom. 14:9). Observe that Jesus *became* the lord or master of the dead because through his RESURRECTION he gained the keys of the grave and death (Rev. 1:18) and will *resurrect* the dead so they may live to serve him.

But from whom did Jesus gain these keys? Who had prior mastery over the dead?

Paul, in the book of Hebrews, speaks of "him that had the power of death, that is the DEVIL" (Heb. 2:14). So the devil, Satan, was lord or master of the dead!

Among the heathen Druids, Samhain or Saman, the lord of the dead, was actually Satan! To this day people still celebrate with frolicking fun a wild night in honor of the devil! Paul says that the heathen, who thought they were worshipping the true God, were actually serving demons (Gal. 4:8). So are youngsters today who tear up the countryside on Hallowe'en!

But if Hallowe'en is merely the *evening* in honor of the devil, how did the day—called Allhallows or All Saints' Day—come to be celebrated in the professing Christian Church?

The Origin of All Saints' Day

The first of November, celebrated among the pagans in honor of Samhain—Satan—is today celebrated in hundreds of churches "to honor all the saints, known and unknown, and according to (pope) Urban IV, to supply any deficiencies in the faithful's celebration of saints' feasts during the year" (*Catholic Encyclopaedia*).

How did the veneration of saints, falsely said to be alive in heaven, come to be celebrated on a day in honor of the devil?

Prior to A.D. 300 *separate days* were set aside by gentile Catholics in honor of particular individuals who suffered martyrdom. During the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian, so many were put to death that joint commemorations were held on particular days in local communities. Then, according to the *Catholic Encyclopaedia*, "In the fourth century, neighboring dioceses began to interchange feasts, to transfer relics, to divide them, and to join in a common feast; as is shown by the invitation of St. Basil of Caesarea (397) to the bishops of the province of Pontus . . . *The Church*, feeling that every martyr should be venerated, *appointed a common day for all*."

Notice, what once was a memorial for each martyr on different days became a general day in honor of the *dead* who were believed to be alive in heaven. "Gregory III (731-741) consecrated a chapel in the basilica of St. Peter to all the saints and fixed the anniversary on November 1 . . . Gregory IV (827-844) extended the celebration on 1 November to the *entire Church*. The vigil"—Hallowe'en—"seems to have been held as early as the feast itself."

Notice that the celebration of Hallowe'en, the eve of the day, is as old as the celebration of All Saints' Day in the Catholic Church. On page 6 of his book, Ralph Linton says of this holiday: "All Saints' Day was introduced into the church calendar because the year was not long enough to make it possible to dedicate a special day for each spirit of the Catholic Church . . . *That the day chosen was one already associated in the popular mind with a thronging of spirits of the dead was quite in line with* (Please continue on page 30)

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE

SEVERAL days after leaving Egypt, Joseph's brothers arrived safely at their father's home in Canaan. When the people of the household saw the caravan approaching, some of them rode out to meet it. Jacob waited at his tent, hopeful that he would have the strength to bear up if news were brought to him that any of his sons had failed to return.

Suddenly he was aware of an excited group of men approaching his tent. One by one he recognized their faces. There was his beloved youngest, Benjamin! And there was Simeon, free from the Egyptian prison after two years!

All eleven sons had returned!

"Thank God for bringing you back!" Jacob exclaimed. "But there is still one of you I shall never see again."

Joseph Is Alive

"You will see him, father!" one of the sons shouted. "Joseph is alive! We found him in Egypt!"

Jacob heard the words, but they were too much to believe.

"Don't make up cruel lies like that," he frowned.

"But it is true," the other sons chorused. "Our brother, Joseph, is none other than the governor of Egypt, next in power to Pharaoh!"

Jacob gazed unhappily at his sons, disappointed that they would approach him, after their long journey, with such ridiculous tales. But as he looked from one eager

face to another, something startled him. He knew his sons, and he began to see now that they were speaking the truth. It was too much for poor old Jacob, and he fell in a faint.



When Jacob finally realized that his son Joseph was alive, he fainted before his other sons.

After he felt better, his sons told him all that had happened to them on their trip to Egypt, and how they had brought wagons with which to take Jacob and his family back to Egypt. (Genesis 45:27.)

"I just can't believe it," Jacob said. "It is too much to ask me to believe."

"Would you believe we are telling the truth about Joseph if we show you the Egyptian carriages?" the sons asked.

"I would," Jacob replied.

They had the brightly painted carriages pulled up before Jacob's tent. When he saw them, he was almost speechless. To most of the people in those days, something with four wheels was as amazing as a rocket ship would be to people in these last days.

Then, when Jacob saw the bags of precious grain and the gifts sent to him by the king of Egypt, he no longer doubted his sons.

"I want to see my son, Joseph," he said. "Let us prepare to go to Egypt."

Jacob was one hundred and thirty years old at the time, but the mere thought of seeing Joseph again, whom he had thought of as dead, renewed his strength.

Jacob Journeys to Egypt

Before long Jacob and his sons and all their families and their servants and their herds were moving southward. The carriages Pharaoh had sent were of great help. It was much easier for the older people and the children to ride in them than it would

have been for them to walk or to perch on the swaying backs of camels.

On the way to Egypt the caravan came to Beer-sheba, where Abraham and Isaac had encamped many years before, and where they had been in touch with God. Jacob remembered that God had told Abraham not to go down into Egypt. Therefore Jacob wondered if God would frown on this trip to Egypt. Trusting that he would be shown what to do, Jacob offered sacrifices to God. That night God spoke to Jacob in a vision.

"Don't be afraid to go into Egypt," a voice said. "As I promised before, a great nation will come from you. I will protect you on this trip to Egypt. You will meet your son, Joseph, and you will be with him for a time. Then I will bring you back to the land of Canaan." (Gen. 46:1-4.)

After that, Jacob knew it was right to proceed to Egypt. If God had warned him not to go, probably he would have turned back, even though it might have meant that he never would have seen Joseph again. Also, it would have meant facing great famine in the next five years. But Jacob had learned that the best way, no matter how bad it might look at times, was to obey God.

On entering Egypt, Jacob sent Judah on ahead to announce to Joseph the arrival of the caravan from Canaan. When Joseph heard that his father was approaching, he summoned some



Jacob stared in awe at the sturdy wheels of the brightly painted Egyptian wagons.

of his men and set out in his horse-drawn chariot to meet Jacob's approaching caravan.

It is not easy to imagine the joy of a father when he meets a favorite son whom he has not seen for many years—especially a son he has given up for dead. It was a tearful meeting, but the tears were of happiness.

"I have at last seen you again," Jacob told Joseph. "Now my life is so full that I am ready to die."

But Jacob was to live for several more years.



On the way to Egypt, Jacob received word from God, in a vision, that it was right to make the trip.

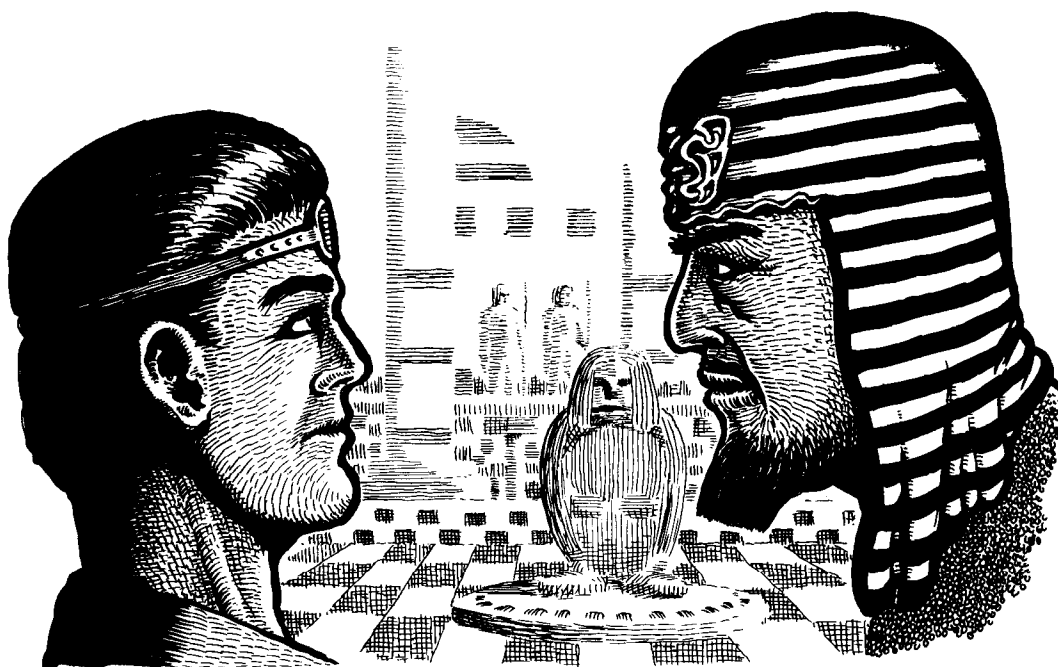
Joseph Tells Pharaoh

"I shall send word to the king that you are here," Joseph told his father and his brothers. "Pharaoh will want you to appear before him. When you do, and when he asks you what you do for a living, tell him that you tend cattle and sheep. Most Egyptians do not like those who herd flocks because cattle and sheep are sacred to Egyptians, and shepherds often come from tribes of other lands where men sacrifice these animals."

Joseph went to Pharaoh to tell the king about the arrival of his father and brothers. Pharaoh had five of the brothers brought before him. When he found that they were herders of cattle and sheep, he told Joseph to let them settle in a good part of the nation known as the land of Goshen. This was just what Joseph hoped would happen. Goshen, by which they had entered Egypt, was in a region where there was ordinarily good pasture land, and where there weren't many Egyptians who might trouble outsiders who weren't of their religion.

Joseph later brought his father before Pharaoh, who treated Jacob with royal honor and respect. When Pharaoh asked his age, Jacob replied, "I have been moving about over the land for one hundred and thirty years. Even so, I am not old compared to my fathers before me. Their lives were much longer."

After the meeting with the king, Joseph saw to it that all his people who had come down from Canaan with their servants and all of their flocks were settled in the land of Goshen, which was the rich region of Egypt nearest Canaan.



Joseph went before Pharaoh to tell him that his family had arrived in Egypt.

Meanwhile, the results of the famine became worse. People had to pay for the grain they got from the storehouses, and before long they had no more money. The people had spent all their savings in luxurious living in the seven years of plenty!

Joseph sent out word to the nation that all kinds of farm animals—cattle, horses, goats, sheep, donkeys and camels—would be accepted by the king instead of money. Thousands of flocks were brought in to exchange for grain. Then it was up to Pharaoh's men to take care of the animals, many of which were returned to their owners after the famine.

But before long the people were again begging for grain with which to make bread. This time, they had no way of paying for it except by turning their lands over to Pharaoh or by becoming his slaves. Joseph therefore ordered that all of the lands of the people of Egypt be bought to become the property of Pharaoh. In return, the people were brought to live in the cities where the grain was stored, and were given grain to last them through the lean years. The only land that wasn't bought was that belonging to the priests of the Egyptian pagan religion.

The problem of food became greater with each passing day. But Joseph believed that each day meant they were that much nearer the end of hard times. At last he made

arrangements to return the people to their farms.

"Pharaoh now owns your lands," Joseph told the people. "But we will give you seed with which to plant those lands. Out of all your crops, you must give the king one fifth. The other four parts will be yours."

The people were very happy with this plan. They were thankful that they had been saved from starvation, even at the cost of losing all their possessions.

At last the ground was seeded for the crops the people hoped would come up well after seven years of famine. And just as Joseph had foretold, the famine ended in seven years, and in the eighth year abundant rains came to bring on much good grain from the land again.

Jacob lived seventeen years in Egypt. During that time his sons' families greatly increased in number. These people became known as Israelites, because God had given their forefather Jacob the name Israel.

When it seemed to Jacob that his time had come to die, he called Joseph to him and asked Joseph to promise that he would bury him in Canaan rather than in Egypt. Joseph promised, and this helped Jacob to see that God would carry out His promise that Jacob would return to Canaan.

Jacob Adopts Joseph's Children As His Own

Joseph's duties as governor of the land took him from his father. Later, word came to Joseph that Jacob might die at any time. Taking his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph hurried to him.

"I have something very important to tell you before I die," Jacob told Joseph. "God spoke to me in Canaan long ago. He told me that a great nation would come from me, and that the land of Canaan would be given to those of my family who live after me. I want your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, to be included with my sons in the promises God made to me. I want to adopt them to make sure that they remain part of our family instead of mixing with the Egyptians."

Joseph brought his two sons in before the bed where Jacob lay. But Jacob's sight was so dim that he didn't know who the two sons were until Joseph told him.

"Little did I know that I would ever see you again," Jacob said to Joseph as he fondly hugged his two grandchildren. "But God has treated me with great mercy, and now I am seeing even your children."

Jacob asked God's blessing on Joseph. Then he put his left hand on Manasseh's head and his right hand on Ephraim's head, and was about to ask God's blessing on the young men. Thinking that Jacob was too blind to see what he was doing, Joseph removed his father's left hand from Manasseh's head.

"Manasseh is the older," Joseph said, "and it is the custom that the right hand should be upon the first-born."

"That is ordinarily so," replied Jacob. "But I am putting my right hand upon the younger one's head. A great nation will come from Manasseh—the greatest on earth. But a commonwealth of nations will come from Ephraim."

Jacob then asked God to bless his grandsons by causing mighty and wealthy nations to come from them—nations that many centuries later would bear the name of Israel. (Genesis 48:10-19.)

Knowing that his death was near, Jacob called all his sons to him.

"I want you to know about the kind of nation each of you is starting," he told them.

A Prophecy for Today!

Jacob was inspired by God in what he said, for he told each son a little of what each vast tribe would be like in the far future.

He had the most to say about Joseph, whom he said would spread out into the wealthiest nations in the world. Now, thousands of years later, we learn through the Bible that Joseph was the father of our own English-speaking nations. When we read what is foretold to happen to Ephraim, we know that it means Great Britain. And when we read what is to happen to Manasseh, we know it means our nation—the United States of America! However, these are facts that God hid from us for a long, long time. Only in recent years, just as He said He would do, has He let us understand these things.

Jacob died right after speaking to his sons. Joseph ordered Egyptian physicians to prepare his father's body for burial by an Egyptian method known as embalming. This took many days. Then followed a long period of mourning by the Egyptians.

At last Joseph and his brothers and their families, except their very young children, along with a great number of Egyptian officials, soldiers and servants started off with Jacob's body for Canaan. It was a trip of three hundred miles, and therefore this must have been one of the greatest funeral processions in history. (Gen. 50:7-13.)

This great ceremony for Jacob wasn't just because the Egyptians held Jacob in such high regard. It was mostly because they thought of his son, Joseph, as a national hero because he had saved their nation from starvation.

The Egyptians traveled along with the procession except for the last part of the trip, which was into a mountainous region where was the field of Machpelah. It was here that Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah and Leah were buried in a cave.

Jacob lived one hundred and forty-seven years. Some might have thought of him

as a very plain, unimportant man. But he had a very necessary part in God's plan to bring into being the great nation of Israel, the nation God chose to help Him in a wonderful plan.

(To be continued next issue)

HALLOWE'EN

(Continued from page 22)

church policy of incorporating harmless pagan folk ideas."

It was *not* the Bible, but the policy of the Catholic Church to choose pagan customs and call them by Christian names. Thus the pagan day in honor of the spirits of the dead became a day in honor of those who were slain for Catholic dogma. The day was preserved to teach the people the false doctrine of the immortality of the soul—that the *dead* are not really dead!

But this is not the end of the amazing story. Whereas the pagans regarded November 1 as a day in honor of the dead in general, the Catholic Church at first honored *only* the martyrs as patron saints by this special day, a practice stemming from the Roman custom of honoring a patron god in each community. With the rapid influx of pagans into the fold of the church, what was the Church going to do with the heathen custom of prayers and gifts to appease the lord of the dead so that the "souls" of the unrighteous would not have to suffer punishment but could go through "purgatorial fires" to a heaven?

Prayers for the Dead Introduced

In order to gain more heathen converts, who were accustomed at Hallowe'en season to give gifts and pray so the dead might become worthy of heaven, the Catholic Church introduced All Souls' Day, celebrated generally on November 2.

Here is how it happened. As the Catholic Church spread toward the North of Europe, it naturally found that "in Germany there existed . . . a time-honoured ceremony of *praying to the dead* on 1 October. This was accepted and sanctified by the Church," admits the *Catholic Encyclopaedia*.

This ceremony of praying to or for the dead—a satanic deception to blind

mankind from the true plan of God—was introduced into the church "by Odilo, Abbot of Cluny, France, who died in 1048 . . . The custom spread from there to the other congregations. By the end of the thirteenth century, the celebration of All Souls' Day was practically universal," wrote Linton in his book on page 13.

Far from being Christian, this Hallowe'en season is filled with heathen practices. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, article "All Souls' Day," confesses, "Certain popular beliefs connected with All Souls' Day are of *pagan origin and immemorial antiquity*. In many Catholic countries the dead are believed by the peasantry to revisit their homes on All Souls' night and partake of the food of the living."

For years it has been the custom of Belgian children to "build shrines in front of their homes with figures of the Madonna and candles, and beg for money to buy cakes. As many cakes as one eats, so many (people) should be free from Purgatory" (*Book of Hallowe'en*, pp. 144-145).

Observe not only that the festival is of pagan origin, but also that the purpose of it is to perpetuate one of Satan's lies (Gen. 3:4)—that human beings inherently possess immortal life.

Here is the Catholics' own explanation of the purpose of this feast which they derived from the ancient pagan Hallowe'en celebrations:

"The theological basis for the feast is the doctrine that the souls which, on departing from the body, are not perfectly cleansed from venial sins, or have not fully atoned for past transgressions, are debarred from the Beatific Vision"—being in the immediate presence of God in heaven—"and that the faithful on earth can help them by prayers, alms-deeds and especially by the sacrifice of the Mass."

Prayer for the dead is acknowledged by many Protestant churches when they recite from the Creed: "I believe in the

communion of saints"—which means that men can communicate with saints on behalf of souls in Purgatory!

Although many Protestants have not continued to observe the two Catholic feasts of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, which originated from paganism, Protestants continue to observe the most foolish part of the pagan ceremonies—Hallowe'en!

Protestants have continued the celebration of Hallowe'en partly "since it was on this day, in 1517, that Martin Luther posted his epoch-making ninety-five theses on the door of the castle church at Wittenberg" which started the Protestant Reformation! "He [Luther] chose Hallowe'en night because he knew that the townsfolk . . . would be coming to the church that night" (*Hallowe'en*, pp. 9, 10.)

Origin of "Trick or Treat"

Do you know where the common Hallowe'en prank of children knocking on doors and shouting "trick or treat" originated?

Linton says: ". . . certainly it comes from pagan times." In Ireland up to the turn of the century, it was customary to have a procession "led by a man in a white robe wearing a horse-head mask. (The horse was sacred to the Sun God," says Linton, "which indicates that this custom was a survival of a Druid rite.") The procession levied a contribution from the farmers in the perverted name of what probably was an old Druid god. Unless the procession was "treated" liberally with gifts, the farmers were "tricked" with the threat of a curse that would ruin next year's crops!

This traditional custom of having processions at Hallowe'en is further derived from another unusual practice. Wealthy churches during the Middle Ages, copying the ancient Greek and Roman religious processions, paraded the relics of patron saints. The poorer parishes could not afford to buy relics, so they used caricatures of their patron

saints. "Those who were not playing the parts of the holy ones also wanted to get into the procession, and so they dressed up as angels or devils. The All-hallows procession around the churchyard eventually became a gay and motely parade." (From page 103 of *Hallowe'en Through Twenty Centuries*.)

The present day "trick or treat" is but a continuation of these degenerate and absurd customs which came out of paganism and have been falsely labeled with Christian names.

Is it any wonder that children take part in tying cans to cats' tails, soaping windows, soaking front porch furniture with water hoses, or wantonly damaging private property, especially mail boxes—which is a government offense—on a day originally dedicated to Satan, the Destroyer?

Let's teach our children the TRUTH about Hallowe'en this year!

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 9)

that whoever taught those who repented and accepted Christ was to do the baptizing. Nothing was said about being ordained.

We examined Acts 2:37-41—the initial New Testament experience on the day of Pentecost. Three thousand were baptized. It was evident that the twelve disciples of Jesus could hardly have baptized this vast number.

In Acts 8, Philip, a deacon, and apparently not yet at that time an ordained evangelist, baptized those to whom he preached at Samaria, and later the Ethiopian eunuch.

We decided that I had the authority of God to baptize those converted during my first public preaching.

I baptized them.

This brought stern criticism from "authorities" higher up in the church. There was criticism because the Conference paid expenses when I was not even a member. In fact, from this time I was to meet continued criticism, opposition, persecution, and political maneuvering to discredit and remove me from the active ministry.

The eventful account of my first funeral, my ordination into the full time ministry, and first extended evangelistic

campaigns will appear in the December issue.

WEATHER Changes!

(Continued from page 10)

virtual disaster by the *L.A. Times*, Dec. 30, 1958.

"I don't think anybody has seen anything like it before, and, I hope, never again," said Mrs. Ted Andrews, wife of the Mayor of the northwestern Kansas town of Seldon. Her comment came from the fact that officials were surveying damage left by a hailstorm that BURIED the area under 18 solid inches of ice! The hail had fallen within a mere 2½ hour period during the night. Wheat in the area was described as a total loss.

"Snow fell here last night for the first time on record," said citizens in Athens, Georgia.

Drouth in many areas was broken by record-breaking floods. In Houston, Texas, a clipping reported, "A new all-time record for rain in the month of February was set this year." In St. Joseph, Missouri, Associated Press said, "A torrent of water up to 10 feet deep surged through St. Joseph's north side late Monday night after a cloudburst north of the city . . ."

Recently, Oklahoma and northeastern Texas were undergoing the worst floods in the memory of citizens there. They were called "the worst floods ever to hit Oklahoma." Crop damage was extensive, and property damage ran into the millions of dollars.

From Pittston, Penn., came a report, "The water, rushing through a whole lacework of [anthracite coal mine] tunnels, threatened to shut down an entire valley's major industry forever." "Tomorrow, Ohio, along the Little Miami River . . . was reported to be about 75% submerged."

"The worst flood since 1913 drove nearly 2,500 persons from their homes in Columbus, while Mt. Vernon, a city of 16,000 where 3,300 were evacuated, was isolated by the biggest flood in two decades" (*L.A. Times*, Feb. 23, 1959).

Here are just a few of some of the

major and most disastrous weather conditions which have beset this earth in recent times!

"The West can eke through this dry season—one of the worst on record—but 'another dry year in 1960 would be extremely critical,' reports the California Department of Water Resources. . . . In the Sacramento Basin, run-off is 30% to 80% below normal; farther south, San Joaquin Valley run-off is 80% to 97% below normal. Carry-over storage prospects are very poor in much of southern Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Oregon. Some users won't have enough supplies to last through this season" (*FARM JOURNAL*, September, 1959).

"The water level in rain drenched downtown Portland [Oregon] is going down, down, down. . . . The U. S. geological survey . . . has noted a 'persistent and continuous' water table lowering of 2 to 3 feet in each of the last two years at that location. . . . Federal geologists say . . . the decline 'is liable to continue until it gets serious,' especially if more and more wells are crowded into the downtown area. . . . The amount of water drawn from the downtown wells has more than doubled since 1955 (and) the supply is not replenished" (*OREGON JOURNAL*, March 25, 1959).

And World-Wide!

AUSTRALIA—"Worst dry spell in 50 years." "Ranch owners estimate that another 750,000 head of cattle valued at the equivalent of \$8,400,000 will die by December, unless the wet season now due brings tropical rains." "Thousands of cattle, worth more than \$4,000,000 have died in the worst drought in memory on Central Queensland's Barkley Tableland. . . . 60,000 cattle and 180,000 sheep have died."

DARWIN, Australia, Jan. 8 (Reuters)—"Drought weakened cattle are being shot to save them from death in water holes filled with mud by recent monsoon rains" (*THE SAN DIEGO UNION*, January 9, 1959).

"Overrunning the sheep-grazing lands of New South Wales, millions of . . . drought-crazed [kangaroos] last week had depleted the pastures to a point where ranchers called for army protection" (*NEWSWEEK*, June 15, 1959).

"Serious drought in Central Australia

is causing heavy losses in cattle and sheep. *Three years* of almost rainless weather have already resulted in the death of an estimated 600,000 sheep and 200,000 cattle and heavier losses are predicted" (*Family Herald*, April 23, 1959).

HONOLULU (AP)—"The Army said it is using water tank trucks to deliver 30,000 gallons of drinking water daily to the civilian population" (AP Release, December, 1958).

"It has been considerably over a hundred years since the water level was as low as this year in the lakes of West SWEDEN" (*Göteborgs-Posten*, Göthenburg, Sweden, September 3, 1959).

"Drought damage in north GERMANY is approaching the dimensions of a catastrophe. Forest fires are complicating the situation. . . . One Schleswig-Holstein farm organization said the grain harvest would be 40 to 80% below normal. The loss in the hay crop was estimated at about a third, and in root crops at a fourth. The drought has fostered the growth of destructive insects and plant diseases. In addition, night frosts have hit the potato crop. . . . Drinking water is being supplied by tank for 230,000 people, and sold by the bucket. . . . Lack of rain has also brought the worst fires West Germans can recall" (AP Release, June 27, 1959).

BELGIAN CONGO (AP)—"Drought has emptied the great Congo River and stopped boat traffic. Travelers between Leopoldville and Stanleyville use planes chartered by boat lines" (*Star-News*, August 17, 1959).

JERUSALEM (Reuters)—"Water rationing was ordered throughout Israel as the worst drought for about a century continued" (Reuters Release, January, 1959).

SPAIN, Dec. 3 (UPI)—"A five-month drought threatened Central Spain today with its worst water shortage in nearly 100 years. . . . At the same time Eastern Spain is undergoing one of its wettest seasons in history" (*L. A. Times*, December 4, 1958).

BRAZIL (UPI)—"Four thousand hungry, jobless Brazilians invaded the town of Caninde in the state of Ceara and sacked food warehouses and government agency offices. . . . Hundreds of children

have died of hunger in the drought-stricken area" (*Star-News*, December 4, 1958).

And so—from around the world—the story is the same! Weird unheard-of weather conditions! But this is only a beginning!

God's Watchmen

"Surely the Lord Eternal will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

God has revealed these truths to His servants, who are actively and dynamically preaching and publishing this warning to all this world. It is time you begin to WAKE UP! It's time you became gravely concerned about these prophecies of your Bible. God means what He says.

And God says this is only the slightest foretaste, and only the merest beginning! "A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with FAMINE shall they be consumed in the midst of thee, and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them" (Ezek. 5:12).

Yes—these forewarnings are but a mere beginning of the terrible catastrophic, imagination-defying destruction God is going to allow to come crashing down on our gullible, godless, defiant, stiff-necked, rebellious people!

God says of us that we will not wake up until He deals with us so furiously, so HARSHLY that it will literally SHAKE US TO OUR SENSES!

"Yet will I leave a remnant, that you may have that shall escape the sword among the nations, when you shall be scattered to the countries.

"And they that escape of you shall remember Me among the nations wither they shall be carried captives, . . . and they shall LOATHE THEMSELVES for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

"And they shall know that I am the Lord and that I HAVE NOT SAID IN VAIN that I would do this evil unto them!" (Ezek. 6:8-10.)

Yes, God REALLY MEANS IT! But—God says YOU don't need to suffer—that you and your family can be spared. It's up to you.

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