

*the*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
*a magazine of understanding*

VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1958

NEW BERLIN CRISIS



BERLIN crisis strikes fear into Europe. Russian Communist Boss Khrushchev has incited East German Reds to take over all Berlin. Though momentarily foiled, latest Russian move has begun to set the stage for World War III! Here is part of bustling East Berlin, with Communist-controlled stores in background.

# The PLAIN TRUTH

*A magazine of understanding.*

VOL. XXIII

NO. 12

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A religious tranquilizer

"Dear Mr. Armstrong,

"I am very interested in your 10:00 A.M. program every day and never fail to drop whatever I am doing to listen. I am a new Christian and find there are many changes I must make; in fact it seems everything I have done in the past is wrong, so I must really be made over.

"I am reading the Bible through, and before going further I would like to read your booklet 'The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy.' Also I would like a sample of your correspondence course.

"I wish so much I could interest my husband but he says he doesn't want our daughters to get too 'churchy' and have a lot of literature around, etc. As I am always home with my two girls I know I can lead them with

*(Continued on page 10)*

# RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of The WORLD TOMORROW!

### TO THE U.S. & CANADA

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WABC—New York—770 on dial—11:30 P.M., Mon. thru Sat.; 9:30 A.M., Sun., E.S.T.  
WLS—Chicago—890 on dial—10:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.; 1:00 P.M. & 8:30 P.M. Sun.  
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.  
CKLW—Windsor, Ontario—800 on dial—6:00 P.M. Sundays.  
KVOO—Tulsa, Okla.—1170 on dial—daily, 7:30 P.M., Central Standard Time.  
KHOW—Denver, Colo.—630 on dial—10:30 P.M. every night; 5:30 A.M., Mon. thru Sat.  
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WCAE—Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on dial—6:30 P.M. Sundays.  
WPIT—Pittsburgh, Pa.—730 on dial—3:30 P.M., daily.  
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XERB—1090 on dial—7:00 P.M. every night.  
KGO—San Francisco—810 on dial—10:00 P.M., daily.  
KABC—Los Angeles—790 on dial—10:00 P.M., Sun.; 9:00 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.; 8:00 P.M., Sat.  
KRKD—Los Angeles—1150 on dial—7:00 A.M. Mon. thru Fri.; 1:30 P.M., Sundays.  
KARM—Fresno—1430 on dial—6:30 P.M. Mon. thru Sat.; 12:30 P.M. Sun.  
KBLA—Burbank—1490 on dial—7:30 A.M. & 12:30 P.M. daily.  
KPDQ—Portland—800 on dial—8:30 A.M. daily.  
KWJJ—Portland—1080 on dial—9:00 P.M., Sun. thru Fri. 10:00 P.M., Saturdays.  
KUGN—Eugene—590 on dial—7:00 P.M. Sun. thru Fri.  
KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—10:30 P.M. every night.

### TO EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA

RADIO LUXEMBOURG—208 metres. Mondays and Tuesdays: 23:30 Greenwich time.  
RADIO TANGIER INTERNATIONAL—1232 kc. & S. W. Saturdays 16:30 Greenwich time.

### TO SOUTH AFRICA

RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES, MOZAMBIQUE  
10:00 P.M., Saturdays; 10:30 P.M., Mondays and Tuesdays.  
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### TO ASIA

RADIO GOA—60 metre band, 9:30 P.M. Mondays; 9:00 P.M., Fridays.  
RADIO BANGKOK—HSIJS—4878 k.c. Monday thru Friday: 10:35-11:05 P.M.  
RADIO TAIWAN (FORMOSA)—840 k.c. 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays and Fridays.  
RADIO OKINAWA—KSBK—880 k.c. Sundays: 12:00 noon.  
ALTO BROADCASTING SYSTEM—PHILIPPINE ISLANDS  
9:00 P.M. Sundays—DZAQ, Manila—630 k.c.; DZRI, Dagupan City—1040 k.c.; DZRB, Naga City—1060 k.c.; DXMC, Davao City—900 k.c.

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2AY—Albury—Sun., 10:00 P.M.  
2CH—Sydney—Sat., 10:15 P.M.  
2GF—Grafton—Sun., 9:30 P.M.  
2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 P.M.  
3AW—Melbourne—Sun., 10:30 P.M.  
3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 P.M.  
4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 P.M.  
4KQ—Brisbane—Sun., 10:30 P.M.  
4TO—Townsville—Fri., 10:15 P.M.  
4WK—Warwick—Tues., 9:30 P.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

7:00 P.M., Sundays—  
HOC21, Panama City—1115 k.c.  
HP5A, Panama City—11170 k.c.  
HOK, Colon, Panama—640 k.c.  
HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 k.c.  
RADIO AMERICA—Lima, Peru  
6:00 P.M. Saturdays—1010 k.c.

# New Crisis Flares over BERLIN!

Read how new East-West struggle to control Berlin sets the stage  
for World War! Read how Russia plans to use Germany to start  
World War III!

KHRUSHCHEV has stabbed the nerve-center of the "cold war"—Berlin. In a blistering speech in Moscow at the "Soviet-Polish friendship meeting," Communist boss Khrushchev announced that East German Reds have

the full right to *seize* West Berlin! The West was shocked!

The key to Europe's defense lies in Western control of Berlin deep in the heart of Communist territory. Communist control of all Berlin would cut

the heart out of German atomic rearmament and Western defense. That's what Khrushchev wants to do!

## What Russia Plans

The Soviet boss has cleverly encouraged *East German Reds to take Berlin* away from the West. It was a shrewd move. It protects Russia from being accused of directly intervening in German affairs—yet it would give Russia influence over the destiny of a revived West Germany!

Why is Russia so direly concerned about Germany's future?

Boss Khrushchev revealed the answer when he said, "Americans seem not to realize the danger which their present policy of rearming Germany may well bring down upon them." The Soviet leader, remembering the Hitler-Stalin pact signed shortly before Germany attacked Russia in World War II, continued: "If a new war were unleashed, Germany would probably once again turn to the East against the West."

When asked "Why?" by Walter Lippmann, famed news correspondent, Khrushchev replied that if Western Germany threatened to engage in a war against the Communist East, Russia would encourage Germany to turn against the West just as Stalin encouraged Hitler to do. "*Another German-Soviet pact is at least as possible today as in 1939—indeed MORE PROBABLE—since a German attack on the Soviet Union has now become 'suicidal'!*" he concluded.

## The Threat of German Rearmament

German rearmament is a threat to Soviet expansion. It is also a calculated risk for the West, our leaders now candidly admit. Russia wants to stop Ger-



This is **Stalinalee**—Stalin Avenue—in East Berlin on a beautiful, refreshing day. Bustling East Berlin, the "showcase" of Communist East Germany, was visited by Mr. Hoeh last year.



Amid political rumblings, East-Berliners remain quiet, go about their daily chores, and hope for the day when their land can once again be joined to a powerful, revitalized New Germany!

man rearmament now, if she can.

Control of all Berlin would effectually limit a possible West German take-over of Communist East Germany. In the meantime, if the West continued to re-arm Germany and assist in building a United Europe equipped with atomic weapons, the Communist control of Berlin, as well as East Germany, would give Russia a strong bargaining point in future talks with Germany. It would provide Russia the opportunity to offer Communist East Germany and all Berlin to atomic-rearmed West Germany in

exchange for a pact between Russia and Germany against the West.

What Russia would like best of all is, first, to demilitarize Germany completely and, second, to create new crises throughout the world to weaken the West. She has tried it recently at Quemoy, in the Middle East and now at Berlin. But if demilitarizing Germany fails, then Russia's only recourse will be to hold as much German territory as possible and to wait for the day when Germany, as the economic heart and the political and military head of a soon-to-

be-created United Europe, is ready to bargain with the East.

### A Coming Pact with Germany!

When Khrushchev's threat to take East Berlin came, the Allies quickly reacted to protect the city *even at the cost of war*. By protecting Berlin, the Western Powers have temporarily thwarted Russian expansion—but they have, in turn, made it much easier for Germany later to bargain with the Russians. By controlling West Berlin, the West German Government will be in a position to demand not only freedom for East Germany and East Berlin, but also the return of German territory seized by Russia and Poland after World War II.

Khrushchev has blundered. In an attempt to forestall further German military might, he has caused the West to re-arm Europe even faster than anticipated. America has now promised Euratom—Europe's atomic power program—\$135,000,000 in loans and a 20 years' supply of enriched uranium on credit—with no strings attached!

What our leaders do not know—but *what the Communists do know*—is that underground in Europe is developing a revival of Naziism and Fascism waiting for the day when they can take over an American-created United Europe *as their first step to world conquest!* This is what Russia fears! This is the power with which Russia, out of self-protection, must ultimately make a pact! In turn, they will encourage a Fascist-controlled United Europe, armed with mighty atomic weapons, to strangle the United States and Britain economically *through trade war* and then launch a surprise attack on the English-speaking world that will wipe us off the map!

This is what Bible prophecy reveals—this is what we have been warning our people of for years. The Berlin crisis is just another step in our march to political suicide!

It is time you awakened to the realities that face our nation. You need to keep abreast of these tremendous world events. You need to read *The PLAIN TRUTH* each month, for every issue is packed with vital developments you need to understand.

# Where Does God Command You to Observe CHRISTMAS?

Did you know that Christmas was observed by pagans 2000 years before the birth of Jesus Christ?—that neither the apostles nor the inspired New Testament Church observed it? Here are the astounding FACTS!

by Herman L. Hoeh

**I**T WILL come as a shocking surprise. You probably have never noticed it before, but it is true! In the New Testament is amazing proof—almost totally overlooked—that CHRISTMAS and other pagan holidays were cleverly introduced into the Christian Church IN THE DAYS OF THE APOSTLES. And *proof* that the apostles were inspired to *FORBID* Christians to observe them!

It is time you looked to see WHAT IS RECORDED IN YOUR VERY OWN BIBLE!

How, then, did Christmas—now revealed as an ancient pagan holiday celebrated 2000 years before the birth of Christ—creep into the Christianity of this Western World?

And DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE if you observe it?

Consider! *Your eternal destiny* depends upon the answer! You are soon—very soon—going to stand before the judgment bar of Christ. Do not say carelessly: "Well, here is the way *I* look at Christmas;" or, "*I* do not think it makes much difference." God says it *does* make a difference. God declares there is a way that seems right to a man—to YOU—but the end result are the ways of death (Prov. 14:12).

You will be judged by what God says—not by what you think. Now let us unveil the mystery which surrounds the introduction of Christmas into the professing Christian world.

Notice how plain it is.

## Heathen Customs Crept into Christianity

No one knows the exact date on which Jesus was born. It has been hidden because God *didn't intend His church to celebrate the birthday of Christ*.

If you haven't already read the proof that Jesus was not born on December 25th, be sure to send for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet, "The Plain Truth

About Christmas." You will learn how the pagans, during the days of the early church, were celebrating *this very day* in honor of Sol, the sun-god. The Romans celebrated December 25 as the *Brumalia* or birthday of the *new sun*.

In most any public library you can get proof of this in a book entitled *4000 Years of Christmas*, by Earl Wendel Count. The very name of this book proves that the Christmas holiday isn't Christian. It was celebrated 2000 years before the birth of Christ in honor of pagan gods! Therefore it was, and is, *IDOLATRY*!

Even though church leaders are being forced to confess the true origin of their holidays, they refuse to repent—refuse to give them up. They cleverly deceive the people by claiming that God approves these abominations.

But notice what God does say *about the Christmas holiday season* and other customs by which the heathen served their gods: "Take heed . . . that you do not enquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?'—that I also may do likewise." YOU SHALL NOT DO SO TO THE ETERNAL YOUR GOD; FOR EVERY ABOMINABLE THING WHICH THE ETERNAL HATES THEY HAVE DONE FOR THEIR GODS" (Deut. 12:30-31).

The churches today reject this commandment of God so they can hold the traditions of men.

Jesus commands us *not* to worship Him by holidays like Christmas.

Even though Christmas did come from paganism, you ask, "Surely giving gifts at Christmas is scriptural? Didn't the wise men give gifts at the birth of Christ?"

## Does Bible Teach Exchanging Gifts?

Although most people admit Christmas came from paganism when confronted with the facts, they assume that

giving gifts to relatives is in the Bible. Just where did the Christmas SHOPPING season really originate?

Here's a surprise! "The custom of giving presents was a feature of the Romans during their winter festival the Saturnalia," says John Then, in his book, *Christmas*, page 91. Professing "Christians made presents to their children on Christmas morning, *under the pretense* that they were the gift of the Christ child . . . this age-old custom can be traced to the dawn of history"—to paganism!

Did trading gifts at Christmas come from Scripture? No! It came from pagan tradition and was turned into a pretense—a deception to fool little children. And millions using the name of Christ are practicing this *lie* today.

Millions of sincere, deceived people spend precious dollars to give gifts to *friends* on a day that doesn't honor Christ. How silly to claim to honor Christ, when giving gifts to *one another* on a day that isn't His birthday at all.

The wise men didn't give gifts to one another! Notice what they did: "Then, opening their treasures, they offered HIM gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Mat. 2:1-11).

WHY were the wise men giving gifts to the Christ child? Was this his birthday? No! Jesus had been born days before! Then why did they give gifts to HIM? Because Jesus was born "KING of the Jews."

"The people of the east never approach the presence of kings and great personages, without a *present* in their hands," says Adam Clarke in his *Commentary* about Matthew 2:11.

The wise men were not coming on Jesus' birthday as an example for us. Instead they came to worship Jesus and present Him gifts because he was KING.

Since Christmas isn't the birthday of Jesus and was *not* observed by the early

true Christians, how did it get into the churches?

### The Astounding Answer

Following the death of the apostle Paul, false teachers began to lead away many from the truth. Paul wrote Timothy: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths" (II Tim. 4:3-4).

Notice it! People would reject the truth and begin to follow myths. Instead of continuing to observe the days God sanctified as the first Christians did, the apostatizing majority, who called themselves "Christians," soon began to invent their own traditions.

These professing Christians who departed from the TRUTH and began to adopt Christmas and other pagan customs were called "Nicolaitans" in the Bible (Revelation 2:6 and 15).

### Who Were the Nicolaitans?

The doctrines of the Nicolaitans, from whom Catholics and Protestants have sprung, have never ceased to puzzle Church historians. They have always imagined the Nicolaitans to be some small sect which separated from the great worldly body of professing Christians. It has never occurred to the scholars that the Nicolaitans are that great body of professing Christians which has departed from the true Church of God!

What does the word "Nicolaitan" mean?

It has *nothing* to do with the deacon Nicolas (Acts 6:5), or a later bishop, Nicolas of Myra, as some have assumed. The original Greek word "Nicolaitan" means one who is "*a follower of Nicolas*." Who was *that* Nicolas of whom they were followers? God reveals that He hates the doctrine of that man (Rev. 2:15).

But what does the name "Nicolas" come from? It comes from two Greek words—*nikos* and *laos*. *Nikos* means "conqueror" or "destroyer," and *laos* means "people." The original Nicolas was the conqueror or destroyer of the people! That was merely the Greek

word for Nimrod—the original arch-rebel who conquered the people and founded man-made civilization within two centuries after the flood! (Genesis 10:8-10.)

### Nimrod Deified as "Saint Nicholas"

While Nimrod was alive, by his *dictatorial rule* he put himself in the place of God. And when he died, his admirers CONTINUED TO WORSHIP HIM AS A DIVINE HERO. They CALLED HIM "BAAL," a name found throughout the Old Testament. "*Baal*" means "*master*" or "*lord*." It was only natural that Nimrod should bear that name, for he put himself in place of the true Lord or Master of all the universe.

But "Baal" was not Nimrod's only other NAME! HE HAD MANY others. One of these names was "*Santa*," commonly used throughout Asia Minor. This name of Nimrod may be found in *Lempriere's Classical Dictionary*.

Now you might ask, "Is there any connection between Nimrod, who was called 'Santa,' and 'Santa Claus'?"

"SANTA CLAUS" is but a shortened form of "Santa Nicholas" or "*Saint Nicholas*." The followers of "St. Nicholas" or Nimrod are termed "NICOLAITANES" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT! So those people—who falsely called themselves "Christians"—continued to honor Nimrod in the days of the apostle John! —*just as they do today!*

Today, on what date is "St. Nicholas" or Nimrod—especially HONORED? Is it December 25? Yes! But why?

The Romans used to celebrate December 25 as the *Saturnalia*—the birthday of Saturn or Nimrod. And is it any wonder that December 25, Nimrod's purported birthday, is STILL CELEBRATED IN HONOR OF "NICHOLAS"—NIMROD—THE FIRST GREAT DESPOT.

Yes, Santa Claus—just a shortened form of Nicolas, the Greek name for Nimrod—is Nimrod deified. It is *he*—and not Jesus Christ—whom the professing Christians serve to this day, and whom they honor at Christmas! And there were individuals in the Church of God in those days who tolerated such practices and even indulged in them!

### How Christmas Became Popular

In 200 A.D., Clement of Alexandria

wrote that many were *speculating* about Christ's birthdate. In the western and especially the eastern parts of the Roman Empire, many sects were beginning to follow a false tradition that Jesus was born on January 6.

Even the church at Rome for nearly two centuries OBSERVED THIS FALSE DATE FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH ON JANUARY 6. This festival was called Epiphany. (Bingham's *Antiquities*, Book xx, chapter iv.) The celebration of January 6 was anciently introduced in Babylon as the birthday of Nimrod at the time when the winter solstice occurred on that date—before 1900 B.C. (See page 35 of *The Evolution of the Christian Year* by A. Allan McArthur.)

The introduction of the birthday of Nimrod among the Romans occurred when the winter solstice on their religious calendar occurred on December 25! That occurred about 300 B.C., shortly after Alexander the Great conquered the Persian empire and introduced the Mystery Cult of Babylon into the West. Alexander wanted to found one world and one religion—AND THE ONE RELIGION TO WHICH ALL COULD TRACE BACK THEIR ORIGIN WAS THE BABYLONIAN MYSTERY CULT! It claimed to be a universal or *catholic* form of religion in which all peoples could find unity!

According to the *religious* calendar maintained by the priests of the mystery cults, each year averaged 365¼ days. This made the year a fraction too long. It caused the winter solstice to drop back over the centuries about the rate of one day in about 133 years. In Rome the winter solstice—"Christmas"—had gradually dropped back to December 25, beginning 300 years before Christ.

The early *Babylonian* date of January 6 as the birthday of the pagan saviour Nimrod was first applied to Jesus by the apostatizing Eastern Christians. But this date for the birth of Christ was *not* universally accepted. In 245 A.D., Origen, like numerous other Catholic leaders, still repudiated the idea of observing any day as Christ's birthday. The traditional date of January 6 therefore did not gain a very strong foothold in the western parts of the Roman Empire because cer-

(Continued on page 17)

# The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

This twelfth installment reveals the disintegration of the business in Chicago and the commencement of his first college activity.

**T**HE FLASH depression of 1920 had swept every one of my big-space advertisers into receiverships. It sounded the death-knell of the publishers' advertising representative business which I had built in five years to an annual income equivalent to \$25,000 in today's money, by age 28.

## Reviving a "Dead Horse"

But I did not quit. I had paid a price to learn the lesson of sticking to a thing. I had *not* learned that a *dead* horse is DEAD! For two more desperate years I hung on, vainly attempting to revive a dead business.

What I did not know, then, was that the Eternal God was intervening to take from me and to destroy my IDOL—the god I was placing before HIM! As covered in the earlier chapters of this autobiography, I had been born of old Quaker stock—the same as ex-President Herbert Hoover, who is a distant cousin of mine—perhaps fourth or fifth. I was reared in the Sunday school of the Friends Church. But at age 18 I had lost religious interest except superficially, and had seldom attended Church. After moving to Maywood, my wife and I decided we ought to join a church. We attended a few to look them over. We rather liked the pastor and the people of the River Forest Methodist Church, so we joined—more from social preference than theological. Actually, I knew little or nothing of that church's doctrinal beliefs. I assumed that *all* Protestant churches were God's churches. It was merely a matter of selecting the "church of our choice." Religion played a minor role in my thoughts and life.

I didn't think of it in this light then—but I worshipped at the shrine of the god of VANITY. I was ambitious to be considered as "IMPORTANT" by important people, and to reap a good share of this world's material goods. I craved material success.

## Succession of Sevens

I have learned since that there is often significance in numbers, especially in God's dealing with mankind. Seven is God's number of perfection and completeness. Many things occur in cycles of sevens. God's direct intervention in my life in bringing me down toward real repentance and surrender to Him, began at age 28—four 7s. This was a long and painful process, lasting *seven* years—until age 35—five sevens, when I was finally converted. There were to follow exactly *seven* preparatory years of intensive Bible study and evangelistic experience before God *opened the door* of radio and the printing press for the very *start* of this present world-wide work—at age 42, or six sevens. There were exactly *seven* more years—poverty-stricken years of humility being weaned completely from worldly economic ambitions—for the work to develop purely as a small *local* work in the Pacific Northwest. And then, in 1941, at age 49, the door was opened for the work to launch out on a *national* scale—although I did not actually walk through that door until the following year. After seven more years—December 27th, 1948—the lease-option contract on the original property that comprised the Ambassador College campus was converted into a *purchase*, and we came financially "over the hump" of what had appeared certain failure, and the future of the expanding work became assured.

Back to the story.

The next two years—from late 1920 until December, 1922—were discouraging years. A few nationally known business executives, unable to take the reverses of the depression, sank to despondency and committed suicide. One of these was the president of one of the large automobile manufacturing concerns whom I had known personally.

I had been knocked down, stunned,

groggy—but not knocked out. Desperately I clung on, hoping to climb back on top.

## Conference with Millionaires

One morning—it must have been about February, 1921—a telephone call came from the secretary of the National Implement and Vehicle Association. An important meeting of the Board of Directors of the association was in progress. Mr. Wallis (I do not now remember his initials), president of the J. I. Case Plow Works, my biggest client, was chairman of this board. He had asked the secretary to call me and ask if I could run over immediately to their meeting, being held across the Loop in the Union League Club.

I told him I would be right over.

I raced down to a clothes-pressing shop and shoe-shining parlor, a half block down West Madison Street from my office, ducked into a dressing room and had my suit pressed and shoes shined while I waited—a rush job. Then I caught a taxi and hurried to the Union League Club.

Being ushered into the private room where the Board meeting was being held, I shook hands with Mr. Wallis, and in turn was introduced to six other millionaire presidents of large farm-implement manufacturers. I remember there was Mr. Brantingham, president of Emmerson-Brantingham, among the others. The magnetism of the powerful personalities of these seven big-business heads surcharged the atmosphere of the room. It was the first time I had ever been in the presence of so many big men at once. I was deeply impressed. But they were not in a happy mood. They were a deeply concerned group of men. The depression was ruining their businesses. They faced ruin.

## Advising Clients to Cancel

"Mr. Armstrong," said Mr. Wallis,





Mr. Armstrong and his mother, with Beverly, in Maywood shortly before second daughter was born. Eva W. Armstrong is still enjoying life, age 92½.

"you know, of course, the extent to which this depression has hit the farm tractor industry. This meeting has been called in the interests of this entire industry. The industry cannot survive unless we can find some way to stimulate sales in this depression. We have to find some way to induce farmers to buy tractors—and they have quit buying them.

"Now what we want to ask you is this: can you—*will you* bring pressure on the editors of the bank journals of this nation, whom you represent, to write strong and vigorous editorials urging bankers to advise the farmers to resume buying tractors. Can your editors show the bankers WHY they ought to bring pressure on farmers to buy tractors, and save this great industry?"

It was a crucial moment in my life. Here were seven heads of great corporations. They represented the entire great farm tractor and farm implement industry. And they were appealing to me to devise an idea, and take an action that would save this vast industry of American Big Business from bankruptcy!

What an appeal to my egotism! What a temptation to think of personal importance!

But I *did* know the FACTS! And when this test came, I *had* to be honest with these men. It was no time for a grandstand play for personal glory, or for pretense. I knew the FACTS—hard, cold, stern FACTS—and I *had to be honest!*

Even though I knew it meant cancellation of what tractor advertising had not already been cancelled.

Of course the implication was that, if I could induce our editors to undertake a campaign to pressure bankers into inducing farmers to purchase tractors in this depression, an unheard-of volume of big-space advertising would be handed me on a platter!

I was well aware of that. I was well aware that I had it in my power to ignore FACTS I had gathered, and start such a campaign in America's leading bank magazines. These men didn't know what I knew. But it would be misrepresentation—and deliberate dishonesty.

I was ambitious to make money. But

not by falsification or dishonesty! I *was sincere!*

"No, gentlemen," I replied without hesitation. "I cannot do it! I have been constantly in touch with the bankers in regard to the farm tractor situation. Let me tell you what the country bankers *know*. They know that corn which normally has been selling for \$1.12 per bushel has dropped down to 18¢ per bushel. I have one client now whose business has skyrocketed since the depression—the Gordon-Van Tyne Company of Davenport, Iowa. They make, as you know, pre-fabricated structures for temporary grain storage. Everywhere farmers are buying these, and storing their grain for a rise in the market—after the depression is over.

"Bankers know that one tractor replaces six horses. Tractors have to be fed gasoline, which is expensive right now. Horses are fed on 18¢ corn and oats and hay that have skidded likewise in price. Country bankers know their farmer customers would think they were fools to recommend buying tractors and feeding them on high-priced gasoline, when they have their horses being fed on grain they can't sell."

The next day I received a cancellation of my last remaining tractor account—J. I. Case. But I still had my honesty and self-respect.

### A Child's Menu

In early May, 1921, it was necessary

On the farm in Iowa. Beverly, age four—in 1922.





to take a business trip to Iowa. It was decided that I should take our eldest daughter Beverly, then almost three, for a visit with her "Auntie Bert" as she called her Aunt Bertha, while I transacted business in Iowa.

In a lower berth on the sleeper that night, as I was undressing her to put on her sleeping garment, Beverly stood up, and discovered she could reach up and touch the shiny top of the berth.

"See, Daddy," she exclaimed, "I'm a BIG girl now. I can touch the ceiling."

Next morning we were having breakfast in the dining room of the Hotel Savory. When the waitress brought me a menu, Beverly, in the highchair they had brought her, demanded a menu also. Laughingly the waitress gave her one. She looked up and down the menu with a studious expression—it might have been upside-down. And then, with great feminine dignity, in a very lady-like voice, Beverly gave the waitress her order.

"I think I will have," she said, pertly, "some ice cream, some string beans, and some candy."

Later, when her younger sister Dorothy became about the same age, she ordered a dinner.

"I want some ice cream, pop-corn and some chewing-gum," she ordered.

I never did quite agree with the modernistic psychologists who say we should always give children whatever they want—that they instinctively know what is best for them.

Our children and grandchildren, of course, like all others, have on occasion gotten off some "cute" sayings. One time my wife was putting on Dorothy's little Dr. Denton sleepers to put her to bed. It seems they were made of wool, and they scratched her skin.

"Mother," she said seriously, "nobody but just me and God and Jesus knows what a fix I'm in!"

### Recuperating in Iowa

Things in my business went from bad to worse. It was discouraging—frustrating. I was taking the biggest beating of my life—but hung stubbornly on. Finally, about July, 1922, it became necessary to give up our apartment. My income had gone too low to support my family, and at that time we decided



Mrs. Armstrong and Beverly, on farm in Iowa—1922.

that Mrs. Armstrong and the girls should go to her father's farm in Iowa, to lessen the expenses.

I rented a single room about a block away in Maywood, furnishing it with some of our very fine furniture, and the rest of the furniture was put in storage. We had a Knabe piano I had purchased new on contract, but it went back to the store when we could no longer keep up the payments. All the rest of the furniture had been bought for cash.

From this time I entered upon perhaps the blackest and most discouraging three months of my life. It was a mistake to try to face this up-hill tread-mill climb alone without my wife and family. If ever I needed my wife it was now.

I began palling around with two other young men who were advertising representatives of magazines. One of

them was in process of separating from and divorcing his wife. The wife of the other was away for the summer and fall. We began to haunt night clubs—then called cabarets. Often we would hang around these places of sorrowful, moaning, screeching, wailing music—if you could call such dirges "music"—until 1 or 2 A.M. We began to drink—not at all even a fraction of the volume of an "alcoholic"—but too much for efficiency. My mental attitude became one of frustration.

Finally, I got two or three weeks behind with the room rent on my single room, and I felt too humiliated to go back. I went to a north-side second-rate hotel—then to another. Finally I could not even keep this up.

I reached the end of the rope in Chicago in October, 1922. I was lone-



Mr. Armstrong on the farm in Iowa, age 30.

some for my wife and children. At last I, too, had to seek refuge on my father-in-law's farm in Iowa, where we would have no cost of living. I do not remember now, but I probably travelled this time in a day coach.

My father-in-law was finishing up corn shucking and I did the best I could to help him—but I was inexperienced, and unable to keep up with him.

Thru that fall and winter, I spent most of the time in resting, and recuperating in morale from the crushing defeat of losing my business because my Big-Business clients had lost theirs. That winter, beside the warm fire of burning oak logs, I read thru three or four books of fiction—about the only fiction reading of my entire life. I did what I could to help on the farm, but that wasn't much, and my wife, of course, did the cooking, and housework.

#### My First College Activity

At this time my wife's younger brother, Walter, was a freshman in

Simpson College in Indianola. Along in November he came to me with a proposition.

"Herb," he said, "I've decided to go in for the college oratorical contest, if you'll help me."

A short time before had been the first day of basketball practice. Walter had been the star basketball player in Simpson Academy, which he had attended instead of High School. His greatest ambition had been to make the Simpson varsity basketball team, and to be chosen on the Des Moines Register's all-state team.

On opening day of basketball practice, he was the first one into the gym with a basketball suit. When the coach and other players came on the floor, the coach had frowned and walked over to Walter.

"Dillon," he said, "what are you doing here? We won't need you. We have all the material we need this year. Go to the showers and get into your street clothes."

This was open humiliation before all the candidates for the squad. Being rejected without a chance to even *try out* for the team was unfair, unjust, and discriminatory. He couldn't understand it. He was MAD! Later he found the reason. The coach's salary at that time was being paid by a certain fraternity, and only frat members were given consideration for the team.

"Now here's the way I figure," he said to me. "In oratory, *anyone* can compete. They can't throw me off because I don't belong to a frat. Now you are a professional writer. If you will help me write my oration—and it is allowable to have help—and work with me on delivery, I think I have a chance. The two best orators Simpson ever had are a Junior and a Senior—both members of that frat. If you can beat them, it will be sweet revenge. Will you help me?"

"Well, Walt," I replied, "I don't know a thing about college oratorical contests. I never saw one. I have never read the script of a college oration. I don't even know what they are like. But if you will bring me copies of a few sample orations, I'll sure help you if I can."

The exciting experience of engaging

in this, my first participation in college activities, and what it led to—starting a business of once again selling surveys to newspapers—and migrating to Oregon in a Model "T"—and being infuriated into a study of the Bible and of evolution, will follow in the next issue.

## Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

God's help, but I am very worried about my husband as he refuses to listen to anything religious. We are church members and he thinks that our church is the best. Since listening to the radio I feel our liberal church is something like a 'Religious Tranquilizer Pill' to make life more bearable for the majority."

Woman from Los Angeles,  
California

#### A new concept of study

"You have won me over to a new concept of Bible study and I wait from lesson to lesson, and am now caught up and waiting for the next test. I have asked for so many of your pamphlets that I feel ashamed to ask for any more. I know it costs money, of which I was never blessed with much, but I do manage to send a little regularly and hope to be able to increase this soon.

"So many broadcasts claim worldwide coverage, our church broadcast claims to be the oldest, some claim more countries, some claim more languages, but *all* but *one* always ask for donations. This ONE, you know the one I mean, puts its faith in God to provide the means. And if we who listen want to let our God down then we are sure sorry men. This in addition to the unadulterated word of God I hear over The World Tomorrow broadcast is what has won me over to the true Bible study completely, but I have so many questions I'm sure the Lord Himself would run out of patience with me. How can we ever find time enough for the study of God's Word?"

Man from Stamford, Connecticut  
*Editor's comment:* The World Tomorrow broadcast is now heard throughout the world, and goes out each week with five million watts of power.

# The Plain Truth about the PROTESTANT Reformation

Did the Protestant reformers bring about a return to pure New Testament Christianity? Were the reformers led by God's Holy Spirit? The TRUTH contained in this series is astonishing.

by Roderick C. Meredith

## PART VI

SHOCKING and sobering truths have come to light in this series. We have learned that "Christendom" has undergone some *radical changes* since the time of Jesus and His apostles.

From authentic history, we have seen that *pagan* ceremonies and traditions were introduced into the professing Christian church soon after the death of the original apostles. We found *spiritual corruption, power politics* and *worldliness* dominating in the ruling Catholic Church during the "Dark" Ages.

In recent installments, the real FACTS about Luther's early life and frustrations—his *rebellion* against authority and the need for obedience—have been discussed. We have seen that *nationalism* and *politics* were the guiding forces in the Lutheran reformation. Last month, we discussed the painful episode of Luther's hypocritical involvement in the German peasant war and his ranting appeal to the princes to "*smite, strangle and stab*" them in the name of God.

Now we will discuss the continued growth of Lutheranism, and his continued reliance on *princes* and *politics*.

### The Growth of Lutheranism

Divisions and scandals plagued the Protestant camp during Luther's later years. The *armies* of princes and *political power* might guarantee that the reformed religion would be outwardly maintained in certain territories. But they had no power to cleanse the faith and morals of subjects, nor were they able to make of one spirit the warring factions that rose *within* the Protestant movement.

During these years began a controversy between the German and Swiss reformers concerning the true meaning of Christ's institution of the Lord's

Supper, as it was now called. This contest caused a *lasting breach* between the Lutheran and Reformed churches, which we will consider more fully in a later section.

Meanwhile, in January, 1530, the emperor sent a call to the German princes for a Diet to meet in Augsburg. He proposed that the friendly adjustment of religious differences should be the primary object of its meetings.

The Protestants therefore prepared a comprehensive statement of their beliefs and of their criticisms of the Roman Catholic doctrine and practice. It was chiefly drawn up by Luther and Melancthon, the latter doing most of the actual construction.

The "Augsburg Confession," as it was called, is very important to understand. It is the *official statement* of the position of the Lutheran Church, and has remained the basis of their doctrines to this day.

Let us notice a scholarly summary of the Lutheran position as set forth by Melancthon (with Luther's advice) in this creed: "His *purpose* was to show that the Lutherans had departed in no *vital and essential respect* from the Catholic Church, or even from the Roman Church, as revealed in its earlier writers. That *agreement* is expressly affirmed, and many ancient heresies are carefully repudiated by name. On the other hand, Zwinglian and Anabaptist positions are energetically rejected. The sole authority of Scripture is *nowhere* expressly asserted. The papacy is nowhere categorically condemned. The universal priesthood of believers is not mentioned. Yet Melancthon gave a thoroughly Protestant tone to the confession as a whole. Justification by faith is admirably defined, the Protestant notes of the church made evident; in-

vocation of saints, the mass, denial of the cup, monastic vows, and prescribed fasting rejected" (Walker, p. 372).

### Protestants Acknowledge Their Unity with Roman System

Notice first of all that this Confession affirms the *unity* of the Lutherans with the Roman Catholic Church. Stress is given to the fact that Protestant and Catholic are essentially *one church—one system of belief*.

Reference to the sole authority of the Scriptures is by this time *omitted*. The Protestant doctrines of justification by faith *alone* and rejection of the Catholic sacramental system are the *only real points of difference*.

Instead of advocating a return to the *belief* and *faith* and *practice* of Jesus Christ and the true apostolic church founded by Him, the reformers now stress the *unity* of Protestantism with the *pagan* philosophies, beliefs and practices of the *corrupted Roman Catholic system*.

As we have seen, the Romish church had now strayed *as far from the teachings and practices of Christ and the apostles as would seem possible*. Yet, time and again, we will see the Protestants stressing their "unity" with this reprobate system.

In spite of the conciliatory tone of this Confession, it was rejected by Charles V and the Catholic dominated Diet. They ordered the *complete restoration* of the Catholic faith pending a general council within a year (Hausser, p. 123).

### Luther Now Urges War

Fearing punitive measures and the loss of *church property which they had seized*, eleven cities united with eight Protestant princes in forming the Schmalkaldic League as a defense against

the emperor (Alzog's *Universal History*, p. 240-241). It is interesting to note at this juncture that Luther once again *changed his policy* for the sake of *expediency*.

He had formerly held, with Scripture (Romans 13), that it was a *sin* to oppose the emperor or any legally constituted authority (Walker, p. 375).

But now he urged them to employ *violence* to defend his doctrines. "The Protestant princes, together with certain imperial cities of South Germany, united in the League of Smalcald to resist the arbitrary proceedings of the emperor in his efforts to crush out the new opinions. Luther, who had *hitherto opposed a resort to arms*, now declared that Christians were bound to defend their princes when unlawfully assaulted. The league strengthened itself by an alliance with France, Denmark, and the Dukes of Bavaria. The territories of the emperor were again threatened by an irruption of the Turks under Soliman. Under these circumstances, it was impossible to carry out the measures of repression which had been resolved upon at Augsburg. Accordingly, the peace of Nuremberg was concluded in 1532, which provided that religious affairs should be left as they were until they could be arranged by a new diet or a general council" (Fisher, *The History of the Christian Church*, p. 305-6).

From the peace of Nuremberg, the situation of the Protestant territories remained substantially the same for several years. But many enlightening events took place within Luther's camp as the "fruits" of his teaching became more apparent. And in *many* cases, Luther's resort to an *immoral act* as being "expedient" to his cause is to be observed.

### Luther Condones Bigamy

Perhaps the most outstanding example of Luther's willingness to *alter his standards* in order to accommodate his princely protectors is the well known case of the Landgrave of Hesse. His constant adulteries made him anxious as to his salvation, and he began to reason that perhaps a second marriage to a more attractive wife would be the solution to his problems. He *appealed to the Old Testament example of this*. His reasoning was strengthened by his

acquaintance with an attractive seventeen-year-old daughter of a lady in his sister's court.

It will be helpful at this point to include extracts from a complete account of this matter by Michelet. In it, we find quoted the direct answer of Luther and his associates to the Landgrave's application:

"The most warlike amongst the protestant chiefs, the impetuous and choleric landgrave of Hesse, caused it to be represented to Luther, that the *state of his health required him to cohabit with more than one wife*. The instructions given to Bucerus for negotiating this matter with the theologians of Wittemberg offer a curious mixture of sensuality, or religious apprehensions, and of daring frankness.

"The application of the landgrave of Hesse occasioned *extreme embarrassment* to Luther. The whole of the theologians at Wittemberg assembled on the occasion, to frame a reply, in which they determined upon effecting a *compromise* with the prince. *They acceded to his request for permission to take a second wife*, but upon condition that she should not be publicly recognized. 'Your highness,' they state in their answer, 'will, of your own accord, readily suggest to yourself the difference which exists between laying down a law to be universally promulgated, and one to serve a *private and urgent exigency*. We cannot publicly introduce or give our sanction, as by a law, to a permission for marrying a plurality of wives. We implore your highness to reflect upon the danger in which that man would be placed who should be convicted of having introduced into Germany a law such as this, whereby divisions would be instantly created amongst families, and a series of eternal law-suits arise. Your highness is of a *frail constitution*; you sleep little, and it is requisite to adopt very great *precautions in your case*. The great Scanderbeg frequently exhorted his soldiers to observe chastity, telling them that nothing was so detrimental to their pursuit as the pleasures of love. May it please your highness to examine seriously the various considerations involved in this matter; the scandal, the labours, the cares, the grief, and weakness, which, as has been shown to you, are involved in it. If, however,

your highness is utterly determined upon marrying a second wife, we are of opinion that it ought to be done *secretly*. Signed and sealed at Wittemberg, after the feast of Saint Nicholas, in the year 1539.—Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, Martin Bucer, Antony Corvin, Adam John Lening, Lustin Wintfert, Dyonisius Melanther'" (Michelet, *The Life of Luther*, p. 251, 253).

Luther's counsel to make a "secret sin" of this matter was to go unheeded. His *responsibility* for advising the Landgrave to *break God's law* was now to exact its *penalty*. When the news began to leak out, Luther now advised the Landgrave to break *another* of God's *commandments*!

### Now Luther Counsels a Lie

"Though an attempt was made to keep the affair private, that soon proved impossible. Luther could only advise 'a good strong lie'; but Philip was manly enough to declare: 'I will not lie'" (Walker, p. 378).

The scandal resulting from this episode did great damage to the Protestant cause. Thoughtful men were beginning to wonder where Luther's doctrine of "grace alone" might lead.

But the main point to remember is that Martin Luther—professing to be a servant of God—had *knowingly* and *deliberately* advocated that a man should *break* two of God's commandments.

In the meantime, the deterioration of morals continued through all classes of Protestant society. "The protestants had already begun to relax in the severity of their demeanor and practice. They reopened the houses where debaucheries were wont to be carried on. 'Better,' observed Luther, 'would it have been that the devil had never been banished, than that he should return in seven-fold strength' (13 September, 1540)" (Michelet, p. 255).

### Luther's Death

The course of Protestantism was now firmly in the hands of the *Lutheran princes*, and, with constant threats from the Catholic League, they continued to hold on to the ground gained thus far.

The Catholic Council of Trent opened in 1545. With various interruptions for war, it was to continue to meet in irregular sessions until 1563. Its purpose

was mainly to investigate and clear up some of the abuses which had led to the Reformation. The result was a conservative reformation *within* the Catholic Church, but along strictly *Roman* lines, of course.

Soon after this Council began its sessions, and at a time when the emperor had made peace with the Turks and his other enemies and now seemed ready for a fresh assault against the Protestant princes, Luther made a trip to Eisleben, his birthplace.

In view of the subsequent history of Germany, it will be well to note that Luther's final sermon was a railing attack against the Jewish people. He seems to have been possessed with the same *vicious hatred and jealousy* of the Jews as later characterized the rule of Adolph Hitler.

Alzog describes this tendency: "Ascending the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church, in Eisleben, for the last time, Luther once more called down the vengeance of heaven upon the Jews, a race of people whom he had so unjustly and virulently assailed in his earlier writings, that his followers after his death were confused at the very mention of his malignant denunciations. In his first pamphlet against them, he called upon Christians to take the Bible from them, to burn their books and synagogues with pitch and brimstone, and to forbid their worship under penalty of death; and in his second, entitled 'Of Shem Hamphoras,' he describes them at the very outset as 'young devils doomed to hell,' who should be driven out of the country" (*Universal History*, p. 271).

Thus, when we read of the atrocities committed against the Jews by Hitler's Third Reich, we may be reminded that this has been a tendency among many German zealots and was remarkably displayed in the founder of German Protestantism.

Luther himself was unhappy and wretched during his last months. Disturbed by the terrible state of morality to which his doctrine of faith *alone* had brought the inhabitants of Wittenberg, he wrote his wife in July, 1545, "Let us go out from this Sodom" (Alzog, p. 270).

"It was while prospects were thus darkening that *Luther died on a visit to Eisleben, the town in which he was*

born, on February 18, 1546, in consequence of an attack of *heart-disease or apoplexy*. His last years had been far from happy. His health had long been wretched. The quarrels of the reformers, to which he had contributed his full share, distressed him. Above all, *the failure of the pure preaching of justification by faith alone greatly to transform the social, civic, and political life about him grieved him*" (Walker, p. 379).

Thus it was even apparent to Luther that his doctrines had in large measure *failed to cause men to lead lives more consistent with spiritual principles*. He often had periods of despondency, in his last years, when he seriously wondered if he were not dragging many souls with him to eternal condemnation (Plummer, *The Continental Reformation*, p. 132).

After Luther's death, the Protestant princes suffered a military defeat at the battle of Muhlberg, in 1547. The emperor granted an *interim*, which was essentially a victory for the Catholics, until another session of the Council of Trent could be called.

### The Reformation Settlement

But in 1554, the Lutheran prince Maurice of Saxony united with Henry II of France to inflict a crushing defeat on Charles V. The Lutherans now demanded full religious freedom and the right to keep *all ecclesiastical property seized thus far* (Alzog, p. 279-280).

A compromise was finally reached, called the Peace of Augsburg, in September, 1555. It permitted each prince to determine whether Catholicism or Lutheranism should be professed in his territory. *No choice* was given his subjects.

All ecclesiastical properties seized before 1552 were to be retained by the Lutherans; all seizures since that time were to be returned.

*Only Catholicism and Lutheranism* (as defined in the Augsburg Confession)

were permitted in Germany. All other deviationists were to continue to be punished as "heretics" (Walker, p. 382).

Therefore, in 1555, the division of Germany between Catholic and Lutheran was made permanent. In after years, the most serious challenge to this state of things was made in the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). In the course of this terrible war, between the princes of the *Catholic League* and those of the *Protestant Union*, nearly *half* the population of Germany is said to have perished by the sword, famine, or the plague. But, by the Peace of Westphalia, it finally ended in relatively the same religious division of Germany as had been decided upon in the "Peace of Augsburg."

Thus, religious hatred, political division, and unceasing war continued to follow in the wake of the Lutheran reform. The decline in public morals was also a noticeable factor, which we shall consider later.

The *political and religious alliance of Luther with the German princes* placed the destiny of his cause in their hands from the first. And this religious patriotism, in turn, prepared the way for the *strong national state* in Germany—a state which has since bathed much of the world in blood under Kaiser Wilhelm II and Adolph Hitler.

Before analyzing the doctrines and practices of the Lutheran movement and the ultimate *result* of this religious upheaval, we will first recount the course of the Reformation in other lands.

Since all authorities agree that the "prime mover" in the Protestant camp was Luther himself, and that the Reformation as a whole was activated more from this source than any other, we will only *outline* its course in Switzerland, France, England, and other lands.

Lest we lose our *perspective* in the maze of historical events, places and personalities, let us again ask ourselves: Was the Protestant Reformation a movement *activated* of apostolic Christianity? Were its "fruits" the result of the Holy Spirit's operation?

Bearing these points in mind, the historical answers should be *abundantly* clear.

Don't miss next month's installment about the dramatic events which began the Reformation in Switzerland.

### The World Tomorrow in Spanish with Benjamin Rea.

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P.M., Sundays

# The NEW Covenant— Does it Abolish God's Law?

Thousands have asked if the New Covenant does away with God's Commandments. Here's the TRUTH on this question.

by Raymond C. Cole

IT IS commonly assumed that the old covenant was the ten commandment law—that the new covenant contains only grace and promises, but no law.

Hence it is argued that since the old covenant has been abolished God's law has also been abolished.

This teaching would lead you to believe that the law of God was harsh, cruel, and enslaving—that the FAULT of the old covenant was with the law, and since God gave the law, the FAULT must have been *His*!

Later, according to this common teaching, Jesus came with a *new covenant* which had no law, only promises and liberty to do what your conscience dictates.

Is this what the Bible teaches?

## Why the New Covenant?

There is a vital need for the new covenant. Why? Paul wrote: "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For *finding fault* . . ." (Hebrews 8:7,8). So the first covenant had a fault, and the new covenant is to correct that fault.

Continuing, for "finding fault . . ." with what, the law? NO! . . .

"For finding fault *with THEM*, He saith, Behold, the days come saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."

Then the fault wasn't with the law, but "with *them*," THE PEOPLE, the children of Israel, "because they continued not in my covenant"—because they *disobeyed* (Heb. 8:9). If the fault were with the law, then the law would *not* have been perfect; but David said, "The law of the Lord is *perfect*, converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7).

It was to correct *the fault with the*

*people* that God said He will make another covenant. Now let's find out what the old covenant really was so we can know HOW the new covenant will correct that fault.

## What Is a "Covenant"?

The real reason most churches don't understand the truth about the covenants is that they don't even know what a "covenant" is! Webster defines a covenant as "a mutual *agreement*, a legal undertaking to do or to refrain from some act, a *document containing the terms of agreement*."

A covenant is an agreement between parties.

The Eternal God *proposed* the old covenant with Israel in Exodus 19:5,6. Here were the parties to the agreement or covenant. Notice the terms of the old covenant: "If ye [Israel] will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant"—that was Israel's part of the agreement, "*then*"—and this was the ETERNAL's part of the agreement, the part He promised to do—"ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and an holy nation."

Did the people accept this *proposal*? Yes! "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken *we will do*" (verse 8).

## The Old Covenant a Marriage Agreement!

Very few know it, but the old covenant proposed by the Lord was a *marriage agreement* between Him and Israel! The Lord was the husband; Israel, the wife, was organized as both church and state.

Here is what Ezekiel wrote about this covenant, "I entered into a *covenant* with thee, saith the Lord God, and *thou becamest mine*" (Ezekiel 16:8).

Again, in Jeremiah 31:32 you read, "My covenant they brake, *although I was*

*an husband unto them*, saith the Lord."

Do you see, now, that the covenant was not just the ten commandments, but *an agreement* between the Lord and the nation—the church of Israel? Israel accepted the terms that He gave to them. They bound themselves by this first covenant to refrain from any adulterous or whorish relations with the "gods" of other nations (Exodus 34:12-17). In turn, the Lord promised to remain *faithful* to Israel, and provide for them and bless them even to a thousand generations (Deut. 7:9).

But what were the conditions of the old covenant to which Israel agreed?

## The Terms of the Old Covenant

There is a great deal of needless misunderstanding about that which constituted the first covenant with Israel. In Exodus, the 19th chapter, God made arrangements to declare the conditions of His covenant to the people. Then in the 20th chapter God spoke every word of the ten commandments. The ten commandments are a perfect and complete law in themselves. When the Eternal God finished speaking them "HE ADDED NO MORE. AND HE WROTE THEM IN TWO TABLES OF STONE" (Deut. 5:22).

The ten commandments were a *distinct part* of the terms of the old covenant to which Israel agreed. They were the TABLES OF THE COVENANT (Deut. 9:9,11). But they were not *the* covenant. They were only part of TERMS of the covenant to which Israel, as the wife, agreed. The *covenant was the agreement* by the wife [Israel] to the TERMS proposed by the husband [God].

Now notice Exodus, the 24th chapter. In verse 7 Moses "took the BOOK OF THE COVENANT, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and

(Continued on page 30)

# How Long Were the "Days" of Creation?

Were the days of creation week "ages"? People insist that God could not set the world in order and create life forms in six literal days! Why?

by Kenneth C. Herrmann

WHY HAS doubt about creation entered Christian minds today?

Why do men in this "enlightened age" reject the unmistakable meaning of the Word of God?

For over 3000 years men of God have believed the literal meaning of the account of creation recorded in Genesis 1 and 2. To them the Scripture said that in six days, 24-hour days as we know them, God created the heavens and the earth and rested the seventh day.

Holy men of old rested on the Sabbath day believing that it had its beginning as the final day of that creation week—that it was a memorial of creation. For 3000 years righteous men have dared to take God's inspired record at face value.

No record is found of "ages" rather than days of creation in the ancient history of the Hebrews or of early Christians.

Why, then, does an "enlightened age" reject the truth of literal days of creation?

## How the Idea of "Ages" Began

Since the days of Darwin a controversy has raged between the Bible proponents and atheists. The theory of evolution, a theory which remains unproven even today—and always will—became the entering wedge to separate the Bible scholars from their trust in the truth of the Scriptures.

The atheist looked to the evidence on hand: Fossils of varying types in the earth, evidence of variation among living organisms; and with his mind stubbornly set that he would not believe what could not be demonstrated before his eyes, he preached the idea to the world that man had evolved from lifeless matter over a period of millions of years—that the Scriptural account of creation was gross superstition.

With few exceptions, religious circles

denounced evolution with equal vigor. But they refused even to look at the facts the atheist presented, much less to question his faulty reasoning.

Between the two extremes a third group sprang up, accepting the facts of the atheist and swallowing his reasoning without question. Reverencing the Bible and not willing to give it up, *yet thinking that perhaps it didn't mean quite what it said*, this group concluded that perhaps Moses misunderstood, perhaps the record had become confused or altered. Evolution *looked* so plausible, evolutionists' arguments so sincere and the Bible so old and uncertain in meaning, so difficult to understand. "Ages" of creation became the cry of the modernists.

That is the history of the modernist teaching in regard to creation week. An attempt to believe contrary to Scripture and yet believe the "easier" portions of the Scripture.

What proof is there that God created the present order of things on this earth in six literal days? What difference does it make whether one believes in "ages" of creation or literal days of creation? Let's question the record and set aside doubts once and for all time.

## What the Scriptural Record Really Says

Distorted interpretations of the creation record have resulted mainly from two causes: (1) *a desire to read a false meaning into the Word of God*, and (2) *a pitiful ignorance of the account itself*.

A brief review of the account of creation is certainly in order here. Open your Bible and study the account thoroughly as you read further in this article and after reading it.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"—this tells about the original creation. The second verse

of Genesis 1 refers to a destruction which came upon the earth following the sin and rebellion of Satan and the angels who followed him. A thorough explanation of this with scriptural proof appeared in another article in a preceding issue. But let's continue with the inspired account.

The renewing of our earth in a state of order followed in six days. Darkness was upon the face of the ocean.

At dawn the first day, light penetrated the dense clouds. As it grew warmer the clouds rose the second day and an expanse or heaven was formed, the one in which the birds fly. Thus the waters on the earth were separated from the water laden clouds above. The ocean receded, dry land appeared and grass and herbs were planted the third day. A mist watered them and as the fourth day progressed the sun became visible thru the thinning clouds. Toward evening the moon and stars appeared.

Notice how agreeable with the laws of science this is. Birds and sea life were created the fifth day, the land animals with Adam and Eve the sixth, and a day of rest and worship for the man the seventh. Thus in one week order was restored to the earth.

But was it a literal week? Carefully notice that no close is mentioned to the seventh day. Check this point in Genesis 2:1-3. All the other days were "an evening and a morning" but this expression does not follow the seventh day. Why?

Now if, as some teach, the seventh day hasn't ended yet, it would already be almost 6000 years long. And if it were that long couldn't the first six days be similar periods.

## The Seventh Day Did End!

Here's proof not from the imagination of men but from God's Word *that the seventh day did end!*



Genesis 2:2. "He (God) *rested* on the seventh day from all His work." Not "*is resting*" from all His work!

Exodus 20:11. "The Lord . . . *rested* the seventh day."

Again Genesis 2:3. "In it [the seventh day] He *had rested*." He blessed the Sabbath *AFTER HE had rested on it*.

Hebrews 4:4. "God *did rest* the seventh day from all His works." Not "*is resting*"!

The seventh day of creation is PAST, for on it God *rested*. No Scripture exists saying He *is resting* on a continuing seventh day! The seventh day of creation week did end.

Double proof of this fact is found in the scriptures telling of the WORK God has done *since* that day of rest. "My father WORKETH hitherto [even now], and I work" (John 5:17).

Jeremiah 50:25. "This is the WORK of the Lord God of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans."

Exodus 32:16. "The tables were the WORK of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables."

Joshua 24:31. "Joshua, and . . . the elders . . . which had known all the WORKS of the Lord, that He had done for Israel."

God has worked since that seventh day. Both the Father and the One who became Jesus Christ by flesh birth have worked since that first Sabbath day ended!

### Man Still Disagrees!

Yet in the face of God's word, men will believe "days" to be "ages" and that God is now resting and being refreshed. Thus one certain sect teaches, "Measured by the length of the 'seventh day,' on which God *desists* from work and *is refreshed*, each of those days was 7000 years long." (From *Let God be True*, second edition, page 168.) How often error goes under the title of truth!

Reread the preceding scriptures: The 24 hour day upon which God rested *had passed* and has been followed by nearly 6000 years in which God has worked. Then compare the above quote with Exodus 31:17, "In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he *rested* and *was refreshed*." Not *is* (being) refreshed!

## WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?"

The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "freely GIVE." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a PRICE upon the PLAIN TRUTH.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of giving, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read THE PLAIN TRUTH.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!

Here is the truth from which man seeks to shield himself. It was on a literal seventh day that God rested. It was a literal seventh day of the week that God hallowed for the human race. The observance of the seventh day and the origin of the week go back to Adam, not Moses!

Following that rest, God blessed the seventh day and set it apart for holy use. *The first week, creation week, had ended.*

### The Witness of Nature

In the time of Moses the witness of two men was accepted as being the truth. Many "witnesses" have been given from the Word of God that these creation days were literal days and there is yet more proof. God leaves no room for doubt in the minds of those who diligently study his word.

Consider the plants which were created on the third day. The sun did not appear until the next day. If these "days" were each 7000 years long then these plants would have had to survive 7000 years without sunshine. A few might possibly survive such an ordeal but the majority of plants require direct sunshine. Those who believe the days to have been ages which were millions of years long are faced with an even greater absurdity.

Or consider this, plants were made the third day, insects on the sixth. How did certain specialized plants continue to exist through ages without their insect partners? The *Encyclopedia Britan-*

*nica* states that two groups of insects which include bees, wasps, butterflies and moths could not have existed without the honey or nectar bearing plants, NOR COULD THESE PLANTS HAVE EXISTED WITHOUT THE INSECTS. Without insects to pollinize them they could not bear seed.

The types of plants which require insects for pollinization are those with brightly colored flowers, having an odor to attract insects and containing nectar to provide them with food. They include such common plants as the maple tree, the strawberry, the blackberry, the honeysuckle, and the poppy. *The Bible states that these plants were made on the third day and that the insects were not made until three days later. Those who claim creation days were each 7000 years long are faced with the conclusion that these original plants must have had to live 21,000 years before they could produce seed—an utter impossibility!*

People find it easier to swallow a camel than to believe the plain simple statement of scripture: "In six days God made heaven and earth." You will either have to accept God's account of creation as being true or lose your faith and trust that His Word is dependable. Evolution will not mix with the Scripture any more than iron will mix with clay. Ages and evolution must go!

### What Is the Meaning of "Day"?

The word "day" in the Bible is often used to represent an indefinite period of time. In fact the Hebrew word, *Yom*, translated day is occasionally translated "time." But in EVERY CASE where the numerals first, second, third, etc. occur, the word day is obviously and clearly referring to a natural 24-hour day as we know it.

The Scripture speaks of the day of vengeance, the day of adversity the day of temptation, just as we do today, meaning a time or season. Yet when it speaks of the fourteenth day of the month (Lev. 23), the seven days of Unleavened Bread or the fifty days until Pentecost, the word "day" can mean only a 24-hour period.

Symbolically a day may represent a "year" (Ezek. 4:6), or a "thousand years" (II Peter 3:8); but symbolic in-

terpretations may not be applied in all cases. The three days Christ was in the grave were not 3 years or 3000 years. Neither would any symbolic interpretation fit in the first chapters of Genesis where we have proven from nature that they must have been natural days of twenty-four hours.

Another Bible meaning of the word day as a 12-hour period is also in common usage today. When it speaks of the three days and three nights Jonah was in the great fish's belly or the three days and three nights Christ was in His grave, the word day refers to the daylight part of the 24-hour period. This "day" is by Christ's own definition 12 hours. "Are there not 12 hours in the day?" John 11:9.

The Scripture used by many as an excuse to believe the days of creation were ages really suggests no such meaning. It is Gen. 2:4 which refers to the time of creation, "In the *day* that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, and every plant . . . and every herb." Lacking a numeral before it, it can refer to a longer period of time than 24 hours and it does! This "day" refers to the first six days of creation week.

It takes a great deal of imagination to use this as a proof that a day means an age or even 7000 years.

### The Obvious Meaning

Can the word *day* mean 24 hours in one part of a sentence and an age in another part? It would have to if one were to believe in "ages" of creation! Exodus 20:9-11: "Six *days* shalt thou labour and do all thy work: but the seventh *day* is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; . . . for in six *days* the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh *day*: wherefore the Lord Blessed the Sabbath *day*, and hallowed it."

The word *day* occurs five times in this one sentence. Can you believe that in the third and fourth occurrences it means an age while in the other three it means a day? *Had God meant an age* wouldn't He have used the Hebrew word *dor* to mean age as in Job 8:8, "Enquire, I pray of thee, of the former age?"

In each of these five occurrences in Exodus 20, God is obviously speaking

of the same unit of time, a 24-hour day. And as the word "day" means a twenty-four hour period here *it has to mean the same in Genesis!*

If God had created light, day and night, and then *waited* 1000 years (or 7000 years) to form the heavens, He would have been resting *before* the seventh day arrived!

If He formed the heavens on a second day and then waited 1000 years to form the seas and the land, He would have been resting again before the seventh day arrived. Note the Scripture again: "For *in six days* the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and *was* refreshed." After six days of continual labor—six days spent in bringing our earth to a state of order—God rested. He *was* refreshed on the seventh day. If that seventh day were still continuing, the Scripture would read that He is *now* "being refreshed."

As a final proof that the days of creation were literal days, reread Genesis 1:3-5, 14-19 with special attention on

the words *evening* and *morning*, *night* and *day*, *darkness* and *light*.

All have continued since creation. We are not confused as to what they are.

Note that the sun was appointed "to divide the light from the darkness"—to divide day from night. Does sun-down divide anything but *literal days*?

No place in the Scripture does God imply that He took anything but a natural week of ordinary days to bring life and order to the earth.

Evenings and mornings have continued, the week has continued, the Sabbath set apart for rest at creation has continued, all pointing back to that first creation week. The truth is plain and without Scriptural contradiction. There is no room to believe in the ages which evolutionists require, when you accept the Scriptures as they are, explained not in the fog of human imagination but in the light of the Word of God and in accordance with nature, the handiwork of God.

## Observe CHRISTMAS?

(Continued from page 6)

tain heretical sects were also following the same tradition.

Then, how did December 25—the Roman festival in honor of Nimrod's birth—finally become the traditional date of Christ's birth?

### How Christmas Tradition Developed

Bishops in the West, and especially at Rome, saw that by allowing converts to *retain* their pagan holidays, they could induce thousands to enter the church and "embrace" Catholicism. The Catholic writer Tertullian lamented this trend when he said in 230 A.D.:

"By us who are strangers to Sabbaths, and new moons, and [GOD'S] festivals, *once acceptable to God*, the Saturnalia, the feasts of January, the *Brumalia* [December 25], the Matronalia, are now frequented; *gifts* are carried to and fro, new year's day presents are made with din, and sports and banquets are celebrated with uproar" (from *De Idolatria*, chapter 14).

In less than two centuries after

Christ's death, professing Christians *were returning to their former pagan practices*—to December 25, the birthday of Sol the sun god. Here is one of the earliest indications that Christians were transforming the birthday of the physical *s-u-n* into the birthday of the S-o-n of God.

This idolatrous adoption of heathen festivals proceeded very slowly UNTIL CATHOLICISM BECAME THE STATE RELIGION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE UNDER EMPEROR CONSTANTINE.

Almost immediately, the pagans flocked to the churches *bringing their customs with them*. Within forty years the celebration of the 25th of December became so widespread that a *sudden* change took place in Rome.

The last record of Pope Liberius' celebration of the nativity on January 6 occurred in 353 A.D. In the very next year he celebrated it on December 25! This is fully explained in the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, by James Hastings, article "Christmas." Even the

*Catholic Encyclopedia* admits that Christmas celebrations *officially began* by this year—354 A.D.

### Christmas Celebration Spreads Rapidly

From Rome in the West, the celebration of Christmas quickly engulfed the whole empire. But many preachers in the East still clung to January 6 as the traditional nativity. As late as 373 Ephraim Syrus said: "On the tenth day (of March) was His Conception and on the sixth day (of January) was His Nativity" (*Assemani Bibl. Or.* ii. 169).

Here is what Chrysostom said about Christmas in his *Homily on the Birth of Christ*, written in Antioch about 380 A.D.: "It is *not yet ten years since this day was made known to us.*"

Christmas didn't come from the apostles. It came to Antioch, the city where the Paul preached, *three hundred years after* the apostle died! It came from an apostate Rome, not from Jesus Christ. Christmas came from paganism, not from the Bible.

Notice what Chrysostom continues to say about Christmas: "I know well that many even yet dispute with one another about it, some finding fault with it and others defending it." He admitted it was "new, in that it has recently been made known to us . . ."

The bishops at Rome claimed to have accurate knowledge of Christ's birth because they possessed the census papers of Jesus' family. Just why they kept this hidden for over three centuries they never say.

They forged many records in an effort to show that preceding popes celebrated Christmas on December 25. If this were really true, they would not have needed to forge these spurious records.

### Forbidden in New Testament

The celebration of Christmas in Constantinople, near where Paul preached in Asia Minor, first took place between 378 and 381. And if this isn't enough evidence against the apostolic origin of Christmas, there is proof that December 25 was not celebrated in Jerusalem before 385. Yet Jerusalem was the site of the mother church in the very beginning.

The Catholic Bishop Chrysostom, who lived in the fourth century, admits that the superstitious "*times*," which Paul forbids in Galatians 4:10, were pagan Christmas customs practiced by "Christians" in his day, as by the pagans in the days of old. He says: "Many were superstitiously addicted to divination . . . upon them . . . In the celebration of these *times* [they] set up lamps in the marketplace, and *crown their doors with garlands*"—as is done at Christmas *time* today! (From *Bingham's Antiquities of the Christian Church*, pp. 1123, 1124).

### Origin of Mistletoe and Yulelog

Christmas became a universal practice in all but the Armenian Church by the fifth century. Hundreds of traditions and customs began to develop about Christmas in every land. In the *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia*, you can read this about Christmas: "Yet the festival rapidly gained acceptance and became at last so firmly established that *even the Protestant revolution of the sixteenth century* was not able to dislodge it."

Protestants didn't get Christmas from the Bible. They got it from their mother church—Rome; and Rome got it from pagan sun-worship!

### ¡LITERATURA EN ESPAÑOL!

Nos place anunciar que ofrecemos las siguientes obras:

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Diríjase al Departamento de Español, P.O. Box 910, Pasadena, California.

And where do you suppose the story of Santa Claus originated? And what about hanging mistletoe in the doorway at Christmas time? Where did the holly-wreath, the Yulelog, and lighting of fires and candles come from?

And what about the Christmas tree? Is it mentioned in the Bible? Yes indeed. It is mentioned and *condemned*.

You can read the *truth* about these customs—what God says about them—if you write immediately for the **FREE** booklet "The Plain Truth About Christmas."

### HOW to Honor Christ

Most people are dishonoring—yes, *robbing* Christ at every Christmas season and they don't know it! While spending every available dime on gifts for friends and relatives in this *commercialized* season, they are forgetting Christ. They take—steal—the very money that belongs to Him.

Notice what Malachi says in his prophecy for today about modern Israel—the United States, Great Britain and the other democracies; "Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How are we robbing thee?' *In your tithes and offerings.* You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me; the whole nation of you" (Malachi 3:6-12).

Many of you have been robbing God of His tithes and offerings by spending *God's own money* in Christmas gifts instead of giving Him what is due. Our people have turned aside from Him, our hearts have gone after pagan festivals—Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter.

The way to return to God and give Him your heart is to *pay* your tithes and offerings. Why? "For where your treasure is *there* will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). You are not truly converted until your **WHOLE** heart is yielded to God. The only way to give your *whole* heart to Him is to let Him rule your pocketbook—to pay Him the tithes and offerings that belong to Him.

Today, under the New Covenant, God commands that His tithes go to His work for the preaching of the true gospel to all the world. This year, instead of celebrating a pagan holiday, why not give your gifts to Christ for His work?

That is how you can really honor Him.

# *The Bible Story*

by Basil Wolverton

## CHAPTER TWO

### “THOU SHALT SURELY DIE!”

**L**ONG AGO God put true facts into the minds of a few men whom He chose. These men wrote out those facts in words God put into their minds. It was like God writing by using human minds.

God does not lie. He does not make mistakes. Therefore every word written by those men was true. Since then the Bible has been put into many other languages, and the meanings of a few of its words have changed a little in time. But the Bible as it was written in the beginning is entirely true and without mistakes. Many men who thought they had great wisdom have tried to point out mistakes to prove that the Bible is not true, but all of them have failed. If they had been truly wise, they would have recognized that the Bible is the *only* true book that has ever been written.

If we study the Bible with the idea of gaining wisdom for a better way of life, it can tell us a great deal about what happened long ago, what is happening now in the world and a lot about what is going to happen.

Many people whose minds have been poisoned by wrong teaching in schools and colleges do not believe that God wrote the Bible. They do not even believe in the God who caused their own bodies to be born. They laugh when someone mentions something that is in the Bible. Some of them are ashamed to be seen even reading or holding a Bible—even though it is the most valuable of all books.

Those who do read the Bible and live by the rules in it are by far the wiser and happier people.

Although the Bible wasn't written until long after the days of the Garden of Eden, the Creator gave rules of good living to Adam and Eve. Obeying those rules

meant that the two human beings would keep happy and healthy and close to God.

Among the rules was a warning not to touch the fruit of a certain tree that grew in the park.

"Eat the fruit of any of the other trees," God's voice spoke, "but if you eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, you shall die!"

This voice that spoke was the voice of the Word, who later was born as Jesus Christ.

For a little while Adam and Eve obeyed every law, and so lived happily in the park. They enjoyed their work as well as the other wonderful and exciting things, though they didn't work on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was the happiest day of all, for then they rested and talked with God, and were in His glorious presence.

### The First Sin

Let us not forget that Satan and his fallen angels were still roaming the Earth in the form of evil spirits. God allowed Satan to still be the demon ruler of Earth, though Satan's power was much less than it had been before he sinned.

Having become God's enemy, Satan was far from pleased when God created human beings and put them on Earth to have power over all other living creatures in the world. Therefore Satan wanted very much to find some way of turning Adam and Eve against their Creator, so that he would become their master.

Satan waited for his chance. One day it came when Eve walked off by herself in the park. Suddenly she came upon a snake. There was nothing unusual about that, because all the animals were friendly, and they always obeyed Adam and Eve. What surprised Eve was that the snake, who was Satan in disguise, spoke to her!

"Did God tell you that you would die if you should eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil?" asked the snake.

"He did," answered Eve, as soon as she could recover from her surprise. "We don't want to die, so we haven't touched the tree."

"But you have an immortal soul, and therefore you can never die," lied the snake. "If you eat the fruit of that tree you will receive great wisdom—not death. You may even become as wise as God."

The more Eve thought about what the snake said, the more she wanted to eat some of the fruit of the tree of knowledge. Finally she could resist no longer. She went to the tree and plucked some of the fruit. It was pleasant to taste, so she took some to Adam and he ate of it, too.

After that, Adam and Eve felt guilty. They knew they had disobeyed God. They also knew they were naked, and they felt ashamed. They wanted to cover themselves,

so they sewed fig leaves together to make aprons to put around them.

Because they had disobeyed God's wonderful law by eating the fruit they had

Eve reaches for the forbidden fruit.



been told not to eat, Adam and Eve committed the very first sin. That simple wrong act changed the life of every human being who has been born since then.

Do you remember how Lucifer, the mighty super-angel, turned against God? Because he refused to carry out God's rule over the Earth, he was no longer fit to be God's king over this planet. Trying to rule by his own wrong ideas only brought trouble.

Human beings must live by certain rules, or they get into trouble, too. The rules and laws we must obey come from those who are over us in power. The act of causing people to obey rules is called government. God's laws and His government are LOVE. (Romans 13:10.) His rules are that people must first of all love God by obeying Him, worshipping Him, praying to Him, trusting Him and keeping His Sabbath holy.

Next to those most important laws are the laws that people should love other people. To begin, children should respect and obey their parents. (Ephesians 6:1-3.) They must never hate or kill or try to harm others. Instead, they should love every one—even their enemies. They must be true to others, honest, and always tell the truth. They must not want to take anything away from others. They should remember that it is better to give to others than to take from them. (Exodus 20:12-17.)

### Why the World Is Unhappy

After Satan began thinking wrong thoughts in his mind, he soon came to believe just the opposite of God's laws. His way of life has come to mean that children should disobey their parents, and not respect them. More than that, it means disobeying God and having no respect for His laws. It means taking away what one wants from others, and lying and cheating and stealing. (John 8:44; I John 3:8.)

You can see that God could not let Satan go on ruling the Earth forever, because Satan's way of ruling would bring only unhappiness and suffering. God decided that Satan could have power over the beings of Earth only until God should create a MAN who would obey God, carry out His orders, and prove that he was worthy to rule the Earth.

God made Adam the father of all people who have ever been born. Because Adam was the first man, God gave him the chance to rule the Earth—if he would obey God and rule the Earth with God's laws instead of Satan's. (Genesis 1:28.)

Satan knew all this. He knew Adam would take his place as Earth ruler if Adam obeyed God. He hated Adam, and therefore schemed to tempt him to disobey God. His clever plan was to get Adam to believe that the wrong way was the right way.

God had made the man to be the head of his wife and his family. (Ephesians 5:23, 25.) Just as God rules with love over angels and human beings, so must the



man rule with love over his own house. If any man fails in this, so would he fail in becoming a ruler in the Kingdom of God that is coming to Earth very soon.

God had told Adam that he must be the head over Eve. Satan knew this. That is why he waited to catch her alone.

Finally, when he had tempted her to pick the fruit which she was not to touch, she then tempted Adam. (Genesis 3:6.) Adam was not strong enough to keep from disobeying along with Eve. This proved that he could not be strong enough to obey God in all things, and therefore was not worthy to be ruler of the Earth.

### Satan Still the Unseen Ruler

The way it turned out, Satan got to continue as the unseen ruler of the world until one should come who would conquer him by obeying God and never sinning. That man finally did come, but you will find out about him shortly. (Luke 4:5-8.)

God let Satan stay on Earth, but God did not let him have any power to force anyone to sin. Thus today Satan has power only to try to lead or tempt people. As for human beings, God gave each of us a mind to think for ourselves and to decide whether we will obey God or whether we will obey Satan. (James 4:7.)

Ashamed that they had believed the things that Satan had spoken through the snake, Adam and Eve tried to hide in the park. But God knew where they were. (Genesis 3:8.)

"Have you disobeyed Me and eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil?" asked God.

"Eve gave me the fruit to eat," Adam said, trying to put the blame on his wife. (Genesis 3:12.)

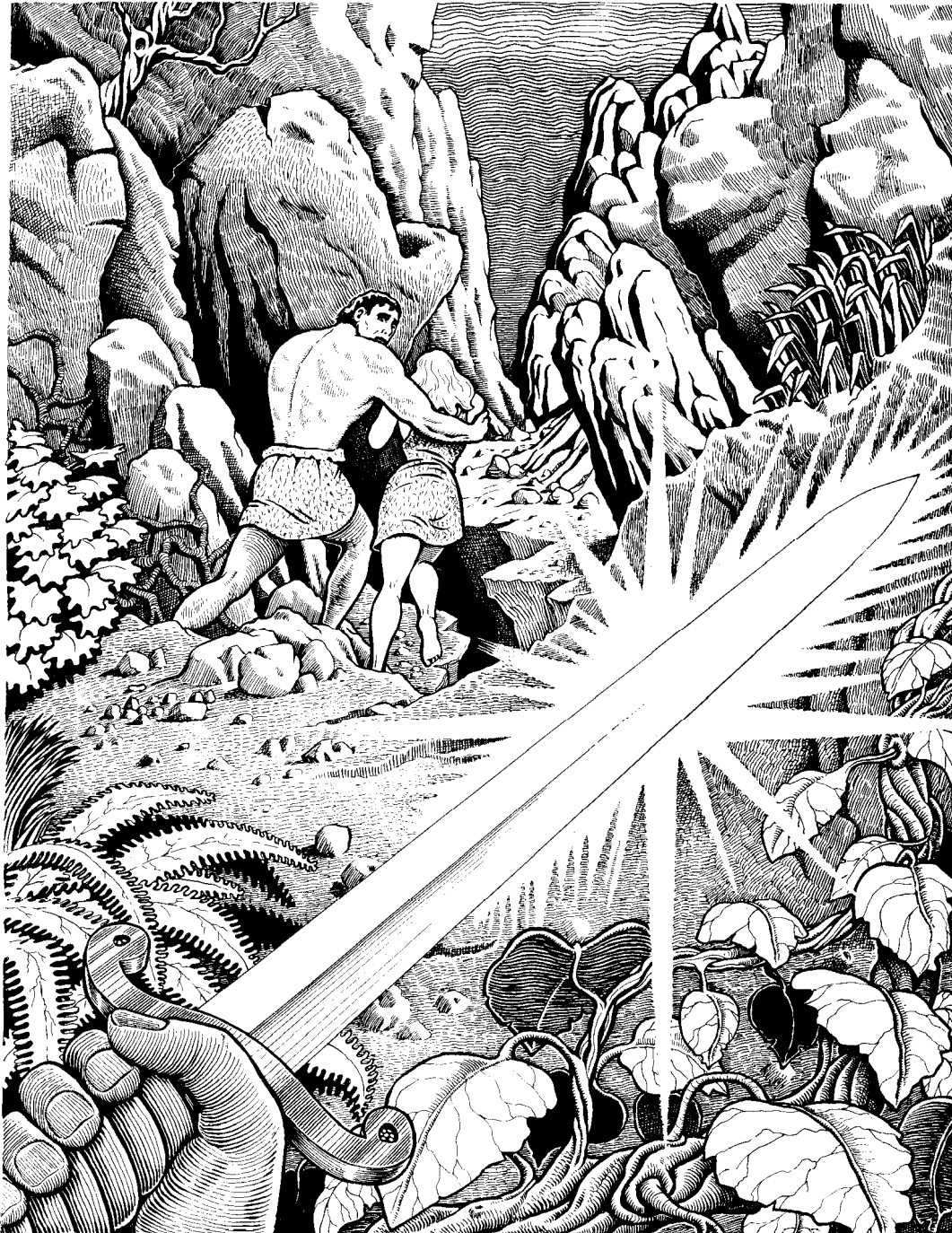
Of course God was very disappointed. But He had allowed the man and woman to make their own choice, to decide whether to obey Him or Satan. In the same way God allows you and me to make the same choice for ourselves. We can choose God's right way of LOVE, and be happy, or we can choose Satan's wrong and false way of pride and of taking things we shouldn't take, and be punished and unhappy. (Deuteronomy 30:15-19.)

God always punishes those who do not obey him, and so Adam and Eve were punished. They were given some leather clothes to wear (Gen. 3:21), and were put out of the beautiful park. (Verse 23.) God knew that if they were to stay there, they might also eat of the Tree of Life, and that would have meant that they would have lived forever in unhappiness and shame. (Verse 22.)

To keep them from returning to the park, God placed a moving, flaming sword

at the only entrance. (Verse 24.) Also, God told Eve that because she had sinned and caused Adam to sin, she would suffer pain any time she gave birth to a child. So

A flaming sword guards the garden of Eden against man's re-entrance.



it has continually been with mothers since babies have been born. (Genesis 3:16.)

Thus the first human beings, because of believing Satan instead of their Creator, lost the right to live forever in perfect peace and happiness and good health. Just imagine how wonderful it would have been if they had obeyed God and then could have eaten the fruit of the Tree of Life! They would have lived forever in perfect peace and happiness!

### Earth Is Cursed

Furthermore, because of their sin, God put a curse on the ground outside of the park, so that weeds and thistles grew out of it. (Gen. 3:17.) This made it more difficult for Adam and Eve to grow eatable things out of the soil, and they had to grow something out of it or starve.

What was worst of all to bear was knowing that they would surely die. They didn't know when it would be, but now they believed that God meant what He said. They were very sorry that they had listened to Satan—the one who has been lying to people ever since that day in the Garden of Eden.

After a time a son was born to them. They named him Cain—the very first baby in the world. Later they had another son whose name was Abel. (Genesis 4:1-2.)

God had also told Adam that if he, Adam, did not prove to be a fit manager of his family, then long after he was dead a MAN would be born who *would* obey all of God's rules.

"You may not understand this now," God later told Adam and Eve, "but because you have disobeyed and because those living after you will disobey, this MAN who is coming will *die* to save all of you."

He went on to explain that the MAN who would give His life would be their own Creator, who would be named Jesus Christ, and that therefore His life was worth more than any or all human lives. (Philippians 2:5-8.)

God pointed out that when He would come to Earth to die, He would in a way pay for all the punishment that should be put upon human beings for the wrong things they do. Then men who would be thoroughly sorry for the wrong things they had done could be forgiven, and could be free of sin and could talk to God the Father and receive help from Him in being obedient the rest of their lives.

"It would be better for human beings to die than to suffer more and more because of their sins," said God to Adam. "But just as your Creator will one day become MAN, and die and be brought back to life by God the Father to live and rule forever, so will those human beings who are willing to obey Me!" continued the Eternal.

### How Sacrifices Began

Adam and Eve were also told that their Creator would be killed like a meek little lamb is killed --by the loss of the blood that gives it life. (Acts 8:32.)

"To help you remember what is to come," said God, "and to remind you of your sins and that you should ask to be forgiven of them, you should at times kill a lamb and burn its flesh on an altar. Teach your sons to do this, too."

Because of their parents' sin, Cain and Abel had to work hard when they grew older. Cain became a farmer, and raised fruits, vegetables and grain. Abel was a shepherd, and raised sheep. (Genesis 4:2.) They had no real closeness to God such as their father and mother had enjoyed before disobeying Him. But they learned to make sacrifices to God on stone altars, and this was their way of contacting God and asking forgiveness of things they did that were wrong.

Of course today we don't make sacrifices. Jesus Christ, their Creator, came almost two thousand years ago to die for all of us, just as God promised. Today, if people are sorry because of disobeying God, they can show it by repenting and being baptized. Then God puts the power of His Holy Spirit into their minds so that they can understand and obey God's rules and laws. And today they can be close to God, and know that He hears them when they speak to Him by what we call prayer, and that He speaks to them when they read the Bible.

But it was different with Cain and Abel.

One day Cain and Abel brought their sacrifices to an altar. (Genesis 4:3-4.) Abel believed what his parents had taught him about why he should make sacrifices. He picked out from his flock the best lamb he could find. It was a little animal he had grown to love, but he was willing to give it up.

Although Cain raised mostly fruits and vegetables, he had a few animals, too. Among them was a lamb he prized very highly, because he knew it would grow into an especially fine sheep—if he didn't kill and eat it.

"Why should I give up my lamb?" Cain thought. "I don't see why it wouldn't be just as good for me to sacrifice some of the vegetables and fruit I have grown. That ought to be good enough for God."

Cain's heart wasn't right. He didn't want to obey God. He was sure that God's way was not the best way for him. He did what seemed right in his own mind.

Do you know that is the very thing that most people have been doing ever since? The Bible tells us that the way that seems right to a man is nearly always wrong, and that it will only bring him death. (Proverbs 14:12.) We should learn that God's way is always right, whether or not it looks right to our minds. That is a

lesson not learned yet by many highly-educated people. If you can learn it now, it is worth more than most college educations.

### The First Murderer!

Of course God could not accept Cain's sacrifice, which wasn't offered the way God said it should be. (Gen. 4:5.) When Cain realized that his sacrifice wasn't accepted, he became very envious of his brother. The envy turned to anger, then to hatred. Later, when the two brothers were out in a field away from other people, Cain turned on Abel and struck him with such violence that he killed him. (Gen. 4:8.)

Thus the first baby born in the world became the first murderer!

When Cain saw what he had done, he tried to hide. But God's voice came to him.

"Where is Abel, your brother?" asked the Eternal. (Gen. 4:9.)

Can you guess what Cain said? Did he confess that he killed Abel? Just as people today try to deny doing wrong things by putting the blame on others, so Cain tried to cover up his crime.

"I don't know where Abel is," lied Cain. "Do you expect me to know all about what my brother does and where he goes?"

To talk to God the way Cain did was very disrespectful. When anyone does a very wrong thing, he should confess it and pray to God right away for forgiveness. If he tries to cover up what he has done, he tells a lie and adds another sin to the first one.

Satan must have felt very successful, because his lie to Eve was bringing on more and more unhappiness. Think how unhappy it made Adam and Eve when they lost their second son, and learned that their first son was a liar and a murderer!

As punishment for what Cain had done, God put a curse on him. He told him that from then on he would be a wanderer on the Earth, and that he would have to leave his relatives.

Furthermore, God put a mark on Cain to show that he was a murderer, but that Cain should not be murdered by anyone else. Instead, he was to live on with the miserable thought that he had murdered his own brother. (Gen. 4:11-15.)

Adam and Eve had more children, and those children grew up and had children. Cain, who had married one of his sisters, also had children. (Gen. 4:16-17.)

Another son born to Adam and Eve was named Seth. He, too, married a sister, and they had many children and grandchildren.

Thus, as the years passed, many people came into the world. But most of them were not in touch with their Creator, and therefore it was not a very happy throng

Cain slays his brother Abel in the heat of anger.



of people. Men became mean and greedy. Instead of working for things they needed or wanted, people cheated and robbed and killed.

Adam lived in these days a lot longer than any of us live. He was nine hun-

Violence begins to fill the earth.



dred and thirty years old when he died! That's only seventy years short of a thousand years. But he did die—just as God said he would if he were to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. (Gen. 2:17.)

### Wars Begin

By the time Adam died, there were many people living on Earth. But with all the space there was on the planet, they banded together in towns and cities instead of spreading out as God intended. (Gen. 4:17.)

Huddled together by the hundreds and thousands led only to more strife and misery, men were so much against God's laws that it wasn't possible for them to dwell together and still love one another.

The more people gathered in cities, the more men banded together in small armies to protect themselves. Others banded together to attack towns and cities and to seize the wealth from these places. Nothing was safe from greedy men.

So it was that wars started on Earth. Man became so evil that killing hundreds of human beings at a time was a sport in which many loved to take part. (Gen. 6:5.)

*To be continued next issue*

## The New Covenant

*(Continued from page 14)*

be obedient." Besides the *tables* OF the covenant, containing the ten basic spiritual laws (Rom. 7:14), there was a *book* OF the covenant containing the civil statutes and judgments of the covenant between Israel and the Lord.

From the 21st to the 23rd chapters inclusive, the Eternal revealed these specific *civil laws*, which *Moses wrote in a book* (Exodus 24:3,4). They were based on the principles of the ten great and broad *spiritual* precepts—the ten commandments. They magnified the commandments. The spiritual laws of the old covenant DEFINE sin, the civil laws amplify them and prescribe punishments for disobedience.

After God spoke the ten commandments to the people, after Moses received the civil laws from God and delivered them to Israel, you will find that the first covenant was sealed with blood—it became binding (Exodus 24:8 and Hebrews 9:18-20). The marriage was complete!

Since Israel had accepted the Eternal God as her husband, she was to be obedient to Him just as the wife is to be obedient to her husband. The Lord

was head of the nation Israel. Israel was to keep herself unspotted from the evil of the world by being faithful to the laws or terms of the agreement which would make their relationship with God a perfect union.

When God spoke the old covenant to Israel at the time they were brought out of Egypt, *He did not command them "concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices"*: But this thing commanded I them saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people" (Jeremiah 7:22,23).

The ceremonial and ritualistic laws were *added later because of transgressions of Israel and as a reminder of sin*—after the old covenant was sealed. They were *not a part of the covenant* because they came after the marriage agreement was completed.

Remember also that the spiritual and civil laws were not instituted by the old covenant. They were already in existence long before Moses and had to be included in the covenant. (See Genesis 26:5 and Exodus 16:28 and 18:16.)

### Old Covenant Had Only MATERIAL Promises

Since the ETERNAL was as a husband

to Israel, He agreed to provide for His wife, Israel. Carefully notice that IN NO PLACE IS THE BLESSING OF ETERNAL LIFE PROMISED, NOR IS ANY OTHER SPIRITUAL PROMISE GIVEN. Every promise given to them was *material*—they were to be fruitful and multiply greatly, their cattle and all livestock were to be very productive, their land would give abundant produce, they would become the greatest nation on earth IF THEY WOULD OBEY AS A WIFE OUGHT TO.

God promised to walk *among* them and be their God. He did *not* promise to dwell *in* them through the Holy Spirit.

But if they disobeyed and did not remain faithful, they were to be cursed by punishments in this world only. Hunger, sickness, famine, sorrow and war would overtake them, just as *material* troubles ensnare any wife who is disobedient to her marriage vows and seeks promiscuous relations with others than her husband (Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28).

### Israel Was Divorced

Now read Jeremiah 11:10. Did Israel remain faithful to the covenant?



"They *went after other gods* to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah *have broken my covenant* which I made with their fathers."

Israel and Judah did not remain faithful, the marriage agreement—the old covenant—*was broken*. Listen to what the Lord says in Jeremiah 3:8: "And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel *committed adultery* I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also."

The relationship became so bad that the Eternal finally divorced His own people. He first sent Israel into captivity by the Assyrians and later Judah by the Babylonians (Ezek. 23).

### What Was the Fault With the Old Covenant?

Paul said the fault with the old covenant was not in the laws, but *in the people* with whom it was made. Why?

Because it was *not* possible for them to remain faithful to the righteous conditions God had prescribed in His covenant. "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them" (Deut. 5:29).

Here was the weakness of the old covenant. *The people did not have the strength of character to be faithful to their vow*. The law was "weak through *the flesh*" (Romans 8:3). The righteousness under the first covenant was to be accomplished only through human obedience, fleshly effort, because *there was no spiritual promise of receiving the Holy Spirit*.

Israel was unable to serve the Lord because they did not have a God-fearing nature within them. This condition will be changed in the new covenant. But how?

### How the Fault Will Be Corrected

Remember that the first covenant had the spiritual laws written on two tables of stone and the civil laws in a book.

Now notice what will happen in the new covenant.

Observe the differences: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; *I will put my LAWS into their*

*mind, and write them in their hearts*" (Heb. 8:10; Jer. 31:33).

So there will be *laws*, GOD'S LAWS, the *same* laws which stand fast forever and ever (Psalm 111:7,3); but this time they will be written in the hearts and minds of the people. They will be "written not with ink, *but with the Spirit of the living God*; not in tables of stone, but in the fleshy tables of the heart" (II Cor. 3:3).

Then the new covenant will be made only with those who have God's law indelibly written in their thoughts and actions.

Notice that the fault with the old covenant was not in the law, but in the people. To correct this fault, the law is not abolished, but instead a new agreement is made whereby the wife [Israel born again according to the spirit] is given spiritual power to KEEP the laws or terms of the covenant.

And what is the power that writes God's laws in our hearts and minds? "The Spirit of the living God!"

The love of God which fulfills the law is "shed abroad *by the Holy Spirit* which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit is one of the *better* promises of the new covenant (Heb. 8:6).

Also notice that the new covenant will be made with ISRAEL—"the house of Israel and the house of Judah." The new covenant will not be made with those who remain spiritually Gentiles as most people falsely assume. The covenants and the promises pertain only to Israel (Rom. 9:4). Read it for yourself:

"... Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption [son-ship], and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises" (Romans 9:4).

Since the new covenant will be made with Israel, what about the Gentiles? Are they totally left out? Or has God provided some way by which they may receive that same blessings which are promised to Israel?

### How Gentiles Can Enter

In Ephesians, the second chapter, Paul wrote to those who were "*in time past* Gentiles in the flesh . . . that at that time ye were without Christ."

Why?

"Being aliens from the commonwealth

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of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

How, then, can Gentiles come into the same promises that were granted Israel? The next verse tells us, "But now *in Christ Jesus* ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:11-13).

So it is *through Jesus Christ* that Gentiles "are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints" (Eph. 2:19). Paul says in Galatians 3:29, "And *if ye be Christ's*, then are ye Abraham's seed [no longer considered Gentiles] and heirs according to the promise."

How could Christ make it possible for Gentiles to be heirs to the promises made to Israel?

### Christ, the Heir of Abraham

The promise of eternal inheritance of the earth was unconditionally made to Abraham and his "seed" (Gen. 26:3). But Abraham died without inheriting the promises (Hebrews 11:13). It remained for Jesus Christ the *one* heir who was without sin—the promised "seed" through the lineage of Abraham—to inherit the promises (Gal. 3:16).

Jesus came in the flesh to confirm the promises made to the fathers (Rom. 15:8). He also was the minister of a new *testament* or *will* by which He would bequeath His entire inheritance to His heirs in case of death. Remember the new testament contained the promise of *eternal inheritance* (Heb. 9:15).

Christ's *testament* or *will* did not have

any force until his death. "For a testament is of force *after* men are dead" (Heb. 9:17). When Christ died, then His heirs have the right to the eternal inheritance made possible through the Holy Spirit, which imparts eternal life. But who are the heirs of Christ?

No one is Christ's *unless* one believes, repents of breaking God's law, and is baptized (Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27). So you can become an heir of Christ if you fulfill this condition and receive the Holy Spirit, which puts—immerses—you into the church whether you are Israelite or Gentile (I Cor. 12:13). We are Christ's, because Christ *bought* us by giving His life in our stead to pay for our sins (I Cor. 6:20).

### New Covenant Not Yet Completed!

Christ is the Mediator of the new covenant (Heb. 8:6). According to the prophecy of Daniel 9:27, *Christ has not yet completed* His work of confirming the covenant. Therefore the new covenant must yet be completed *in the future*—"For this is the covenant that I *will* make with the house of Israel AFTER THOSE DAYS, saith the Lord; I *will* put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts" (Heb. 8:10; Jer. 31:31-34).

The new covenant will not be made with fleshly, carnal Israelites who can still sin—it will correct that fault. This time it will be made with Spirit-born Israelites who have been forgiven their sins and who have God's laws written in their minds and hearts so they can't

sin and break the covenant. The apostle John reveals that it is only at the resurrection, when we are *born again*—composed of spirit—that we won't be able to sin, because we will have God's nature permanently implanted in us (I John 3:9). Jesus told Nicodemus, also, that we must be born again—of the Spirit—before we can inherit the kingdom and gain eternal life (John 3).

Bear in mind that the new *testament* or *will* of Jesus Christ has been in force since His death. But His testament or will *has conditions of obedience which we must meet* before we can inherit the promises.

The Greek word for "testament" also means "covenant." Since the new *testament* involves our agreement to fulfill these conditions, it becomes a *covenant*—and that new covenant will not be confirmed with us—we won't *inherit* the promises—*until* we are first made immortal and have God's nature *so we can't sin* (II Peter 1:4). Since "sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4), one of the conditions to eternal life involves quitting sin—and KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS!

### New Covenant a Marriage Agreement

All that the Scripture says concerning Israel and the promises under the new testament pertain to the *Church*, for Israel must become part of the New Testament Church to inherit the promises.

But it is also the *Church* that *becomes Israel* (Acts. 26:6, 7). Under the old covenant flesh-born Israel could have become a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6). Under the new covenant the Church *will* become a kingdom of priests (I Peter 2:9; Rev. 5:10; Acts 1:6).

As the Church is spiritually Israel—Abraham's seed and heirs of the promise—then it is the Church, finally born again as spirit beings, with whom the new covenant will finally be made. But we read in II Corinthians 11:2 and Ephesians 5:32 that Christ Jesus at His second coming will marry the Church which is now his espoused bride. Therefore the new covenant will be ANOTHER MARRIAGE AGREEMENT! Christ will be the husband; the Church—Israel reborn as spirit—will become His wife.

How important it is that we understand the truth about the new covenant!

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